



Advent and Christmas 2025

at St Michael and All Angels, Bedford Park, W4



Flight of the Holy Family – Gentile da Fabriano 1423

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill to all people.

The Christmas story deliberately fuses ideas of 'outside' and 'inside.'

The baby who should be born safely and comfortably on the inside of a house is born outside in a stable. The shepherds live outside in the fields but are called into the town to see the Christ Child. The wise men leave their places of comfort to journey to Bethlehem and as T.S. Eliot put it, 'a cold coming' they had of it, 'quite the worst time of year for a journey'. These notions of 'insider' and 'outsider' remain themes throughout the life and ministry of Jesus, and even in His death He is crucified 'outside' the city.

The good news of Christmas is that the God we thought was only outside of the universe, holding it in being, is inside it too: God has come close to us and wants us to come close to Him. This is the message of the angels who visited the shepherds: 'Glory to God and on earth peace, goodwill to all people.' And the message of Jesus, who in His ministry, sought out the lost and marginalised, the despised and unlovable, and brought the outsider 'inside.'

Such a message ought to challenge us. We live in a world where people constantly want to make the distinction between who is on the inside and who is an outsider. Only recently we have seen tragic examples of the more gross tendencies in our society towards racism, xenophobia, homophobia, misogyny and other negative stereotypes, which are very disturbing.

When Jews and Christians talk about the 'shalom' of God, they believe it to involve justice and peace and the flourishing of all individuals and communities. To live out God's peace in the world therefore, is to practice justice, compassion, mercy, sacrificial loving, taking care of others, and the world which God has given us to share. And it means challenging falsehood and lies, and the adverse labelling of others. It also means actively building a quality of relations between peoples, communities, nations, which positively and constructively create a better world founded on respect and a loving concern for others: a world in which the outsider and the insider both belong together. This is Jesus's mission to the world, to reveal that all are insiders to God, that all belong equally together.

A very Happy Christmas to you all,

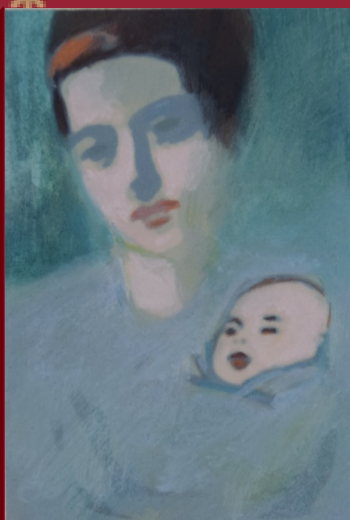
Fr Kevin Morris

Vicar, St Michael and Angels, Bedford Park, W4

**For information and to sign up to our
newsletter visit www.smaaa.org.uk**



Our Advent Calendar



Twenty-four original artworks by local artists,
one revealed each day on
www.smaaa.org.uk/advent

Works are for sale by auction

www.32auctions.com/StMAdvent2025

The auction concludes in church at 11.30 on Sunday 11th January
- with wine and cake

All proceeds from the calendar will go to:

The Upper Room helping people affected by homelessness

Crosslight Chiswick providing support to people in serious debt

McCabe Educational Trust supporting children in the Holy Land



Dates for your 2026 Diary:



**THE BEDFORD
PARK FESTIVAL**

12—28 JUNE 2026

www.bedfordparkfestival.org



**CHISWICK
BOOK FESTIVAL**

9—14 SEPTEMBER 2026

chiswickbookfestival.net



Heritage Conservation Fund

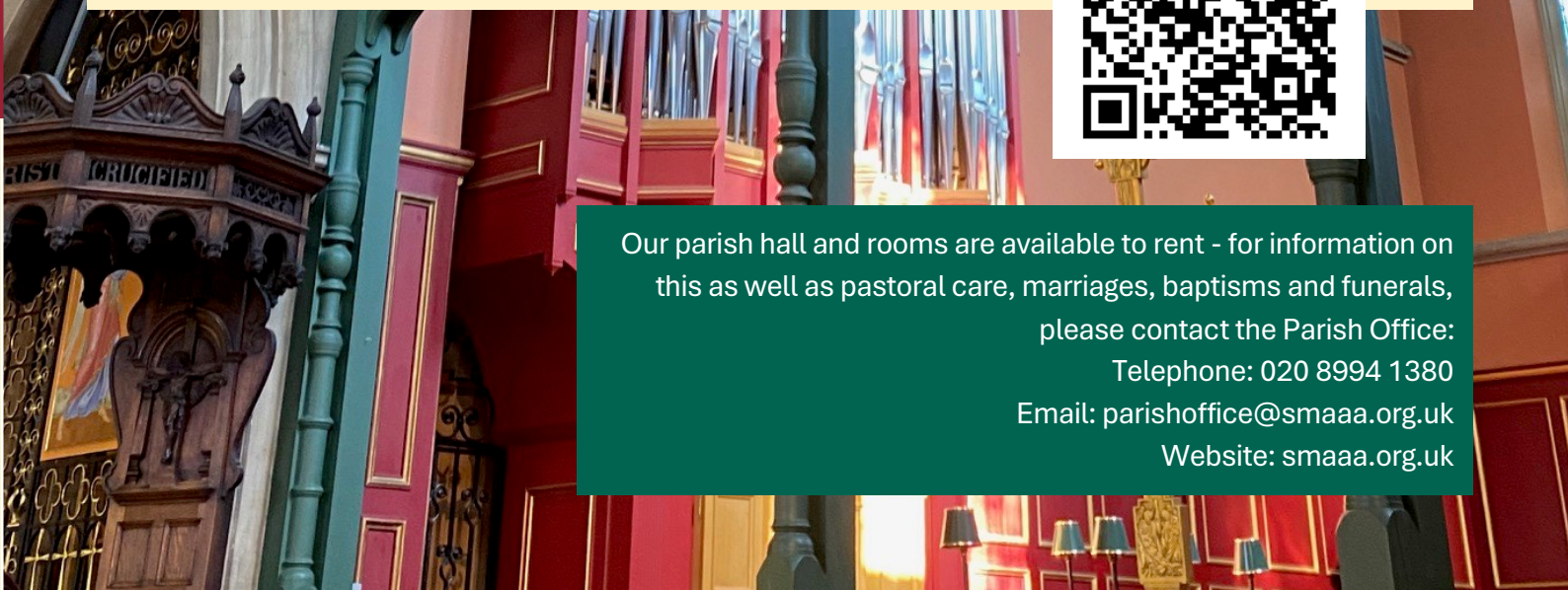
The Heritage Conservation Fund raised over £80,000 during 2025 thanks to the generosity of local residents and the congregation, and all who took part in the Hymnathon.

Much of this was spent on repairing the damage to the wall on the south side of the Church caused by water ingress and some parts of the roof and guttering. This work took place during the summer and we are grateful to Universal Stone for doing such a good job.

The next major project is the repair and restoration of the brick and stone work on both the north and east side of the Church for which we need to raise in the region of £200,000. We are planning some fund raising activities in the first quarter of 2026, which will help us raise funds towards this target.

If you would like to contribute to the Fund please use the QR code or pick up a brochure in the Church, which has full details of how you can contribute.

Peter Haigh,
Chair Heritage Conservation Fund



Our parish hall and rooms are available to rent - for information on this as well as pastoral care, marriages, baptisms and funerals, please contact the Parish Office:
Telephone: 020 8994 1380
Email: parishoffice@smaaa.org.uk
Website: smaaa.org.uk

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

6.30pm Sunday 30th November

A contemplative candlelit service of hymns, scripture readings, poems and choral music

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

6.30pm Sunday 14th December

A traditional carol service of readings, choral anthems and congregational carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm Crib Service

A service for all the family; children can come dressed as shepherds, angels and kings to take part in the tableau

10.30pm Carol Singing in the Porch

A chance to sing your favourite carols

11.30pm Midnight Mass

A contemplative service to celebrate the birth of Christ.

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am Choral Mass with Mini-Panto

A service for everyone with pantomime, sing song, and fizz

BOXING DAY

Noon St Stephen's Day Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Noon New Year's Day Mass

4.30pm A Viennese New Year's Concert

Strauss Orchestra of London directed by David Juritz

See www.smaa.org.uk for information and tickets

Sunday Services

10.00am Mass

Family Service

1st Sunday of the month

6.30pm Evensong

Weekday Services

Monday 10.00am Mass

Tuesday 7.30pm Compline

Wednesday 12.30pm Mass

Thursday 10.00am Mass

Friday 6.00pm Mass

Saturday 10.00am Mass

Young St Michael's

Sundays during term time:

9.30am Youth Church (11 - 18yrs)

10.00am Children's Church (4 - 11yrs)

10.00am Creche (0 - 4yrs)

Choristers 6pm Tuesdays

Little Angels 11am Wednesdays