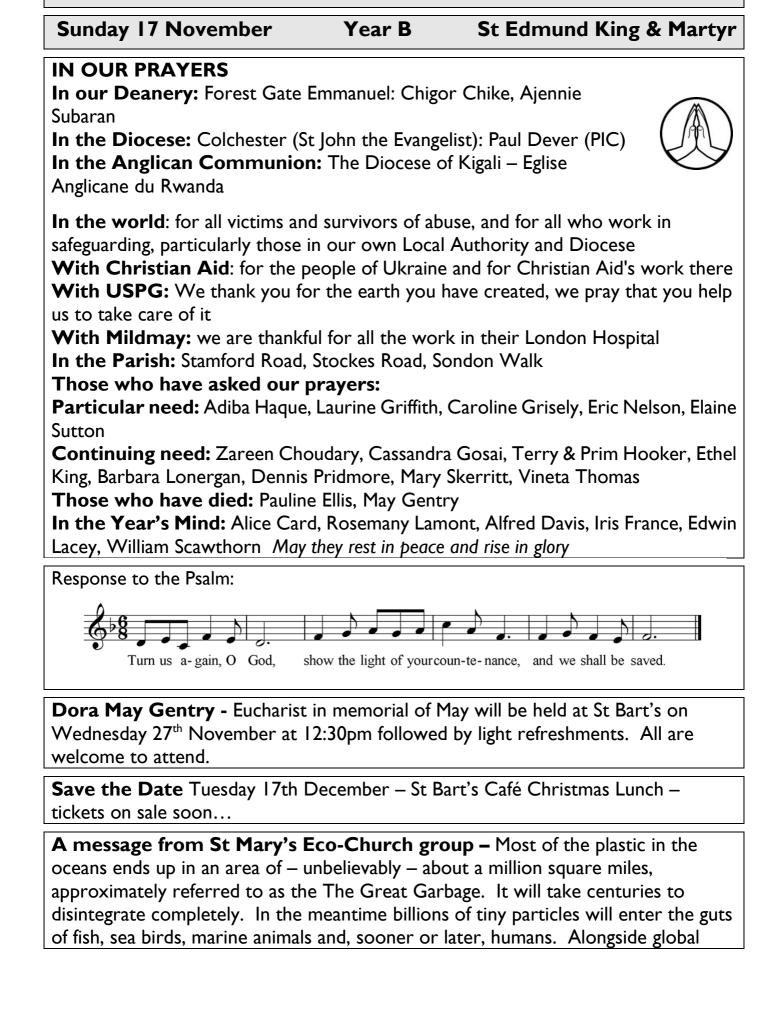


St Mary Magdalene St Bartholomew

St Edmund



warming, destruction of rainforests and loss of biodiversity, this is one of the major ways in which the earth is being polluted and its life threatened.

**Children reading and serving at St Mary's**. We are gradually discovering the gifts of our congregation at all ages. If your child might be interested in reading the Sunday bible readings in church or serving at the altar please let Fr Paul know.

**Pilgrimage through the Balkans** In Spring 2024, Rev. Sandra and her husband, Dave, spent seven weeks travelling from Vienna to Istanbul by train, bus and on foot, visiting religious sites - churches, mosques and synagogues, enjoying the countryside, meeting ordinary people, learning about history, and reflecting on travelling, on pilgrimage and on faith. Join them at St Bart's between 1pm and 2.30pm on November 28th to hear about their journey!

Our parish is now embarking on a process towards congregational growth in number, depth and social impact starting primarily at St Mary's called **Organising for Growth**. We are supported in this by Ana Ferreira of the Centre of Theology and Community. Fr Paul and Ana will be requesting meet-ups with members of the St Mary's congregation as we build relationships and explore our various motivations and gifts.

Might you be called to volunteer with this year's **Faith in Schools Christmas Journey**? These interactive workshops take place in local churches in December, helping our YrI pupils across Newham learn 'Why Christians Celebrate Christmas'. If you would like to volunteer please contact Alice on alice@faithinschools.co.uk to arrange an online session. For more information including event dates, see www.faithinschools.co.uk/christmas-journey

**Care Home Carol Services** Mthr Katherine is leading Carol Services at two of our local Care Homes. There will be a Carol Service at Hedgerow Court on Monday 9th December at 2.30 pm and at Manor Farm Care Home on Wednesday, 18th December at 2 pm. It would be lovely if people could join Mthr Katherine and help lead the Carols and readings, especially at Manor Farm Care Home. Just turn up, if possible, in Christmas Jumpers and Santa hats, (these are optional), if you would like to join in.

**Carol singing at the Red Lion** We team up with members of our neighbouring churches to sing and have fun: simply come and join the singing! Thu 19th Dec 7.30pm, Red Lion, 80 High St South, London E6 6ET.

**Christingle Making** In preparation for the Christmas Eve Christingle Service do join in with making Christingles in the parish room Sun 22nd Dec, following the I0am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's.

**Christmas service highlights** Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's 22nd December 6pm; Christingle at St Mary's on Christmas Eve 5pm; Eucharists on Christmas Eve: 7pm St Ed's; 8pm St Bart's; 11pm St Mary's (Midnight Mass); Eucharists on Christmas Day: 10am St Ed's, St Bart's and St Mary's. More Christmas services and events: see easthamparish.org.uk **Baptism and Confirmations 2025 for children and adults.** Please contact Fr Paul if you are interested in baptism and/or confirmation.

The 2025 cohort of the **Course in Christian Studies** begins in January with taster sessions running in November - if you are interested in furthering your study of the faith, please speak to one of the clergy or ask the Parish Office for details.

St Bart's Intercessory Prayer will follow the service on 24<sup>th</sup> November

## **Sunday Services**

St Mary Magdalene 8am & 10am, St Bart's 10am and St Edmund's 10am. **Eucharists this week** St Edmund's at 12.15pm on Tuesday, St Mary Magdalene at 6.30pm on Wednesday, St Bart's at 12.15pm on Thursday

## **Meetings:**

**PCC** Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November at St Mary Magdalene following the service **Deanery Synod** Thursday 5th December at 7.30pm **Rectory Party** Friday 13th December at 7pm



**Team Rector:** 

**Team Vicar:** 

Associate Clergy:

Honorary Associate Clergy:

## CONTACTS:

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## A statement from the Bishop of Chelmsford following the publication of the Makin review and the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury

Like many others it has been with shame and deep sadness that I have read the recent Makin review. First and foremost in my mind are the victims who had the courage to come forward and for whom this will be a particularly difficult time. We owe the reviewers a debt of gratitude for their careful and insightful report which we must take time to digest.

It is with mixed emotions that I have learned about the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. His decision shows the seriousness with which he takes the criticisms contained in the report and demonstrates his willingness to take his share of responsibility for the failures identified. At the same time, I'm also conscious of so many positive contributions he has made during his tenure, including his drive and commitment to see improvements in the area of safeguarding within the life of the church.

We should make no mistake, the Archbishop's resignation does not alter the challenge for the whole church. The content of Makin should shake us to the core, call us once more to repentance and renew us in our determination to work for a better, safer future.

I'm deeply aware that there will be many in our parishes who may be feeling despondent, disorientated, angry and confused. I want to encourage you to be gentle with one another, hold one another in prayer and keep your eyes firmly fixed on Christ who is ever before us. Safeguarding is fundamental to our life of discipleship and we must continue striving to create communities where we hold one another accountable, treat one another with love and respect, and challenge unhealthy power structures. I want to express my profound thanks to all those who, across the Diocese, are working to create safe spaces in which all God's children are valued equally.

In the coming days, I will have in my thoughts all those affected by the events of recent days and will continue to pray for God's mercy, compassion and healing.

+Guli Chelmsford