

## In Our Prayers This Week

### Collect for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

God of heaven, you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### Collect for Candlemas

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God **Amen**.



#### Those in acute need

Laila Attia  
Hillary Bardsley  
Evelyn Ellison  
Alexander Lamping  
Jill Traynor  
Michael Turner

Buyile Phiri  
James Philpot  
Paul Proudman

Adam  
Adrianna  
Luke

Stephanie  
Talia

#### Those in long-term need

Christopher Browne  
Fr David Michaels  
James Worsley  
Conor

#### *and for all who have died recently*

Olivia Dawkins Margaret Drage Georgina Freedman  
Monica Libby Charlotte Readhead M.T. Selby  
Catherine Wall Michael Wilson

#### *and for all those whose anniversary of death falls at this time*

Joyce Johnston, 31<sup>st</sup> January Leith McGandle, 4<sup>th</sup> February

### The Parish and Vicarage offices are open from 10am – 5pm

Church Website: [www.stmaryabbots.org.uk](http://www.stmaryabbots.org.uk)

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	Ed Warrick	ed.warrick@jinsead.edu	
Vestry:	Simon Fitter (Head Virger)	virger@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0207 937 5136
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Parish Office:	Petter Kringberg	parishmanager@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0207 937 2419
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Children's Work Admin:	Martina Sadovska	children@stmaryabbots.org.uk	
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Stewardship Secretary:	David Shaw	stewardship@stmaryabbots.org.uk	07773335569
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Bellringing Secretary:	David Holdridge	holdridged114@gmail.com	
Friends of St Mary Abbots:	Steve Atack	friends@stmaryabbots.org.uk	07802 43005



## ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH KENSINGTON

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### Welcome to St Mary Abbots

The Church is open daily from 8.30am to 6pm and from 10am - 6pm on Saturdays and Bank Holidays

#### **SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> January – Candlemas**

8.00 am **Holy Communion** (BCP)

9.30 am **Choral Eucharist**

11.15 am **Choral Matins**

5.30 pm **Choral Evensong**

#### **MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> January** – Charles, King & Martyr

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

8.30 am Bible Study via Zoom

12 noon **Informal Eucharist** (Sunday on Monday)

5.30 pm Evening Prayer in church

6 pm Homeless Ministry

#### **TUESDAY 31<sup>st</sup> January**

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

8.30 am Bitesize Bible Group

12 noon **Holy Communion** (BCP)

5.30 pm Evening Prayer in church

#### **WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> February**

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

12 noon **Holy Eucharist**

5.30 pm Evening Prayer in church

#### **THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

9.30 am **School Eucharist** – All are welcome

3 pm Peal of Bells for Candlemas

5.30 pm Evening Prayer in church

#### **FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> February** – Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

9.30 Mini Abbots at St Mary Abbots Centre

12 noon **Holy Eucharist**

1.05 pm Royal College of Music concert

5.30 pm Evening Prayer in church

#### **SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> February**

12 noon **Holy Communion** (BCP)

5.30 pm Evening Prayer in church

#### **SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> February** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent

8.00 am **Holy Communion** (BCP)

9.30 am **Family Eucharist**

11.15 am **Matins**

5.30 pm **Sung Evensong**

## Message from Mother Emma

This Sunday we celebrate one of the great feasts of the Church – one which is known by a number of different names, even within the Church of England. Traditionally, the Feast was called the Purification of Mary, as it marks the time (40 days after childbirth), when Mary and Joseph came to the Temple in Jerusalem. Mary was ritually purified after her confinement (as women continued to be through the service of “Churching” until relatively recently), and together they offered prayer and sacrifice in thanksgiving for their first born son. Jesus was recognised by Simeon and Anna as the longed-for Messiah, “a light to lighten the nations”, and in our modern liturgy, the service is called “The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple”. Yet the name often used for this service is Candlemas, as Simeon’s reference to the light and the date of the feast as the days finally start to lengthen, made this into a popular festival at which all the candles to be used in church are traditionally blessed for the year ahead.

We shall be celebrating the day with a beautiful Choral Eucharist at 9.30 am including many of the day’s traditional rituals in the morning, and then a Festal Evensong by candlelight at 5.30 pm at which the candles will be blessed. For those who have been missing the Choral Te Deum, the choir will be singing a celebratory Te Deum by Thomas Weelkes at our service of Choral Matins. Please join us for these very special services, as we reach the end of the forty days of Christmas, and turn towards the mystery of the Resurrection.

We would also like to introduce you this week to Vera, who will be with us for the next few months as an ordinand on placement. She is dividing her time between us and St Barnabas next door, to experience the full breadth of the Church of England, and we look forward very much to sharing in her journey. Vera has written a brief message in the newsletter below.

*Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe. You make our darkness to be light. For with you is the well of life, and in your light shall we see light. Blessed be God for ever.* [From the Service for Candlemas, Common Worship, Times and Seasons]

With my love and prayers, Mother Emma

## Living in Love and Faith Proposals

A number of you have asked us about the recent proposals put forward by the House of Bishops in response to the process which has been going on in the Church of England over the past six years concerning questions of sexuality, relationships and marriage (“Living in Love and Faith”).

At present, same-sex couples in the CofE can neither be married in church, nor receive the church’s Blessing in an authorised service. However, the Bishops have now proposed that same-sex couples could be offered “a service in which there would be prayers of dedication, thanksgiving and



for God’s blessing on the couple in church following a civil marriage or partnership.” The Bishops have issued an apology in recognition of the rejection, exclusion, and hostility that many LGBTQI+ people have experienced in churches, which can be found on the Church of England’s website [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)

The clergy of St Mary Abbots, as part of the Inclusive Church network, very much welcome these important steps, but continue to pray that the Church of England will move forwards swiftly to a position in which all loving, faithful and committed relationships may be equally recognised within the church’s liturgy and teaching.

We are aware of those in our own congregations and further afield for whom this week’s decisions have been disappointing or troubling, and we hold them in our prayers at this time as we share their prayers for the future.

## Vera on Placement at SMA until her July Ordination



*“Hello everyone! I am an Ordinand (of French background) in my final year of training at St Mellitus College. This year I am doing an alternate placement at St Barnabas Kensington and St Mary Abbots. I am delighted to be joining the community of St Mary’s Abbots and sharing part of your faith experience.*

*I’ll be happy to meet people and discuss whenever I’m around, so please feel free to come and say hello to me at the end of services. Vera Ezumah”*

## St Pauls Cathedral Choral Evensong

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 3pm**

Next week Mother Emma will be preaching at the service of Choral Evensong at St Paul’s Cathedral at 3pm. The Cathedral has extended a warm invitation to any members of the St Mary Abbots Congregation who would like to attend. There is no need to book.

## Commission of Confirmation Candidates 2023

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 9.30 am**

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February Confirmation candidates will be commissioned during the 9.30 service. The weekly study sessions will follow afterwards, with a break for half term and SATs. The confirmation service will be on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023. If you or your child might be interested in being confirmed, or would just like to talk more about what it means, please do speak to one of the clergy or email Leonora at [pa@stmaryabbots.org.uk](mailto:pa@stmaryabbots.org.uk).

## Lent Artist in Residence, 21<sup>st</sup> February – 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

As mentioned in last week’s newsletter Emma Windsor-Liscombe will be painting in the Holland Chapel throughout lent. We will be showing some of Emma’s preliminary works, along with her thought process behind creating this work which will be based on the story of The Prodigal Son. Emma is originally from Vancouver and is currently studying at the Royal College of Art.