

## In our Prayers this week

### Collect for Epiphany

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Collect for Baptism of Christ

O Lord of all time and eternity, who in the baptism of Jesus thy beloved Son didst open the heavens and didst reveal thyself as Father: by the power of thy Spirit make perfect the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



Adoration of the Maji by Giotto. Pinterest

### Those in acute need

Rhoda Bowker  
Brian Cripps  
Paul Fitch  
June Hirschmiller  
Emmanuel Kupa  
Buyile Phiri  
James Philpot  
George Rabbett-Smith

Duncan Stafford Shaw

Sara Strong  
Jill Traynor  
Luke Thomas  
Adam  
Amanda  
Jean  
Luke  
Stephanie  
Talia

### Long-term need

Hillary Bardsley  
Christopher Browne  
Evelyn Ellison  
Juliet Fenwick  
Paul Proudman  
Michael Turner

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

Barbara Gatehouse, 9<sup>th</sup> January Nigel Layland, 12<sup>th</sup> 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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## ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH KENSINGTON

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.30 am Family Eucharist with children's choir  
11.15 am Choral Matins  
5.30 pm Sung Evensong

### MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> January – Baptism of Christ

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

### TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> January

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

### WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> January

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom  
8.35 am Bitesize Bible Group in church  
12 noon Holy Eucharist  
5.30 pm Evening Prayer

### THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> January

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom  
9.30 am School Eucharist all are welcome  
5.30 pm Evening Prayer  
6 pm Youth Group in church (year 7 & above)

### FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> January - Aelred, Abbot

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 all are welcome  
5.30 pm Evening Prayer

### SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> January – Hilary, Bishop

12 noon Holy Communion (BCP)  
5.30 pm Evening Prayer

### SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> January – Baptism of Christ (transferred)

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.30 am Holy Eucharist with Baptism  
11.15 am Choral Matins  
5.30 pm Sung Evensong

## Message from Mother Emma

It was, as ever, a privilege to celebrate Christmas with you and with so many visitors from all over the world. I hope that those of you who were travelling were also able to celebrate the Nativity with joy, and to experience some peace and rest amidst the festivities. We welcome you back as we come this weekend to the end of the Christmas season with the arrival of the Magi at the Crib, and we shall be celebrating the Epiphany on Sunday with a Family Eucharist at 9.30 am and at all our other regular Sunday services.



I wonder whether I might ask you, at this time of year when we remember the abundant gifts of the Magi to the Christ child, to reflect on your own charitable and church giving for the year ahead. We have been very grateful for your generous offerings in 2023 to sustain the work of our church. Besides some wonderful one-off development projects – among them the beautiful new access arrangements at the South Door and the external lighting – we have, perhaps even more importantly, been able to lead people of all ages in praising God through uplifting music and worship; to maintain our historic church building and to reach out to serve our neighbours in the community.

The PCC is now setting its budget for 2024, and we very much hope to be able to maintain and expand all the ways in which we regularly serve God and his people here in Kensington. As you may be aware, we do not receive any external funding, so we are largely dependent on your generosity to cover our regular expenditure (music, heating, children's work resources, staff costs, buildings maintenance etc). Like everyone in the current climate, we are experiencing higher costs and we are producing a leaflet showing some of our regular costs which will be available in church throughout January and will shortly be up on the website. We will be sharing some further thoughts about our planning with you in church during Epiphanytide.

As you prayerfully consider your level of giving for 2024, please could I specifically ask you to consider two ways of making your giving as effective as possible for the church:

- Firstly, if you usually give by cash or card machines, would you instead be able to give monthly or quarterly by standing order, so that the PCC can have a clearer idea of what our income for the year will look like? (Cards stating, "I give by standing order" are available at the door to put into the collection plates if you do so.)
- Secondly, if you are a regular giver of any kind and are a UK taxpayer, could you fill out a Gift Aid form, which allows us to claim an additional 25% on any donations you make to the church, without any extra cost to you?

Both Standing Order and Gift Aid forms are available in church, or can be found [HERE](#). If you are able and have not

yet done so, please do fill them in and return them to the sidespeople or to the Parish Office in person or online. It will make a significant difference to our ability to plan financially for the year ahead if more people do one or both of these things, on top of any additional giving you feel able to offer this year. If you are not yet a giver, please do consider making a regular offering to support our worship, outreach and historic building. If you have any questions about how to arrange giving, please ask Petter on [parishmanager@stmaryabbots.org.uk](mailto:parishmanager@stmaryabbots.org.uk).

Thank you for being a part of the Body of Christ here at St Mary Abbots and for your generosity in sustaining all that we do in God's name and to God's glory.

*The Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, teach you to walk in his way more trustfully, to accept his truth more faithfully, and to share his life more lovingly, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, you may come as one family to the kingdom of the Father. Amen* [Common Worship, Blessing for Epiphanytide]

With my love and prayers, Mother Emma

### St Mary Abbots Events

On 31<sup>st</sup> January Rev'd Andy Rowland and friends will be holding his postponed Prayer Symposium at the church where members of different faiths will discuss what prayer means to them. Tickets include a glass of wine and cost £5. A link can be found on the 'what is on' page of the website. While the ticket price goes to the church (for the wine!) Andy will also be selling his books after the event. Meanwhile on 4<sup>th</sup> February at the St Mary Abbots Hall Miles Maskell discusses his book 'My wife's Canary and other anecdotes'.

On 12<sup>th</sup> March the Victorian Society return to the church with a talk, From Palaces of Art to the Studios of Bohemia: Artists' houses in Victorian Kensington and Chelsea by Joanna Banham. Tickets are £15 with the money being divided between the Victorian Society and the church and there will be a paid bar. Please come and learn about this fascinating subject.

### Children and Youth Group

This week sees the return of our Bitesize Bible Group for pre-school children who meet every Wednesday morning in the church to hear a Bible story and then have a breakfast snack. Taking place in the children's chapel, sessions will start at 8.35 am and end at 8.45 am during term time. On Thursday we have the third meeting of the Youth Group for Years 7 and above, with games, quizzes, activities and Pizza in the church at 6pm. This week also sees the return of Friday's Mini Abbots baby and toddler group running from 9.30am to 11am in the Long Room at the St Mary Abbots Hall. There are games, singing, toys and activities and is a very good way of meeting other people in the area. Donations of £2 or above are requested to cover refreshments and printing. If you would like to join any of the groups please contact our Children's worker, Martina.