St Mary Magdalene

Windmill Hill, Enfield, Middlesex



Parish Magazine

September 2026



What do you say to someone who is going to kill you?

The chief priests and the Pharisees will plot together to kill Jesus. He tells them the Parable of the Wicked Tenants (Matthew 21:33-end).

The parable is set in a vineyard so they would have known that Jesus is talking about them.

They knew the "Song of the Vineyard" of the Prophet Isaiah where he says:

Let me sing for my beloved
My love-song concerning his vineyard...
For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
Is the house of Israel...

What's crucial in Jesus' parable about a vineyard is that is that the landowner is absent. He has gone away to another country. I remember an episode of Downton Abbey when Dame Maggie Smith quoted a hymn. With Lady Violet's characteristic grandeur she says, "God works in mysterious ways his wonders to perform." She's quoting the hymn ironically. But God ways can be mysterious. They can be impenetrable. He can even seem to be absent. Isaiah says that. He says, Truly thou art a God who hidest thyself. Sometimes we might want to ask, "When terrible things happen, where is God?" In his book A Grief Observed, c.S. Lewis wrote this about his experience of trying to pray after his wife died of cancer: "...where is God?...Go to him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence. You may as well

turn away...There are no lights in the windows. It might be an empty house".

If you can remember a time like that it might have felt as if you were losing your faith. But it could be, looking back, that you can begin to sense that it was really a time when your faith was being deepened. Perhaps it was a time that allowed you to grow closer to the Heart of God.

Toward the end of World War II, during the liberation of Europe, Allied troops found a crudely written inscription on the walls of a basement in Koln in Germany, by someone who was hiding from the Gestapo. It said:

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.
I believe in love even when I do not feel it.
I believe in God even when God is silent.

The silence of God descended upon the cross on Good Friday—and on the morning of the third day the sun rose upon the empty tomb As the Book of Deuteronomy says: The secret things belong to the Lord our God; but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever.

With love and my prayers,

James

Sunday and weekday Services

Our weekly service times are:

Sunday 10:00am Eucharist
Tuesday 10:00am Morning Prayer (BCP)
Thursday 10:30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Additional, Regular Services:
Choral Evensong: 1st Sunday of the month 5:00pm
(Not during August and December)

Little Church: for 7's and under 3rd Sunday of the month 9:00am
Evening Praise! An informal service 3rd Sunday of the month 5:00pm

We also provide a livestream of our Sunday Morning Eucharist Service. The link for the livestream page is https://stmarymagdalene.church/livestream-service/

A BIG THANK YOU!.

The Sampford/Collier family were really grateful to everyone for making Bobby's christening such a lovely experience. They thank you all for the love and care shown to them on this very special occasion for the family – THANK YOU!

A St Mary's Meal for Mary's Meals Saturday 31st October

Once again Chris Dey has kindly offered to host a BBQ for Mary's Meals. But this year it will be a little different. His flat, with its huge balcony, overlooks the Town Park, so to coincide with the firework display there on Saturday 31st October, he is holding a fireworks-and-fizz night with BBQ.

You will need to wrap up, but I am sure it will be a great evening. Chris is a kind and generous host.

If you would like to be there, then please let me know as soon as possible. Even if you have already spoken to Chris, you will need to tell me too so that we don't overbook it!

Judy

Little Church

Little Church, is a family friendly service for babies, toddlers and children under 7. The service lasts 30 minutes and includes songs, Bible stories with puppets, and an activity. It is designed to be both fun and a time for families to worship together.

Do join us for a morning of fun, laughter, singing and joy for the family.



Community Café, Tuesdays from 1:30pm

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet friends and new people in a relaxed, informal setting for an afternoon of tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat. We also have a variety of table top games such as cribbige, dominos and cards.

If you are able to help, please see Alison Reeve.

Rekindling, Tuesdays from 3:30pm

A time of encouraging one another in our walk with God.

Eleanor Pritchard Concert Series

Wednesday 14th 11:30 for coffee and cake followed by Roddy Elmer and Caroline Soresby at 12:30pm.

Choral Scholars

The church seeks to appoint choral scholars in all voice parts, especially Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The scholarship is open to singers aged 15-18, although exceptions can be made. The annual fee is £600. Please contact Manav at directorofmusic@stmarymagdalene.church for further information.

Organ Scholar

The church seeks to appoint an organ scholar, who will assist in accompanying services. The scholarship is open to those in 6th form, gap-year students, University students, and recent graduates. The annual fee is £1,500. Please contact Manav at directorofmusic@stmarymagdalene.church for further information.

The Band...

If you play an instrument and can read music, why not join the band? It plays on 3 pr 4 times during the year. The music for the hymns will be given to you a couple of weeks before the service so you can try it out at home beforehand. Please speak with Manav, who accompanies the band, Eleanor, or any of the other band members. Thank you.

Parish Concert – 4 pm 17th October

If you have kindly volunteered to perform at the Parish Concert, please give the name of your item to Manav or me so we can create a programme. If you would like 5 minutes (no more!), please volunteer to Manav or me. Thank you.

Eleanor Pritchard

PS: There will be a cup of tea and cake afterwards!

YouTube Video Playlist

https://www.youtube.com/watch?V=lpIVPhsCXo8&list=PLOS511gUMPpV2F1Lk-vDW5x9_UE_t_bVG&index=1

Dates for your diary

October 2026

Sunday 4th 5pm	Choral Evensong
Saturday 10th	Lumos concert
Sunday 11th 10:00am	Harvest Festival
Weds 14th 11:30am	Coffee & Cake followed by Eleanor Pritchard Concert Series
Saturday 17th 4:00pm	Parish Concert
Sunday 16th 9:00am	Little Church
Sunday 16th 5:00pm	Evening Praise

November 2026

Sunday 1st 4:00pm	All Soul's Service
Sunday 8th 11:15am	Sausage Sunday
Weds 11th 11:30am	Coffee & Cake followed by E.P. Recital
Sunday 20th 9:00am	Little Church
Sunday 20th 5:00pm	Evening Praise
Saturday 28th 10:00am	Winter Fair
Sunday 29th 6:30pm	Advent Carol Service

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