

## In our Prayers this week

### Collect for 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Prayer for the cold and homeless

God of compassion, your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus, whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross: we hold before you those who are homeless and cold especially in this bitter weather. Draw near and comfort them in spirit and bless those who work to provide them with shelter, food and friendship. **Amen.**



Fresco in Field Chapel, Pintrest

#### Those in acute need

Jean Attack  
Rhoda Bowker  
Thomas Dawnay  
Glyn Jones  
Emmanuel Kupa  
Roger Merchant  
James Philpot

George Rabbett-Smith

Sara Strong  
Sara Strong  
Luke Thomas  
Adam  
Carlo  
Cristina  
Emma  
Jean

Joan

Luke  
Maria  
Stephanie

#### Long-term need

Hillary Bardsley  
Christopher Browne  
Paul Proudman  
Michael Turner

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

Anthony Howard, 19 December    John Banks, 20 December  
Evelyn Attack, 21 December    Barry Luxton, 21 December

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

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

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

**Vicar:** Mthr Emma Dinwiddy Smith    vicar@stmaryabbots.org.uk    0207 937 6032  
**Associate Vicar:** Fr Evan McWilliams    fr.evans@stmaryabbots.org.uk    0203 479 4737  
**Associate Vicar:** Fr Tim Carroll    fr.tim@stmaryabbots.org.uk    020 7470 6101  
**Churchwardens:** Guy Heald    guyheald@hotmail.com  
Ed Warrick    ed.warrick@insead.edu  
**Vestry:** Simon Fitter (*Head Virger*)    virger@stmaryabbots.org.uk    0207 937 5136  
Assistant Virger: Martina Sadovska    children@stmaryabbots.org.uk  
**Parish Office:** Petter Kringberg    parishmanager@stmaryabbots.org.uk    0207 937 2419  
**PA, Comms & Events:** Leonora Service    pa@stmaryabbots.org.uk    020 3479 4731  
**Sr Mary Abbots Hall:** Dimitrios Spanos    hallmanager@stmaryabbots.org.uk    0207 937 8885  
**Director of Music:** Mark Uglov    music@stmaryabbots.org.uk  
**Children's Work:** Martina Sadovska    children@stmaryabbots.org.uk  
**Safeguarding Office:** Alex Jueguen    safeguarding@stmaryabbots.org.uk  
**Stewardship Secretary:**    stewardship@stmaryabbots.org.uk  
**Electoral Roll Officer:** Ivell Arnold    er@stmaryabbots.org.uk  
**Bellingring Secretary:** Andrew Hodgson    bells@stmaryabbots.org.uk  
**Friends of St Mary Abbots:** Steve Attack    friends@stmaryabbots.org.uk    07802 430055



ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH  
KENSINGTON

## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 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 15<sup>th</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

8 am    **Holy Communion** (BCP)  
9.30 am    **Parish Eucharist**  
11.15 am    **Choral Matins**  
5.30 pm    **Handel's Messiah (Part 1)**  
*Tickets online or on the gate*



#### MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> December

8 am    Morning Prayer via Zoom  
8.30 am    Bible study via Zoom  
9 am    Parents' Prayer Group  
12 noon    **Informal Eucharist** (Sunday on Monday)  
5.30 pm    **Evening Prayer resumes in Church**

#### TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> December

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

#### WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> December

8 am    Morning Prayer via Zoom  
8.35 am    **Bitesize Bible Group**  
12 noon    **HEALING Eucharist**  
5.30 pm    Evening Prayer

#### THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> December

8 am    Morning Prayer via Zoom  
9.30 am    **School Carol Service – all are welcome**  
5.30 pm    Evening Prayer

#### FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> December

8 am    Morning Prayer via Zoom  
9.30 am    **No Mini Abbots** – resumes 10 January  
12 noon    **Holy Eucharist**  
1.05 pm    **No Royal College Concert** - resumes 17 Jan  
5.30 pm    Evening Prayer

#### SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> December

12 noon    **Holy Communion** (BCP)  
2.30 pm    **Wedding service of Darren and Emma**  
5.30 pm    Evening Prayer

#### SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

8 am    **Holy Communion** (BCP)  
9.30 am    **Parish Eucharist**  
11.15 am    **Choral Matins**  
5.30 pm    **Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**  
**By candlelight**



## Message from Mother Emma

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at **Handel's Messiah, Part 1** this evening at 5.30 pm, with our professional choir and the Purcell Players, kindly sponsored by the Rudd family in memory of Ethne and Tony Rudd, longstanding and devoted parishioners at St Mary Abbots, and by Santamaria Shirtmakers. If you haven't already purchased tickets for this beautiful St Mary Abbots tradition there will be some available on the door.



As our external Carol Services have now all taken place, with several thousand people coming to celebrate this joyful season in word and music, our regular service of **Evening Prayer at 5.30 pm will be resuming** this Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December. This week also sees our monthly **Healing Eucharist** at 12 noon on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>, followed by a sandwich lunch. You are very welcome as we pray for healing for ourselves, those dear to us, and our broken world. On Thursday we will hold the **St Mary Abbots School Carol Service**, and wish all the staff, pupils, parents and governors a peaceful and joyous Christmas holiday.

Next weekend, we have our Service of **Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight** at 5.30 pm on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. We are not restricting tickets, but last year the church was very nearly full, so we do encourage you to arrive promptly to join with us to hear this wonderful, familiar narrative, sing traditional carols, and enjoy music from our professional choir.

A quick advance notice that between Christmas and New Year, the church will be open from 10 am to 6 pm every day (except Sunday, which will open for the 8 am as normal, of course!), and there will be no service of Morning Prayer online on 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> December, or on New Year's Day. The parish office is closed during this period, but a member of the clergy will be on duty throughout and the 12 noon Eucharist and 5.30 pm Evening Prayer will be said as usual in church each day. Everything will revert to our normal pattern on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.

I pray that you will find moments of Advent stillness and holiness amidst the busy preparations for Christmas.

*People of God, return! You are called to be God's own. From the mountains announce the good news. God comes in justice and peace, to all who follow his ways. You are God's children. Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ, today and forever. Amen* [Prayers at the Advent Wreath, Advent 3, Times and Seasons]

With my love and prayers, Mother Emma

## Christmas Outreach

A **huge thank you** to all who offered to buy Christmas presents for the Christmas Eve lunch at the centre – and a reminder to those participating to bring their gifts by Thursday next week or the extra items will not be added!



A lovely picture of the travelling nativity in situ. The crib scene is currently being passed around the families and congregation members in the parish – with a little prayer and drink when it is handed over.

Advent and Christmas Dates	
<b>Sunday 22 December</b>	
5.30 pm	Service of Nine Lessons & Carols
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
4 pm	Children's Crib Service
11 pm	Midnight Mass by Candlelight
<b>Christmas Day</b>	
8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30 am	Festal Eucharist
11.15am	Festal Matins
5.30 pm	Christmas Eucharist at the Crib

## Food Bank Donations

A reminder that at this time of year your donations to the food bank are even more necessary than ever. If when you are shopping in the super market please consider buying an extra tin or product and bring it to the church when you are next passing - but please no fresh food/ ready meals as we can't store them! The donation boxes can be found at the entrance to the church or if you prefer to make a cash donation you can do so via their website: [www.dalgarnotrust.org.uk](http://www.dalgarnotrust.org.uk).