



# Welcome to St Mary's Church

*Following Christ, serving you*

## **SUNDAY SERVICES 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025**

**8.00am**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**10:15am**

**ALL SORTS PARISH  
COMMUNION**

**Anthem: Nunc dimittis (Dyson)**

**Hymns: 516, 80, 513**

**Postlude: Variations on Hark the Glad  
Sound (Dyson)**

**6:00pm**

**EVENING PRAYER**

## **PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE**

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **First Reading – Malachi 3:1-5**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

## **Gospel Reading – Luke 2:22-40**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Please pray for all preparing for baptism and marriage, those who are sick or in hospital, and those who have died, and all who mourn.**

# Church Diary

## NEXT WEEK'S SERVICES

Monday 9:15am – Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10:00am – Holy Communion

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent

8:00am – Holy Communion

10:15am – Parish Communion

6:00pm – Evening Prayer

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

to help you prepare to worship next Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-end) | 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 | Luke 5:1-11

## Parish news and notices

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who supported our Amazing Auction on 19<sup>th</sup> January by bringing donations and buying items. Together we raised a staggering £444 for St. Mary's!

Our next **BookBox** is on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February** with much loved newspaper columnist and author **Bryony Gordon** who joins us to celebrate the paperback launch of her new book, *Mad Woman*, reflecting on ten years of leading the drive for acceptance of the importance of good mental health. Please note that there will be an earlier start time of **7pm in Church**. Tickets are £10 which also gives you a £2 discount on the book, thanks to our friends at The Regency Bookshop. Please book your tickets [www.stmaryslongditton.org.uk/events](http://www.stmaryslongditton.org.uk/events).

**FILM FRIDAY – 21<sup>st</sup> February at 2:00pm in the Community Hall.** The film being shown is the 2017 romantic comedy 'FINDING YOUR FEET' with Imelda Staunton, Timothy Spall, Celia Imrie and Joanna Lumley. All are welcome to attend and enjoy refreshments afterwards. Contact Joanne Hall for more details on 020 8398 5637.