

In our Prayers this week

Collect for 1st Sunday in Advent

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Prayer for Nicholas, Bishop of Myra

Almighty Father, lover of souls, who chose your servant Nicholas to be a bishop in the Church, that he might give freely out of the treasures of your grace: make us mindful of the needs of others and, as we have received, so teach us also to give; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen** (CofE)



Nicholas, Patron Saint of Children. Pinterest

Those in acute need

Steven Armstrong
Judith Boyd
Nigel Grieve
Lord Alton of Liverpool
Roger Merchant
Robin Price
George Rabbett-Smith
Annie Redmile

Sara Strong
Luke Valavanis
Adam
Daphne
George
Jean
Luke
Maria

Long-term need

Christopher Browne
Viv Robinson
Jono Robinson
Stefan Rogge
David Strong
Michael Turner

For those who have died recently

Orlando Ames-Lewis Monika Ahlström Barb Thurn

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



Welcome to St Mary Abbots

Sunday 30th November 2025

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

SUNDAY 30th November - 1st Sunday of Advent

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.30 am Parish Eucharist
11.15 am Choral Matins
5.30 pm **Advent Service of Light**

MONDAY 1st December – Andrew the Apostle

8 am Morning Prayer and Bible Study on Zoom
9 am Parents' Prayer Group
12 noon **Informal Eucharist** (Sunday on Monday)
5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer**
7 pm **Slovak Institute in London Carols** – tickets on door

TUESDAY 2nd December

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
12 noon **Holy Communion** (BCP)
5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer**
6.30 pm **Hope and Homes Carol concert** – tickets online

WEDNESDAY 3rd December

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
12 noon **Holy Eucharist**
5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer**
6.30 pm **Tommys Carol Service** – tickets online

THURSDAY 4th December

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
9.30 **School Eucharist** – all welcome
2.30 pm Rainbow Poetry Group on Yuletide
5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer**
6.30 pm **Horatio's Garden Carol Service** – tickets online

FRIDAY 5th December

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
9.30 am Mini Abbots
12 noon **Holy Eucharist**
1.05 pm **No Royal College of Music** – resumes 23 Jan
5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer**
6.30 pm **Downe House carol service** – private event

SATURDAY 6th December – Nicholas, Bishop

12 noon **Holy Communion** (BCP)
5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer**
7 pm **Opera Holland Park carol concert** – tickets online

SUNDAY 7th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

8 am **Holy Communion** (BCP)
9.30 am **Family Eucharist with Children's Nativity Play**
11.15 am **Choral Matins**
5.30 pm **Taizé Eucharist**



Message from Father Tim

This evening we hold our beautiful **Advent Service of Light** which offers a moment of stillness in a season often marked by haste.



As candles are lit and Scripture is read, we are reminded that Christ's light enters even the deepest darkness, bringing hope. This service invites us to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. It deepens our sense of community. All are warmly encouraged to come and share in this moving service which starts at 5.30 pm.

Advent seems have crept up on us. It really doesn't seem that long ago we were welcoming back the congregation and school after the summer. We've been looking at Advent this week in our weekly school collective worship and Eucharist. It's difficult to explain to children as well as adults the reason that we begin the start of the liturgical year by looking at the 'last things'. This Sunday the lectionary readings give an account of Jesus talking about his return. During advent we don't just prepare for the Christmas story but we are reminded the whole story isn't finished yet. That we live in what can be described as penultimate age as we await for the ultimate completion of God's reign. Jesus' uses some images that are very evocative, with the overall message to be ready, be attentive, have faith that the world as it is isn't complete. Let's be encouraged to hope for the completion of God's Kingdom amongst us that is not yet complete.

As we journey into Advent you may wish to pray more, read the Bible more, be more attentive to your neighbour's needs. We've also suggested that you wish to commit to an extra service in the week as part of our **Advent Challenge**. We have 21 services a week, an online daily morning prayer, in person midday mass and in person evening prayer (although this will be paused, more below) and our 4 services on a Sunday. You may like to come along to an extra one during the week, to be with others as we grapple with 'the last things' and be re-envisioned to pay attention to the story that God is with us.

By the time you read this in church our **Victorian Christmas Fair, sponsored by Riverstone** will have taken place. It is a big event in the life of the Church, so much good work is put in by staff and volunteers, so our thanks to all those who volunteered, baked cakes and / or came and enjoyed the entertainment or bought presents.

Lastly a reminder that next week we are pausing **Evening Prayer from Monday 1st December for two weeks**, as the Church will be hosting a variety of evening Carol services for community organisations, schools and charities. We ask at this time if you would pray for our staff, clergy, volunteers and visitors during this busy season - it is incredibly rewarding but eventful period of the year with multiple services and events to plan and take part in! Thanks and hopefully see you soon.

Blessings, Fr Tim

ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH
KENSINGTON

Handel's Messiah

a concert by candlelight (Part I)
with our professional choir & The Purcell Players
at St Mary Abbots Church,
Kensington, W8 4LA

Sunday 14 December 2025
at 5.30 pm
Tickets £15
including glass of mulled wine
and a mince pie!

www.stmaryabbots.org.uk

Tickets are now available for Handel's Messiah (part 1), sung by our professional choir and The Purcell Players. Tickets are £15 per person and include a glass of mulled wine and mince pie. The performance, by candlelight, is the perfect way to hear the story of the nativity. If you do not have access to a computer please let Leonora know and she will leave tickets on the door for you.

Travelling Crib



The travelling crib will be starting to circulate on Monday, staying for 24 hours in each home before being taken on to the next family on the list – with prayers and festive drink as it is handed over. It is a wonderful way to mark the passing of the advent period and a good way to meet new people in the church community. Father Evan has the sign up papers so please contact find him or email him if you would like to take part.

Food Bank Donations

The food bank is in need of your donations for any unwanted (but in date) dried pasta, tins of food, herbs and spices, oil and more and can be left in the blue donation boxes can be found at both entrances. Please remember not to bring any fresh food / ready meals as we can't store them. To find out more or donate directly to the food bank please visit the Dalgarno website: www.dalgarnotruster.org.uk.