

## In Our Prayers This Week

*As we remember the visit of the Magi to Jesus we recognise Jesus' Lordship over the whole world and his unifying mission.*

*We pray:*

*That the churches may discover again their visible unity in the one baptism which incorporates them in Christ, let us pray for the love of Christ.*

*That the churches may attain communion in the Eucharist around one table, let us pray for the strength of Christ.*

*That the churches may recognize each other's ministries in the service of their one Lord, let us pray for the peace of Christ.*

*We pray for those preparing for baptism*  
*Freya Amarteijo*

*Please remember before God those who have asked for our prayers*

<i>Those in acute need</i>	Simon Portal	<i>And those in long-term need</i>
Sheila Bradshaw	June Scully	Sergio Avanzi
Theo Bulkai	Sue Spicer	Vincenzo Blandini
Phoebe Coleman	Margy Wheeler	John Cantlie
Sarah Deal	Shirley Wilshire	Joan Davies
Dianne Gabbitass	Ben	Leo Koymans
Frank Game	Gohar	Sylvia Nazareth
Tony Gordon	Carolyn	Annie Redmile
Joan Jackson	Roger	Sonia Samuels
Denise North	Julia	James Worsley
Michael North	Joseph	Carl-Fredrik
James Philpot		Larissa

*Please pray for all who have died recently*

Anna Land  
Sheila Uglov  
George Law

*and for those whom we love but see no longer,  
and all those whose anniversary of death falls at this time*



## St MARY ABBOTS CHURCH CONTACTS

Church Website: [www.smaw8.org](http://www.smaw8.org)

<b>Vicar</b>	vacant		
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<b>Safeguarding Officer:</b>	Andrew Freestone	<a href="mailto:safeguardingofficer@smaw8.org">safeguardingofficer@smaw8.org</a>	
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Central Kensington Group Ministry

## ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH



# NEWSLETTER

6<sup>th</sup> January 2019



### Services for Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January Feast of the Epiphany

8.00am Holy Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30am Family Eucharist and Procession of the Magi with  
Preschool Children's Groups  
Preacher: Canon Stephen Fielding

11.15am Choral Matins Eucharist  
Benedictus: Morning Service in F – IRELAND  
Anthem: In the bleak midwinter - DARKE  
Preacher: Rev'd Jonathan MacNeaney

There is no 12.30pm Holy Eucharist

6.15pm Organ Prelude  
Three Chorale Preludes on Nun komm, der heiden Heiland J S Bach  
6.30pm Taize Prayer with Holy Eucharist  
Preacher: Canon Stephen Fielding

### Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January

8.00am Morning Prayer  
1.05pm **Sunday on Monday – Informal Eucharist**  
5.30pm Evening Prayer

### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January

8.00am Morning Prayer  
11.30am **Holy Eucharist** (BCP)  
5.30pm Evening Prayer

### Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January

8.00am Morning Prayer  
8.15am **Holy Eucharist**  
5.30pm Evening Prayer

### Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January William Laud

8.00am Morning Prayer  
9.30am **St Mary Abbots School Eucharist**  
All Welcome  
5.30pm Evening Prayer

### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January Mary Slessor

8.00am Morning Prayer  
8.15am **Holy Eucharist**  
5.30pm Evening Prayer

### Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January Aelred of Hexham

9.40am Morning Prayer  
10.00am **Holy Eucharist**  
5.30pm Evening Prayer

### Services for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January Second Sunday of Epiphany

8.00am Holy Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30am Sung Eucharist with Holy Baptism and Children on  
Sunday's Groups  
Preacher: Rev'd Jonathan MacNeaney

11.15am Choral Matins  
Benedictus: Morning Service in G - ROPER  
Anthem: Tribus miraculis - MARENZIO  
Preacher: Rev'd Jonathan MacNeaney

12.30pm Holy Eucharist

6.15pm Organ Prelude  
Les Mages - MESSIAEN  
6.30pm Sung Evensong  
Followed by Holy Eucharist  
Preacher: Rev'd Jonathan MacNeaney

## J S Bach - St John Passion

You can now buy tickets for Sunday, 14 April 2019 from 18:30 to 21:00 An Easter performance by candlelight.  
St Mary Abbots Choir & The Purcell Orchestra (period instruments)  
Tickets here: <https://stjohnpassion19.eventbrite.co.uk/>

## Dalgarno Trust Foodbank

Was in significant use over Christmas and expects to continue seeing inflated numbers over the next months.  
Thank you for your generous support for this vital work. The most popular regular items remain: Baked beans; Tinned meat/ fish; Pasta; Rice; Pasta Sauce; Chopped tomatoes; Coffee; Tea bags; Washing up liquid; Long-life milk, Shower gel; Loo roll and Nappies

## St Mary Abbots Reading Group – This Week!

We are pleased to announce the launch of the St Mary Abbots Reading Group. David Strong has been hard at work preparing the administration and its first meeting will take place at the Kensington Central Library on 9<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm. It will then be meeting monthly at 3pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday.

The first session will be a chance to meet one another and to pick up the first book we will be reading together. We would greatly benefit from knowing numbers in advance. Please either speak to David or email me [jm@smaw8.org](mailto:jm@smaw8.org)

## Royal College of Music Student Recitals

Concerts resume this Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019

## Service Pattern 2019

At the beginning of the interregnum Father Stephen and I committed to maintain the service pattern until Christmas whilst discerning its sustainability, short a full time priest. With the agreement of the PCC we propose to make one amendment to our service pattern during the interregnum. From January the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated twice a month after our Sunday 6.30pm service rather than every week. This will enable us to invite local licensed lay ministers to lead the service of Evensong. The dates when the Eucharist will not be celebrated are Jan 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Mar 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> April 28<sup>th</sup> May 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>.

We are sorry about this disruption to our worshipping pattern and we thank you for your understanding.

## Confirmation 2019

Bishop Graham will be present at St Mary Abbots on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 for a service of confirmation.

We run two groups one for teenagers and adults and one for children in years 5-6

The adults group will be meeting on Tuesday evenings starting on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm

The children's group will be meeting on Wednesday afternoons following school, starting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 3.40pm

If you or your child are interested, let Sophie know: [sg@smaw8.org](mailto:sg@smaw8.org)

## The Rainbow Poetry Circle

The Rainbow Poetry Circle January Meeting originally scheduled for Thursday 10th January has unfortunately had to be cancelled. The next Meeting of the Rainbow Poetry Circle will be on Thursday 7th February in the Holland Chapel as usual at 2.30pm and the topic will be "Explorations". Visitors welcome as ever.

## Christmas Charities

This year we raised £2120 for our chosen Christmas charities "The Children's Society" and the "Save the Children Fund"

## Unity Service

Kensington Council of Churches is happy to confirm details of the 2019 Unity Service, which will be hosted by St Philips, Earls Court Road

Date: Tuesday, 22nd January, 2019

Time: 7.15pm - Service followed by Refreshments

Place: St Philip's Church, Earls Court Road, W8 6QH.

His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, the first Coptic Archbishop of London, Orthodox President of Churches Together in England (CTE), and Moderator of Churches Together in Britain & Ireland (CTBI) has kindly accepted an invitation to join our local churches, and to give the address.

## A Methodist Reflection on Epiphany

In the spirit of this season of Christian unity today you are treated to a reflection from Taylor Burton-Edwards minister in the United Methodist Church.

## Epiphany

Many of us were introduced to Epiphany through the familiar silhouetted-image of Three Wise Men bearing gifts as they followed the Great Star by night. In some cultures, Epiphany is known as the *Day of the Kings* (*Día de los Reyes*). It is also known as Twelfth Day or Twelfth Night, reflecting an old custom of giving a gift for each of the days from December 25 to January 6 for the 12 days of Christmas. The day has special meaning for a number of reasons. Several branches of Christianity celebrate the birth of the Christ Child on January 6 or January 7

The word *epiphany* means *appearance* or *manifestation*. Popular usage likens *epiphany* to words such as *eureka* or *aha!* Use of this word by some English speakers conjures images of having a light bulb turned on, or of being able to see something that was once hidden from view. The texts for the Sundays after the Epiphany dramatize the many ways that we people came to understand who Jesus was, through his baptism, the miracle at the wedding, or through that bodacious declaration in his hometown synagogue! But, this ever-widening circle of revelation began 'outside the circle' of Judaism, so to speak, with the Magi.

## Who were the Magi?

Many versions of the Bible refer to them as the *Wise Men*. We often forget that these Magi or Wise Men were non-Jews. Older sources suggest that they were priestly descendants of one of the tribes of the Medes known for their knowledge of the stars (astronomy) and their ability to interpret dreams.

## What can we learn from the Wise Men?

**First, the Wise Men began their journey because of their beliefs.**

It was a common belief that when a world leader like a king was born that a special stellar phenomenon would appear in the sky. The Magi saw something that convinced them that they had seen the long-awaited sign. Historians tell us that the Jews, the Romans, and the Persians were all watching the skies about that time, looking for signs of the birth of an extraordinary king. A few years before, around 11 BC, Halley's Comet had been seen. There were other stellar phenomena, including a bright star, Sirius, which appeared brightly in the daytime instead of at night. The Wise Men saw the star and began their journey.

*May God give us all inspiration for this year's journey.*

**Second, the Wise Men were willing to follow what they had seen into unknown territory.**

Their journey took them outside their country and their comfort zone. The Wise Men risked the consequences of disobeying Herod, who was known to behave as a madman when provoked and returned to their country by another way.

*The Christian journey is often an off-road excursion.*

**Third, the Wise Men were committed to the journey -- wherever the star might lead.**

The Wise Men set out to find a newborn King by following a star and ended up in finding a baby born to young, relatively poor parents! Not exactly what they expected and not exactly what befit their dignity as priests.

*In this coming year, may we look to heaven for guidance and comfort and may we accept God's blessings in whatever forms we find them, just as the Wise Men accepted that their long, expensive journey led them to a baby born to young, inexperienced parents who lived on the poor side of town.*

**Finally, the Wise Men brought gifts.**

They did the thing that people in the East or in Africa or in India would do when visiting royalty. They brought gifts.

Gold was the kind of gift that you brought to a king.

Frankincense was the kind of gift that you would bring to a priest.

Myrrh was given to someone who was about to die.

*On This Twelfth Day, or Three Kings Day, otherwise known as Epiphany, think of the gift that you will offer to God in the coming year. The gift of time? The gift of your talents? Your service in the community? Your witness and testimony? The gift of undying love and devotion?*

Their greatest gift comes to us in the form of a realization. The Wise Men were the first Gentiles to recognize that Jesus belongs to everyone. Good news is for everyone, not just a select few.