



Welcome to St Mary's Church

Following Christ, serving you

SUNDAY SERVICES 22nd February 2026

8.00am

HOLY COMMUNION

10:15am

PARISH COMMUNION

Anthem: Let Thy Merciful Ears (Mudd)

Hymns: 95, 496, 444

**Postlude: Praeambulum in Primi Toni
(Matthias Weckmann)**

6:00pm

EVENING PRAYER

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

PRAYER FOR GROWTH AND RENEWAL

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions and power to our witness. Help our church, St. Mary's, to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community of Long Ditton, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading – Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.' Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you

shall die.” But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Second Reading – Romans 5:12-19

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned - sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man’s trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’ But he answered, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you”, and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”’ Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! for it is written, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”’ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; 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

Monday 9:15am – Morning Prayer
12:00noon-10:00pm – Day of Prayer for Bishop Andrew
Wednesday 10:00am – Holy Communion
Friday 12:30pm – Funeral of Peter Davies RIP

Sunday 1st March 2026 – Second Sunday of Lent
8am – Holy Communion
10.15am – All Sorts Parish Communion
6pm – Evening Prayer

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 | John 3:1-17

Parish news and notices

DAY OF PRAYER FOR BISHOP ANDREW – The Bishop’s Leadership Team has organised a Day of Prayer for Bishop Andrew in Guildford Cathedral on Monday, 23rd February from 12:00pm-10:00pm. All are welcome and can come along any time for as long or short a time as you wish. There will be opportunities for silent prayer, for praying with others and to light a candle. Teams will be present from each Deanery throughout the day, to welcome people and to pray with them. At 5:30pm there will be a Choral Evensong service, which will have an emphasis on praying for Bishop Andrew.

Our **LENT COURSE** this year will be **Christ and the Chocolaterie** inspired by the film *Chocolat* which is based on the bestselling novel by Joanne Harris. Using the film as a starting point, the course explores issues about God, the world and what it means to be human. Starting on **Thursday 26 February at 8pm at the Rectory** (5 Church Meadow). Course booklets are available for £7. Since it was first published over 20 years ago, this has been one of the most popular Lent resources by Hilary Brand and we will use a new edition which has been refreshed and updated.

Our next **BOOKBOX** will be at 8pm on **Wednesday 11th March – Nigel Jackman**, chairman of the Richmond Park Bird and Wildlife Groups, will give an illustrated presentation to share his passion for the rich variety of birds and butterflies of Richmond Park, one of London’s largest and best places for wildlife. Many of the species occur elsewhere locally, so come along to be better informed about how to recognise them. Tickets are £10 and can be bought from Alison Baverstock.

CAKE SALE on Mothering Sunday, 15th March. Treat someone (or yourself!) from a choice of delicious cakes being sold on Mothering Sunday. Please bring cakes for selling and money for buying.