



Imperial College Union Choir sing Choral Evensong at St Mary Abbots



ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH KENSINGTON

Sunday 1st March 2026

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

Services this Week

SUNDAY 1st March – 2nd Sunday of Lent

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

MONDAY 2nd March – Chad, Bishop and Missionary

- 8 am Morning Prayer and Bible Study on Zoom
- 9 am Parents' Prayer Group
- 12 noon **Informal Eucharist** (Sunday on Monday)
- 4 pm **Youth Confirmation Class** – St Philips' Church
- 5.30 pm Evening Prayer
- 7 pm **Adult Confirmation Class** – St Phillips' Vicarage

TUESDAY 3rd March

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

WEDNESDAY 4th March

- 8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 12 noon **Holy Eucharist**
- 5.30 pm **Choral Evensong** with Imperial College Union Chamber Choir

THURSDAY 5th March

- 8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 9.30 am **School Eucharist** – all welcome
- 2.30 pm **Rainbow Poetry Group** on 'Poetry and Education'
- 5.30 pm Evening Prayer

FRIDAY 6th March

- 8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 9.30 am Mini Abbots at St Mary Abbots Centre
- 12 noon **Holy Eucharist**
- 1.05 pm Royal College of Music Concert – *free entry*
- 5.30 pm Evening Prayer
- 7 pm **World Day of Prayer Service** prepared by the Christian Women of Nigeria – all welcome

SATURDAY 7th March – Perpetua, Felicity & Companions

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

SUNDAY 8th March – Third Sunday of Lent

- 8 am **Holy Communion** (BCP)
- 9.30 am **Parish Eucharist** with Sunday School
- 11.15 am **Choral Matins**
- 5.30 pm **Sung Evensong**

Safeguarding

St Mary Abbots Church regards the safe care and protection of children and vulnerable adults as of the utmost importance. Please contact Rona at Safeguarding@stmaryabbots.org or the Diocesan helpline: 02079321224.



The Chapel of Perpetua and Felicity in The Basilica of the National Shrine, Washington. Pinterest (7th March)



On Sundays, everyone attending the 9.30 Eucharist or 11.15 Matins is warmly invited to join us for coffee and biscuits in the school hall next door at 10.30 am.



Thank you for donating to support our church's work, worship and upkeep. There are cash safes and standing order forms by the South Door and card readers at both entrances, or you can scan this QR code.

Message from Father Tim

I'm not always the quickest to process change. It often takes time for reality to catch up with me. Even as I write this, it still hasn't quite sunk in that this Sunday will be my last at St Mary Abbots. I still have a couple of sermons to finish, so I'm still in St Mary Abbots mode.



That said, while I may not naturally look ahead to what's next, I have had the chance to reflect on my time here in Kensington. When I do, three words come to mind: kindness, fun, and challenge.

I didn't really know what to expect from St Mary Abbots. When I was still in Yorkshire and mentioned to my training incumbent that I was thinking of applying, he read the advert and remarked that they were "looking for some grit in the oyster!" You can probably imagine what he meant. And yes, I found a beautiful, impressive building, exceptionally well run, standing prominently on a busy central London high street. But what I hadn't anticipated was the depth of community and kindness within it.

I have had the privilege of working alongside two priests who work tirelessly because they genuinely love what they do and the people they serve. I've been part of a staff team that supports one another and takes real pride in their work. I've come to know a congregation that is warm, faithful, and deeply committed to both church and community. I never expected people not to be kind, but I have been genuinely struck by the consistency of that kindness—the friendliness, the generosity of spirit, and the strong sense of belonging that shapes life here. There is something very special about that.

It has also been so much fun—much of that thanks to the number of young people connected to the church. Having a school on site creates a dynamic I hadn't fully anticipated. I didn't realise quite how much joy it would bring. Building relationships with children, parents, and teachers and staff has been a huge gift. Leading weekly collective worship and Mass, and more recently running football club, has been a particular highlight. The children are a gift to the church. I've loved hearing their wonderfully daft stories and sharing in their silly humour, but also having those surprisingly profound conversations about life and faith. It's been a joy to walk through the area during the week and bump into families, to feel that the church's life spills naturally out into the community. That closeness is rare, and I will miss it very much.

Finally, I described my time here as challenging—and I mean that in the best possible way. Not because I haven't enjoyed it, but because I hadn't anticipated the particular needs of this parish. Kensington may have a reputation for being well-heeled, and in many ways that's true. But it is also a busy part of central London, with all the complexity that brings. Because the church is open every day—warm, welcoming, and safe—we regularly meet people in crisis. Staff, clergy, and volunteers encounter individuals with complex and sometimes overwhelming needs. Responding to that has been stretching. It has required patience, wisdom, and collaboration. Yet it has also been a privilege: building relationships with those who are struggling, and working alongside charities and organisations better equipped to walk with them. Those encounters have shaped me deeply.

I want to finish simply by saying thank you. St Mary Abbots will always be a special place for me. I leave feeling that I am a better priest—and, I hope, a better person—for having shared this time with you..Please keep in touch.

Blessings, Tim

Churches Together World Day of Prayer Service

Friday 6th March at 7pm

The service, prepared by the Christian Women of Nigeria, starts at 7pm and the theme is 'I will give you rest, come'. Refreshments will be provided after the service and all are welcome.



Choral Evensong with Imperial College Chamber Choir on Wednesday 4th March at 5.30pm

At this final appearance Choir member Tomas Bezkorowajnyj, who is studying physics, has written a special piece for the evening: 'Call to Remembrance'. Maggie, who attended last month, writes: *"Evensong with the Imperial College Union Chamber Choir was a joyful and uplifting experience. The choir sang the service beautifully, allowing us in the congregation time and space to listen, reflect and enjoy. I do urge you, if you can, to come and hear them."*

This week we pray for

Ivell Arnold	Mike Roberts	Long-term need
Steven Armstrong	Sara Strong	Christopher Browne
Steve Attack	Luke Valavanis	Nigel Grieve
Judith Boyd	Adam	Viv Robinson
Eric de Bellaigue	Carolyn	Jono Robinson
Roger Merchant	George	Stefan Rogge
Robin Price	Jean	David Strong
George Rabbett-Smith	Luke	Michael Turner
Annie Redmile	Maria	

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

Ian Wooldridge, 4 March May Isa, 5 March Josephine Grieve, 5 March
Derrick Holden-Brown, 6 March May El Kadi, 7 March

How to contact us

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

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

Website: www.stmaryabbots.org.uk Telephone: 0207 937 2419

Vicar: Mthr Emma Dinwiddy Smith	vicar@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0207 937 6032
Associate Vicar: Fr Evan McWilliams	fr.ewan@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0203 479 4737
Associate Vicar: Fr Tim Carroll	fr.tim@stmaryabbots.org.uk	020 7470 6101
LLM: Hakan Sandal-Wilson	llm@stmaryabbots.org.uk	
Churchwardens: Guy Heald	guyheald@hotmail.com	
Ed Warrick	ed.warrick@insead.edu	
Vestry: Simon Fitter (<i>Head Virger</i>)	virger@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0207 937 5136
Assistant Virger: Martina Sadovska	children@stmaryabbots.org.uk	
Parish Office: Petter Kringberg	parishmanager@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0203 404 3042
PA, Comms & Events: Leonora Service	pa@stmaryabbots.org.uk	020 3479 4731
St Mary Abbots Hall: Gill Fisher	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: Rona Davis	safeguarding@stmaryabbots.org.uk	
Electoral Roll Officer: Ivell Arnold	er@stmaryabbots.org.uk	
and Welcome Co-Ordinator		
Bellringing Secretary: Rachel Billinge	bells@stmaryabbots.org.uk	
Friends of St Mary Abbots: Steve Attack	friends@stmaryabbots.org.uk	07802 430055