

St Paul's Knightsbridge

The Parish Office

32a Wilton Place

London SW1X 8SH

Phone 020 7201 9999

E-mail info@spkb.org

Website www.spkb.org

DAILY SERVICES:

Sunday 23rd December:

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Family Mass at 09:00 (AG)

Solemn Eucharist at 11:00 (AG)

Preacher: Fr Victor Stock

Monday 24th: Christmas Eve

Children's Crib Service at 17:00

Midnight Mass at 23:00 (VS)

Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle

Tuesday 25th: **Christmas Day**

Family Mass at 09:00 (AG)

Solemn Eucharist at 11:00 (MC)

Preacher: Bp Michael Colclough

Wednesday 26th: **Stephen**

Low Mass at Noon (AG)

Friday 28th: **The Holy Innocents**

Baptism at 11:30

Sunday 30th:

The First Sunday of Christmas

Family Mass at 09:00 (NM)

Sung Eucharist at 11:00 (NM)

Preacher: Fr Nick Mercer

Wednesday 2nd January:

Gregory the Great & Basil of Nazianzus

Low Mass at Noon (NM)

Saturday 5th: Feria of Christmas

Low Mass at Noon (AG)

Sunday 6th January:

The Epiphany

Family Mass at 09:00 (AG)

Sung Eucharist at 11:00 (NM)

Preacher: Fr Victor Stock

Christmas hours

The parish office is closed until Thursday 3rd January to allow the office team to take holiday. Phone calls to our main telephone number – 020 7201 9999 - will be answered during normal working hours, and urgent messages passed on appropriately.

WINGS OF DESIRE



Wherever you stand in St Paul's Knightsbridge there are Angels looking down on you, and at Christmastide another four join the throng to watch out over us from the Rood Screen in front of the Choir. In 1857, when he was 24, Edward Burne-Jones designed a stained-glass window of the annunciation scene with perhaps his first angel. By the end of his life in 1898 he opined: "I must by now have designed enough to fill Europe!" His final host of angels was for Gladstone's memorial in the church at Hawarden in Wales.

In 2012, Fiona MacCarthy published "The Last Pre-Raphaelite: Edward Burne-Jones and the Victorian Imagination." She wrote: "Burne-Jones threw himself into the art of the Renaissance, enraptured by Bellini, Mantegna and Botticelli. From the 1870s this changed the whole direction of his work. His angels became quasi-Botticellian, girlish golden Primavera's of extraordinary sweetness, purity and promise. The great series Angels of the Hierarchy, designed by Burne-Jones for the south transept window of Jesus College, Cambridge - Seraphim, Cherubim, Throni, Potentates, Dominationes and the rest - are almost Michelangelesque in their power and complexity, in the sheer movement quality of their draughtsmanship. When William Morris designed angels, they were often rather stiff ones, all too English. Burne-Jones angels can be recognised by their fluidity."

You'll see plenty of Angels at the current Tate Britain's splendid Burne-Jones Exhibition, which is running till 24 February.

I often get asked, "Do you believe in angels?" It's one of those questions like "do you believe in ghosts?" It depends what you mean.

Burne-Jones started his studies as a Church of England ordinand but quickly moved into the world of art and design and left behind the dogma of the Christian Church.

MacCarthy relates how Burne-Jones made a huge watercolour painting of The Star of Bethlehem. (See above.) A contemporary critic praised the "strange and radiant" angel figure in the centre of the grouping, bearing the star above the Kings, relating it to Burne-Jones's "own peculiar vein of mysticism". Interrogated by a bold young girl as to whether he believed in the scene he had depicted in The Star of Bethlehem, he replied: "It is too beautiful not to be true."

As Christians we believe in a spiritual realm and spiritual beings that exist in a more solid form than our fragile cosmos and frail bodies. They inhabit eternity with us – "Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven" – and with them we worship the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And occasionally, through love, or beauty, or grief, or a Christmas carol, or a story... we glimpse that more solid world, which is our true home, and may even sense an angel watching over us.

St Francis introduced the first Nativity Scene in 1223. (We will bless our Christmas Crib on Christmas Eve.) I'm a Third Order Franciscan and so every day I say 'The Obedience' which ends with the prayer that acknowledges the mysterious ministry of the angels befriending us:

May our Blessed Lady pray for us;
May St Francis pray for us;
May St Clare pray for us;
May all the Saints of the Third Order pray for us;
May the holy angels watch over us and befriend us;
May our Lord Jesus give us his blessing and his peace. Amen

Fr Nick Mercer

Who is doing what this Sunday?

The Family Mass at 09:00

Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle
Reader: Margaret Gadow
Server: Tim Pontius

The Solemn Eucharist at 11:00

Celebrant: Fr Alan Gyle
Deacon & preacher: Fr Victor Stock
Subdeacon: Robert Thomas
Reader: Ronald Bartle
Hospitality: Catherine Owen

For your prayers

We pray this week for:

Sarah, Bishop of London;
Lorna Gradden and Rob Clouston, our Churchwardens; for our staff team; our Sister and Partner Parishes, St Paul's K-Street in Washington DC and All Saints Church, Nhamavilah in Mozambique

We pray for those who lead the church that they may do so with integrity, and we pray for the constant renewal of the church.

Among the sick and those in need:

Raymond Willetts; Maya Habboush; Sall Allen; David Eckland; Joanna Panasiuk; Nicky Lindsay; Penny Higgs; Alastair Sword; Benjamin Sword, Amanda Orlebar, Tessa Murphy, Patricia Dopheide.

All the recently departed

Elizabeth Anne McManus, Peter Boizot, Mersedeh Khayami.

And we pray for those whose year's mind falls at this time:

December:

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| James Elstub | 20 th |
| Patricia Engel | 24 th |
| Joan Easton | 25 th |
| Stanley Llewellyn | 26 th |
| Robert Magee | 28 th |
| Elsbeth Loasby | 28 th |
| James Oliver | 29 th |
| Huw Griffith | 30 th |

January:

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| Theodore Gulliford | |
| Derek Howard Budd | |
| Max Salmon | |
| Guy Shea, priest | 1 st |
| Frank Dawson | 1 st |
| Valerie Maurice | 5 th |
| Irene Dawson | 8 th |
| Isabel Llewellyn | 8 th |
| Julia Candlish | 8 th |
| Kurt Hoexter | 11 th |
| Dick Bilborough | 11 th |
| Christopher Courtauld, priest | 11 th |

LOOKING AHEAD

Christmas Service Times

Christmas Eve

Monday 24th December

5pm: Children's Crib Service

11pm: Midnight Mass of Christmas

Preacher: Fr Alan Gyle
Missa Brevis in D K194 - Mozart
Sans Day Carol - Rutter
Hush my dear - Gabriel Jackson

Christmas Day

Tuesday 25th December

9am: Family Mass - Fr Alan Gyle

11am: Solemn High Mass

Preacher: Bishop Michael Colclough
Missa Sancti Joannis de Deo - Haydn
Hodie - Sweelinck
Resonemus Laudibus - arr. Willcocks

Daily Mass

The regular pattern of weekday Masses will resume on Monday, 7th January.

Songhaven Concert & Tea

Saturday, 12th January at 3pm

Join us for our next Songhaven Dementia Friendly Concert and Tea with our very own Clare McCaldin and Paul Sheehan from the Choir of St Paul's, Knightsbridge accompanied by Somi Kim. Please sign up through the website - www.spkb.org - or by calling the parish office. If you'd like to join in the fun and help with welcoming and serving tea, please be in touch with Caroline Docker via the parish office.

Come & Sing!

Saturday, 26th January at 2pm

Your chance to sing with soloists from our Choir under the direction of Michael Solomon Williams with Michael Papadopoulos at the piano, to learn some new repertoire and to give a performance at 4:15pm. £10 for participants, audience free! And then to the pub afterwards! Sign up on the parish website, www.spkb.org

WHO'S WHO at ST PAUL'S?

THE CLERGY



(l-r) The Vicar Fr Alan Gyle (alan@spkb.org);

Honorary Assistant Clergy Bishop Michael Colclough; Fr Victor Stock; Fr Nick Mercer.

A priest is available before or after the daily Eucharist for confession and spiritual guidance, and also by appointment. A member of the parish clergy is always available in pastoral emergencies and we will be glad to be contacted at whatever hour, seven days a week; however, as a general rule, Fr Alan is unavailable on Mondays.

LAY OFFICERS



(l-r) Churchwardens: Lorna Gradden & Robert Clouston (wardens@spkb.org)

Treasurer: Noel Craven Safeguarding officer: Margaret Gadow

The Deputy Churchwardens & their responsibilities:

Caroline Docker (Hospitality); Gardenia Griffith (Welcoming); Roland Brunner (Volunteering); Serena Butt (Incorporation) Margaret Gadow (Safeguarding); Virginia Craven (Children's Advocacy); Susie Thornton (Communication & brand); Sarah Tytherleigh (Vestments, fabric & plate); Tom Tull (Wednesday evenings); Aidan Linton-Smith (Family Mass); Jeremy Orlebar (Building maintenance)

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



(l-r) Director of Music Dr Stephen Farr (sforganist@gmail.com)

Assistant Director of Music Michael Papadopoulos (michael.pap514@gmail.com)

Music Scholars Benjamin Newlove (organ) & Findlay Spence ('cello and composition)

IN THE PARISH OFFICE



(l-r) The Vicar's PA: Felicity Cranfield (felicity@spkb.org), Claire Pilton (claire@spkb.org); Head of Future Programmes: Phil Davies (phil@spkb.org); Caretaker: Adam Modzelewski