



Welcome to St Mary's Church

Following Christ, serving you

SUNDAY SERVICES 16th March 2025

8.00am	HOLY COMMUNION
10:15am	PARISH COMMUNION Anthem: Hide Not Thou Thy Face (Farrant) Hymns: 277, 598, 622
6:00pm	CHORAL EVENSONG Introit: Let Thy Merciful Ears (Mudd) Anthem: Teach Me O Lord (Byrd) Psalm 135 v. 1-14 Hymns 501, 203

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading – Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall

be your heir.’ He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, ‘I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.’ But he said, ‘O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?’ He said to him, ‘Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.’ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Second Reading – Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Gospel Reading – Luke 13:31-end

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’ He said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox for me, “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.” Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”’

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 23rd March 2025 – Third Sunday of 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 55:1-9 | I Corinthians 10:1-13 | Luke 13:1-9

Parish news and notices

NEW ELECTORAL ROLL – Every six years a brand new roll is created and that takes place this year. Everybody needs to fill in a new Electoral Roll form, available electronically or on paper. Please return to the Parish Office by email or post by Tuesday, 22nd April.

Our next **BOOKBOX** is on **Wednesday 19th March at 8pm** – Victoria Scott, journalist and author, joins us to talk about her new historical novel, *The Storyteller's Daughter* (Boldwood), a time-slip novel that has already won significant praise. Victoria will talk about her fiction, her former life overseas, and how she combines this with teaching broadcast journalism at Kingston University. The book will be available to order from Regency Bookshop.

FILM FRIDAY – 21st March at 2pm in the Community Hall. The film being shown is the 2023 British period thriller 'THE CRITIC' with Ian McKellen, Gemma Arterton, Mark Strong and Lesley Manville. All are welcome to attend and stay for refreshments afterwards. Contact Joanne Hall for more details on 020 8398 5637.

CAKE SALE on MOTHERING SUNDAY 30th March after the 10:15am service. Please bring cakes for selling and money for buying!

Peter and Judith Topp will be giving the churchyard a spring tidy-up on **Saturday, 5th April from 10:00am** for a couple of hours. The work involves collecting up fallen wood, clearing ivy off monuments, cutting back overgrown shrubs etc. and they would love to have some assistance. All welcome! Do come and join in.

For more details email peter.topp2@btinternet.com or call 07973 751719.

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH – Friday, 4th April at 1:00pm in the Community Hall.

Do join us for a delicious two course meal followed by coffee. Do bring a friend or two with you – everyone is most welcome!

If you would like to come along to join us and/or have any dietary requirements, please let us know before Wednesday, 2nd April. Contact either Diana Jemmett (020 8398 1184) or Florence Caley (020 8398 3182) or add your name to the list on the notice board at the back of church.

We look forward very much to welcoming you and others you may bring along with you but please let us know that you are going to join us.

QUIZ NIGHT 6:30pm on Saturday, 5th April at Long Ditton Parish Hall. Cost is £10 per person – maximum 8 to a team. Bring your own food, drink and glasses, plus money for the raffle. To book places, contact Joanne Hall (tel: 020 8398 5637 email: joanne-h@hotmail.co.uk) or Diana Jemmett (tel: 020 8398 1184 email: diana.e.jemmett@gmail.com). Always a fun evening, so start swotting now!!