

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

God of Love,
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.
He is a sign of your love.
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,
As we wait and prepare for his coming.

We pray for those who will be visiting our church to prepare for the coming of Christ.
That they may find a generous welcome and encounter the living God

We pray for His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales and Ms. Meghan Markle
on the joyful announcement of their engagement

Please pray for preparing for marriage
SARAH PEAKE and EDWARD LANE

Please intercede for those who have asked for our prayers
TERESA BIRCHER : SHEILA BRADSHAW
TOVAH CAMERON : JOHN CANTLIE
SANDY CLAYTON : TOM CLAYTON
DAPHNE CRAIG : DOUGLAS EVANS
TONY GORDON : BRIAN HARVEY
HILAL KIBBARA : LEO KOYMANS
JUNE SCULLY : JAMES WORSLEY
CAROLYN : GOHAR : OLGA
OYIN and DAMALOLA

Please pray for all who have died recently
ROMAN
ADIAN

And for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time
DAVID WAINWRIGHT (8 December)
JO HARRIMAN (8 December)
JOSEPHINE HAMILTON (9 December)

St MARY ABBOTS CHURCH AND PARISH CONTACTS

Church Website: www.smaw8.org

Vicar	The Rev'd Preb Gillean Craig	vicar@smaw8.org	020 7937 6032
Vicar's PA	Sophie Gaselee	sg@smaw8.org	020 3479 4731
Associate Vicar	Fr Jonathan MacNeaney	jm@smaw8.org	07949 468 905 020 7937 2364
Associate Priest	Fr Stephen Fielding	sf@smaw8.org	020 7937 4106
Churchwardens	Jamie Dunford-Wood	jdunfordwood@gmail.com	07732 842 894
	Hannah Stewart	hannahstewart@yahoo.com	07813 173 595
Parish Office:	Susan Russell	admin@smaw8.org	020 7937 2419
Sr Mary Abbots Vestry:	Simon Fitter	virger@smaw8.org	020 7937 5136
Safeguarding Officer	Andrew Freestone	safeguardingofficer@stmaryabbotschurch.org	
Children on Sundays Co-ordinator & Children's Champion:	Martina Sadovska	m.sadovska@yahoo.co.uk	
Sr Mary Abbots Centre:	Adam Norton	an@smaw8.org	020 7937 8885
Stewardship Secretary:	Emma Porteous	stewardship@smaw8.org	07866 258 814
Electoral Roll Officer:	Sally Bessada	er@smaw8.org	
Bellringers:	David Holdridge Secretary	david.holdridge@ntlworld.com	07904 954 959
Friday Playgroup:		playgroup@smaw8.org	
Friends of Sr Mary Abbots:		friends@amaw8.org	07585 705 281
Sr Mary Abbots Appeal:		appeal@smaw8.org	

Central Kensington Group Ministry ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH



NEWSLETTER

for the week beginning
3rd December 2017



Sunday 3rd December ADVENT SUNDAY

- 8.00am HOLY EUCHARIST
First Lesson: Romans 13. 8-14
Gospel: Matthew 21. 1-13
- 9.30am **SUNG EUCHARIST**
with Children on Sunday Groups
The Reading: 1 Corinthians 1. 3-9
Gospel: Mark 13. 24-end
Preacher: The Revd Preb Gillean Craig
- 11.15am CHORAL MATINS
First Reading: Isaiah 1. 1-20
Second Reading: Matthew 21. 1-13
Preacher: The Revd Jonathan MacNeaney
- 12.30pm HOLY EUCHARIST readings as 8.00am

6.30pm **THE ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**
A candlelight procession around the church with
Readings, Motets and Hymns for Advent
followed by HOLY COMMUNION

Monday 4th December Commemoration of Nicholas Ferrar

- 8.00am Morning Prayer
1.05pm INFORMAL EUCHARIST 'Sunday on Monday'
5.30pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 5th December

- 8.00am Morning Prayer
11.30am HOLY EUCHARIST (BCP)
5.30pm Evening Prayer
7.00pm RADA Christmas Concert

Wednesday 6th December St Nicholas

- 8.00am Morning Prayer
8.15am HOLY EUCHARIST
1.05pm Meditation Group.
5.30pm Evening Prayer
7.00pm Hope and Homes Carol Service

Thursday 7th December St Ambrose

- 8.00am Morning Prayer
9.30am SUNG EUCHARIST - St Mary Abbots and St Barnabas & St Philips Schools All Warmly Welcome
5.30pm Evening Prayer
7.30pm Dougie Dalzell Memorial Trust Carol Service

Friday 8th December Conception of the BVM

- 8.00am Morning Prayer
8.15am HOLY EUCHARIST
1.05pm Royal College of Music Students' Recital
5.30pm Evening Prayer
7.00pm St Paul's Junior School Carol Service

Saturday 9th December

- 8.40am Morning Prayer
9.00am HOLY EUCHARIST
5.30pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 10th December 2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 8.00am HOLY EUCHARIST
First Lesson: Romans 15. 4-13
Gospel: Luke 21. 25-33

9.30am FAMILY EUCHARIST WITH NATIVITY PLAY

11.15am CHORAL MATINS AND EUCHARIST

- First Reading: Zephaniah 3. 14-20
Second Reading: Luke 1. 5-20
Preacher: The Revd Daphne Green

No 12.30pm Holy Eucharist today

- 6.30pm **SUNG EVENSONG** followed by HOLY COMMUNION
Old Testament: Baruch 5. 1-9
New Testament: Matthew 25. 14-30
Preacher: The Revd Canon Stephen Fielding

ADVENT BEGINS TODAY!

Advent Sunday, as befits the church's New Year's Day, is one of great annual moments of change in our worship and even how the church looks.

- * Out go floral decorations: in comes the Advent Wreath.
- * In comes the crib – but so far it's merely a humble stable.
- * If you carefully around the church you'll find a group of shepherds looking after their sheep, and Wise Men starting a long, long journey.
- * Out goes green, and in comes purple.
- * Out goes the *Gloria* and *Te Deum*, in comes *Kyrie* and *Benedicite*.
- * In our sung services, out goes four-part Anglican chant and in comes the ancient plainsong.
- * At the 9.30 Sunday Eucharist *Kyrie, Sanctus, Benedictus & Agnus Dei* are sung to *Missa de Angelis*, our penitential setting – you'll find the music, as with everything else that's special to the season, in the service booklets.

THE ADVENT CRIB STARTS ITS JOURNEY

At the end of today's 9.30 service the crib is blessed and given into the safekeeping of the first family who will give it a home. Every night between now and Christmas Eve it will be looked after by a different family. So Jesus makes his home among us. There are still a few vacant slots nearer to Christmas – sign the list to secure YOUR place.



This Sunday evening we offer one of the year's most special services, the

6.30pm ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

A wonderful procession through the church with readings & splendid music by choir & congregation. This year the climax will be the final movements of

Mendelssohn's *LOBEGESANG*, or *Hymn of Praise*, an unfairly neglected masterpiece, the text and sentiment ideally suited to Advent. Don't miss it!

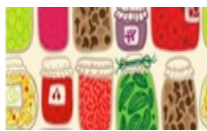


NEW ASSISTANT VIRGER

We are delighted to welcome to St Mary Abbots **JAMES ALEXANDER** who is joining us in the much-needed role of Assistant to our Head Virger, Simon Fitter. He arrives at the most opportune moment: we are embarking on the busiest and most frantic three weeks in the whole church's year. It is a great pleasure to have him as a member of the team. His normal working pattern will be to work alongside Simon on Sunday mornings and other key services and events, and take over from Simon for two days a week. But there'll be nothing normal in the immediate future, James – you're in for something of a baptism of fire!

StMA ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CARDS

Last year, after more than a decade of using the same extremely elegant format of a card first launched under our previous Vicar Tim Thornton, we struck out with a different concept, and a different process. This year's card follows the same pattern stretching all the way from yesterday's Bazaar to New Year, with details of our great services and events – and we have been able to print them and have them commercially distributed throughout our parish for the same price as the previous printing alone. So no more bundles of cards for you to distribute, street by street! Make sure that you've picked up your card – and as many as you like for friends & neighbours.



Our thanks to all who week by week support the **DALGARNO TRUST FOODBANK**

We collect each Sunday & Thursday for the **Dalgarno Community Centre in North Kensington**. See the handbills in church provide the shopping lists.

The **Christmas Card Aid** stall is open for business:

Unlike commercial Christmas cards, where as little as 2% goes to charity, Card Aid guarantees that every penny of profits goes directly to charity. Cards + gift tags etc. Mon-Fri 11.00-4.00; Sat 10-5.00 closed Sundays

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH & GIFTS FOR ELDERLY

We have a lovely dinner with all the trimmings and entertainment all prepared and guests all ready – but if we can't get any offers to drive them here and back again it will all be to no avail! If you are able and willing **TO DRIVE** the guests to and from the Christmas Dinner at the St Mary Abbots Centre, please speak to Fr Jonathan, or better still be in touch with Lucille Briance luce@briance.co.uk. We now have the list of

GIFTS AND PRESENTS FOR NEIGHBOURS WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE RECEIVE NOTHING – please see Fr Jonathan to offer a gift. Thank you.



This Monday 4th December we launch the second year of our unique **KENSINGTON LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR.**

Fr Stephen has once again organised a splendid preparation for Christmas: at 3.45 every weekday afternoon a different shop or organization will unveil its own new display proclaiming

'MAKING SPACE FOR HOPE'

How many will you see? More details from the leaflets or look up www.smaW8.org/living-advent-calendar

Last year we had a splendid response to the initial project - never before had Kensington organisations participated in anything like this, and at a time when we're told there's universal indifference to the Christian faith it is a remarkable testimony to how W8, at least, bucks this trend – if only asked properly!

We're all invited to the successive launches; this week:

- Monday 4 Dec: KENSINGTON WHOLEFOODS**
- Tuesday 5 Dec: SKILLMAN & SONS – 212 Ken High St**
- Wednesday 6 Dec: PICKWICKS – 3 Holland Street**
- Thursday 7 Dec: BICKERSTETH HOUSE – 25 Sheffield Terr.**
- Friday 8 Dec: St MARY ABBOTS SCHOOL**

Next Sunday 10 December two special services:

9.30 Family Eucharist with

CHILDRENS NATIVITY PLAY

Our schoolage Sunday Groups present a newly-written dramatization of the Christmas Story.

Any further offers of help:

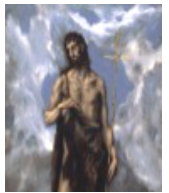
contact Fr Jonathan (jm@smaw8.org)



11.15am CHORAL MATINS AND CHORAL EUCHARIST

Once again our professional choir offers wonderful music to enhance our liturgy and worship.

This month the Mass Setting is LOTTI's *Missa Brevis*, the Anthem 'This is the Record of John' by GIBBONS



CAROL SERVICE FORTNIGHT!

It's our privilege to host many special Christmas Carol Services Concerts, for charities, schools etc - all bringing large numbers of people into our church. This year we have more than ever before, including some new guests:

This Tuesday: **RADA Christmas Concert**

This Wednesday evening: **'Hope and Homes' Charity**

This Thursday evening: **Lt Dougie Dalzell Memorial Trust**

This Friday Evening: **St Paul's Junior School Carol Service**

Next week we will we have

Next Monday evening: **Sentabale**

Next Tuesday afternoon: **St James's Juniors Carols**

Next Tuesday evening: **St Nicholas's School Carols**

Next Wednesday lunchtime: **Our Community Carol Service**

Next Wednesday evening: **St James's Seniors Carols**

Next Thursday morning: **St Mary Abbots School Carols**

Next Thursday morning: **Thomas's Kensington Schools**

Thursday evening: **Draycott Nursing Carol Service**

All this represents, of course, an enormous amount of extra work for our virging team, valiantly supported by Susan Lockhart and Fraser Roberts. We're greatly in their debt. You might like to know that one or more of our clergy always takes part in these events, offering prayers and God's Blessing. So these are always Christian rather than secular events.

Our thanks to Lord Alton for his splendid and provoking talk last Tuesday on the intractable problems of Korea. A large and attentive audience attended and took part, afterwards enjoying a splendid Korean Buffet devised and produced by Alison Steel. Our most hearty thanks reserved for hosted by Steve Atack who devised and organised the event.

StMA LUNCHTIME COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

Wednesday 13th December at 1.05pm

Glorious music, readers from local institutions and our community, and the service is followed by refreshments supplied by local hotels and restaurants.



HANDEL'S MESSIAH

6.30pm Sunday 17th December

Tickets now on sale £20/under 16 £10 www.smaw8.org

or (cash) from the Vestry. Baroque Orchestra, augmented

professional and voluntary choir, professional soloists. Candlelight performance. For many, the real start of Christmas in Kensington!

Ticket includes programme booklet and interval drink.