

## 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**

### Prayer for Epiphany

King of Kings and Lord of Lords, making the true light to shine. Lighten our darkness now and evermore that with our lips and in our lives we may praise you, for you are our God, now and forever.



Three wise men, Premium Photo stock, pintrest

#### *Those in acute need*

Jean Attack	Sara Strong	Luke
Thomas Dawnay	Luke Thomas	Maria
Glyn Jones	Adam	Mavis
Robert Jones	Carlo	Stephanie
Emmanuel Kupa	Cristina	<b>Long-term need</b>
Roger Merchant	Emma	Hillary Bardsley
James Philpot	Jean	Christopher Browne
George Rabbett-Smith	Joan	Michael Turner

#### *for those who have died recently*

Paul Proudman

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

Barbara Gatehouse, 9 January      Nigel Layland, 12 January

#### **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)

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Bellringing Secretary: Andrew Hodgson	<a href="mailto:bells@stmaryabbots.org.uk">bells@stmaryabbots.org.uk</a>	
Friends of St Mary Abbots: Steve Attack	<a href="mailto:friends@stmaryabbots.org.uk">friends@stmaryabbots.org.uk</a>	07802 430055



## ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH KENSINGTON

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### 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 5<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany Sunday**

8 am	<b>Holy Communion</b> (BCP)
9.30 am	<b>Epiphany Sunday Family Eucharist</b>
11.15 am	<b>Choral Matins</b>
5.30 pm	<b>Sung Evensong</b>

#### **MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> January**

8 am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
8.30 am	Bible study via Zoom
9 am	Parents' Prayer Group
12 noon	<b>Informal Eucharist</b> (Sunday on Monday)
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer

#### **TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> January**

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

#### **WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> January**

8 am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
8.35 am	Bitesize Bible Group
12 noon	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer

#### **THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> January**

8 am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
9.30 am	<b>School Eucharist</b> – all welcome
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer

#### **FRIDAY 10<sup>th</sup> January**

8 am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
9.30 am	Mini Abbots in the St Mary Abbots Centre
12 noon	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>
1.05 pm	<b>No</b> Royal College Concert - resumes 17 Jan
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer

#### **SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> January**

12 noon	<b>Holy Communion</b> (BCP)
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer

#### **SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> January – Baptism of Christ**

8 am	<b>Holy Communion</b> (BCP)
9.30 am	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
11.15 am	<b>Choral Matins</b>
5.30 pm	<b>Sung Evensong</b> with voluntary choir

## Message from Mother Emma

Happy Epiphany! Over the past twelve days, we have celebrated the joy of Christ's birth, placing the baby into the crib, along with Mary, Joseph, the animals and the visiting shepherds.



Today the Magi or Three Wise Men end their long journey as they arrive to pay homage at the manger. **The Epiphany season** reminds us of the different manifestations of Jesus to all nations, culminating with the Feast of Candlemas on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. This year, we are asking you to join us in marking this wonderful season in a centuries-old community tradition (see Fr Evan's message below).

As we welcome some of you back from Christmas travels, our cultural events programme also begins again with an **Opera Holland Park free lunchtime concert** on 15<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm with opera, song, musical theatre and more popular numbers.

*Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.* [Post-Communion prayer for the Feast of the Epiphany, Times and Season]

With my love and prayers, Mother Emma

## Sponsor Candles for Candlemas



One of the ancient customs of the English Church is the blessing of candles at Candlemas, the feast marking the official end of Christmas. Those candles, in the middle ages given by parishioners in the raw form of 'X pounds of beeswax', were intended to last the entire year. Not only did the wax donated form the basis of the blessed candles on Candlemas itself, but it also constituted what we might now refer to as the annual 'lighting budget' of the parish church. Though we don't need candles to light our church, we still use a lot of them. Candles burn on the high altar on Sunday and in St Paul's Chapel at every weekday eucharist. The Paschal Candle, which is blessed at the Easter Vigil, is lit at every baptism and every funeral as well as during the entire Easter season. Our children each take and light a candle when they come up for a blessing on Sunday, and throughout the week many residents and visitors light votive candles as a form of prayer. The cost of these, and other candles such as those given to the newly-baptised, is normally factored into the church budget. This year, we'd like to try something new by asking the congregation to donate specifically towards the purchase of candles for the church, recognising how important they are to the worship of our parish. If you would like to donate one or more of these types of candles for the year, please either speak to the clergy or get in touch with Leonora. We would like to publicly honour those who donate in this way when the candles are blessed on the feast of Candlemas on 2 February, thereby continuing this most beautiful custom of the English Church. Below is a list of what we need and what your money could provide for us:

Pascal candle	£77 for 1
Large Altar candles	£138.30 for 12
Children's candles at Family Eucharist	£49 for 500
Baptism or confirmation candles	£98.60 for 24
5 Advent wreath candles	£48.99
Small handheld Candles	£45 for 500
Cardboard drip protectors	£14.97 for 200
Oil for alter candles	£13 for 1 bottle

## Message for parents: Does your child hope to attend a primary or secondary CofE school?



School admissions criteria require very precise numbers of church attendances – anything from 12 to 30 services per year over a period of 1 – 5 years (please check the criteria on the relevant school's website – all schools are different!). The Vicar can only sign the school's form confirming the number of attendances if these have been recorded in the Sunday School register. Please make sure that your child is registered by filling in a form with Martina [children@stmaryabbots.org.uk](mailto:children@stmaryabbots.org.uk) and then check that they are marked on the register each time they attend, whether they join Sunday School or remain in church. Thank you.

**Opera Holland Park**  
**Inspire Community Concerts**  
Relaxed, dementia-friendly concerts  
Join us for an hour of joy through music

**Wednesday 15th January 2024**  
**at 2pm**

**ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH,**  
**KENSINGTON CHURCH STREET**  
**W8 4LA**

Doors open 1.45 pm  
Concert 2pm - 3pm

venues all wheelchair accessible

free of charge/donations welcome

**Booking encouraged**  
Book at:  
[www.operahollandpark.com/season-and-events](http://www.operahollandpark.com/season-and-events)  
020 3846 6225  
[inspire@operahollandpark.com](mailto:inspire@operahollandpark.com)  
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