



# Welcome to St Mary's Church

*Following Christ, serving you*

**SUNDAY SERVICES 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**8.00am**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**10:15am**

**PARISH COMMUNION**

**Anthem: Christian's Shout for Joy &**

**Gladness (Bach arr. Bullard)**

**Hymns: 147, 157, 137, 160**

## **EASTER DAY**

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

## **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. Amen.

## **First Reading – Acts 10:34-43**

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ - he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good

and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

### **Gospel Reading – John 20:1-18**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

## **Post Communion Prayer**

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; 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 – No Morning Prayer  
Wednesday 10:00am – Holy Communion  
Rev. William Allberry presiding

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
8am – Holy Communion  
10.15am – Parish Communion  
6:00pm – Evening Prayer

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS  
Acts 2:14a, 22-32 | John 20:19-end

## Parish news and notices

**FRIENDSHIP LUNCH Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 1pm in the Community Hall.** Do please join us for a delicious two course meal followed by coffee/tea. Do bring a friend or two with you - everyone is welcome! If you would like to come along to join us and/or have any special dietary requirement, please let us know before Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April. Please contact either Diana Jemmett (020 8398 1184) or Florence Caley (020 8398 3182) or add your name to the sign-up list on the noticeboard at the back of church. We look forward very much to welcoming you and any others you may bring along but please let us know that you are going to join us.

Our next **WALK AND TALK** is in **Richmond Park on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April meeting at 12:30pm at Kingston Gate Car Park.** This will be a gentle 3 mile/5km walk on mostly flat ground. These walks are free and open to everyone who wishes to get some fresh air and meet new people. Dogs, children, friends, neighbours – all are welcome and there is no need to book your place, please just turn up and say hello! You'll need some walking shoes and suitable clothing if the weather looks a bit changeable. Parking at most walks is free. Car sharing from St Mary's Church, Long Ditton is available but please call Felix on 07977 112920 to arrange a lift.

Our next **BOOKBOX** will be at **8pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April** – to mark the anniversary of the sinking of the *Titanic* – on the very day! – we are delighted to host the launch of a new novel about the famous ship. *The Lost Passenger* by **Frances Quinn**. Her book tells the story of someone who chose to change their destiny on the night the ship sank. The book will be available to order from Regency Bookshop, and Frances will kindly sign copies.

**FILM FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00pm in the Community Hall.** The film being shown is the 2025 comedy-drama '**The Ballad of Wallis Island**' (with Tom Basden, Tim Key and Carey Mulligan). All are welcome and refreshments are served afterwards. For more details contact Joanne Hall on 020 8398 563.

Some dates for your diary with future **BOOKBOX** events, on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May** **Baroness Sayeeda Warsi** will be talking about her book *Muslims Don't Matter* and on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May** at **2pm** **Mary Turner**, creator of the **THUNDERBIRDS** puppets will join us.

**ALASTAIR HARRIS** is marking his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday retracing the steps of sixth century St Cadfan along the Llwybr Cadfan pilgrimage route – all 128 miles of it (plus 2 extra miles) – in Gwynedd, North Wales raising funds for **ACTION AROUND BETHLEHEM CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY** (ABCD BETHLEHEM). Alastair is planning on walking the route in two parts. Stage One: Easter Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April – Tywyn to Porthmadog. Stage Two: Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Porthmadog to Aberdaron (or Bardsey Island if possible). To donate please visit: <https://abcdbethlehem.org/category/events/>