

In our Prayers this week

Collect for Christmas Eve

Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Collect for Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise, we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen**



Painting by Janet McKenszie

<i>Those in acute need</i>	Duncan Stafford Shaw	Long-term need
Rhoda Bowker	Sara Strong	Hillary Bardsley
Brian Cripps	Jill Traynor	Christopher
Paul Fitch	Luke Thomas	Browne
June Hirschmiller	Adam	Evelyn Ellison
Emmanuel Kupa	Amanda	Juliet Fenwick
Buyile Phiri	Jean	Paul Proudman
James Philpot	Luke	Michael Turner
George Rabbett-Smith	Stephanie Talia	

and for all who have died recently
Emily Plane

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

John Worsley, 24 th December	Sou Yen Crosthwaite, 24 th December
Gwen Robson, 25 th December	Tovah Cameron, 25 th December
Robert Cook, 27 th December	Maggie Currey, 29 th December
Christine Zochonis, 30 th December	Sheila Uglow, 1 st January
Hartle Bourne, 3 rd January	Bill Kirkpartick, 4 th January
	Simon Egert, 3 rd January

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

St Mary Abbots Church Hall, Vicarage Gate, London, W8 4HN

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Ed Warrick	ed.warrick@insead.edu	
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ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH
KENSINGTON



Sunday 24th December 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 24th December – CHRISTMAS EVE

8 am	No Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30 am	Eucharist for 4 th Sunday of Advent
11.15 am	No Choral Matins
4 pm	Children's Crib Service <i>Children come dressed for Nativity</i>
11 pm	Midnight Mass by Candlelight



MONDAY 25th December – CHRISTMAS DAY

8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30 am	Festal Eucharist <i>with our professional choir</i>
11.15 am	Festal Matins <i>with our professional choir</i>
5.30 pm	Christmas Eucharist at the Crib



TUESDAY 26th December – Stephen, Deacon

8 am	No Morning Prayer via Zoom
10 am	Church opens (bank holiday)
12 noon	Holy Communion (BCP)
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer

WEDNESDAY 27th December – John, Apostle

8 am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
10 am	Church opens
8.35 am	No Bitesize Bible Group (resume 10 Jan)
12 noon	Holy Eucharist
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer

THURSDAY 28th December – The Holy Innocents

8 am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
10 am	Church opens
9.30 am	No School Eucharist (resume 11 Jan)
12 noon	Holy Eucharist
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer

FRIDAY 29th December – Thomas Becket

8 am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
10 am	Church opens
9.30	No Mini Abbots (resumes 12 Jan)
12 noon	Holy Eucharist
1.05 pm	No Royal College of Music (resume 12 Jan)
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer

SATURDAY 30th December

12 noon	Holy Communion (BCP)
10 am	Church opens
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer

SUNDAY 31st December

- 8 am **Holy Communion** (BCP)
9.30 am **Eucharist and Covenant for New Year**
11.15 am **Sung Matins** with cantor
5.30 pm **Sung Evensong**

MONDAY 1st January - **Naming & Circumcision of Jesus**

- 8 am **No** Morning Prayer via Zoom
8.30 am **No** Bible Study via Zoom
10 am **Church opens** (bank holiday)
12 noon **Holy Eucharist** (No Sunday on Monday)
5.30 pm Evening Prayer

TUESDAY 2nd January – Basil the Great

- 8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
12 noon **Holy Communion** (BCP)
5.30 pm Evening Prayer

WEDNESDAY 3rd January

- 8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
8.35 am **No** Bitesize Bible Group (resume 10 Jan)
12 noon **Holy Eucharist**
5.30 pm Evening Prayer

THURSDAY 4th January

- 8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
9.30 am **No** School Eucharist (resume 11 Jan)
12 noon **Holy Eucharist**
2.30 pm **Rainbow Poetry Group**
5.30 pm Evening Prayer

FRIDAY 5th January

- 8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
9.30 **No** Mini Abbots (resumes 12 Jan)
12 noon **Holy Eucharist**
1.05 pm **No** Royal College of Music (resume 12 Jan)
5.30 pm Evening Prayer

SATURDAY 6th January - Epiphany

- 12 noon **Holy Communion** (BCP)
5.30 pm Evening Prayer

SUNDAY 7th January – **Epiphany Sunday**

- 8 am **Holy Communion** (BCP)
9.30 am **Family Eucharist**
11.15 am **Choral Matins**
5.30 pm **Sung Evensong**

Message from Mother Emma

I am writing as we are putting the finishing touches to the liturgy and music for our Christmas services, before the parish office closes for the holiday. We are looking forward to welcoming you to St Mary Abbots Church this weekend as we come together on Sunday and Monday to give thanks for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.



On Christmas Eve (today) is our Crib Service for children and families, where children are invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity and to take part as we tell the story of Jesus' birth with lots of participation, and sing familiar carols. At 11 pm comes the beautiful, moving and

mystical service of Midnight Mass; we celebrate the Eucharist together by candlelight with Christmas music from our professional choir and then, as midnight comes, we lay the baby Jesus in the manger and bless the crib, singing, "Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning." It is a moment which never fails to touch my heart with awe and joy. Tomorrow, on Christmas morning, there will be a BCP Eucharist at 8 am, Festal Choral Eucharist at 9.30 am, Festal Choral Matins at 11.15 am, and a service of Holy Communion with Carols at the Crib at 5.30 pm. Everyone is very welcome at any or all of these services.

Please note that during Christmas week (26th – 30th December), there will be no Morning Prayer online, and the church will be opening at 10 am every morning, instead of 8.30 am. The Parish Office will be closed until 3rd January, but there will always be a member of the clergy on duty to take the lunchtime Eucharist and the 5.30 pm Evening Prayer in church, who can also be contacted if needed.

Once again this year, it has been an absolute privilege to serve as your Vicar. As at this time, we pray for Mother Alice and her family, moving this week to her new parish, and for Fr Christopher celebrating his first Christmas in the US, we give thanks for both Fr Evan and Fr Tim and for the wonderful start they have made in their ministry here. I am so grateful to my churchwardens, PCC, parish staff, volunteers and to all members of our congregations for their love, faithfulness and devotion to God's Church. I pray that, wherever you celebrate Christmas, you will find peace and joy, and I wish you every blessing for the New Year.

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, King of peace, to you be praise and glory for ever. Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Saviour of all. Blessed be God for ever. (Common Worship – prayers at the Advent Wreath, Advent 4).

With my love and prayers, Mother Emma

