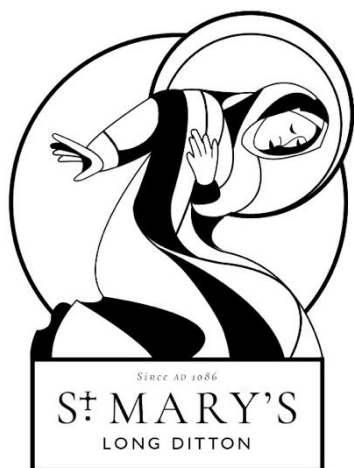




Welcome to St Mary's Church

Following Christ, serving you

SUNDAY SERVICES 20th September 2026

8.00am

HOLY COMMUNION

10:15am

PARISH COMMUNION

**Anthem: Rejoice in the Lord Alway
(Anon)**

Hymns: 502, 416, 604, 429

6:00pm

CHORAL EVENSONG

Introit: Justorum Animae (Stanford)

**Anthem: Ave Maria from Vespers
(Rachmaninov)**

Psalm 34

Hymns: 215, 572

Postlude: Prelude in G minor (Buxtehude)

16th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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 – Jonah 3:10-end of 4

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, 'O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,

and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the LORD said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.' But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the LORD said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

Second Reading – Philippians 1:21-end

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well - since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 20:1-16

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage,^[a] he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the

first.” When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?^l Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; 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
Wednesday 10am – Holy Communion

Sunday 27th September – 17th Sunday after Trinity
8am – Holy Communion
10.15am – Parish Communion
11:45am – Burial of Ashes of Susan Cook RIP
6pm – Evening Prayer

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-end | Philippians 2:1-13 | Matthew 21:23-32

Parish news and notices

The **100 Club draw results for August and September** were as follows:

August: 1st Prize: No. 74
 2nd Prize: No. 14
 3rd Prize: No. 64

September: 1st Prize: No. 48
 2nd Prize: No. 78
 3rd Prize: No. 73

Congratulations to all the winners. The next and final draw of 100 Club 23 will take place on Sunday, 4th October. Good luck to everyone – but especially to those who haven't won this year! Membership renewal forms and invitation forms to join for 100 Club 24 will be sent out during October.

HARVEST SUPPER SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER - 6.30pm for 7.00pm in the Community Hall. For a suggested donation of £10, enjoy a two-course meal, table-top quiz and raffle - all proceeds are for church funds. BYO drinks. Places must be booked in advance by 20th September - there is sign-up sheet at the back of church or alternatively contact Joanne Hall (020 8398 5637) or Diana Jemmett (020 8398 1184). Vegetarians and other dietary requests can be catered for so let us know on the sign-up sheet as appropriate or when booking through Joanne or Diana.

HARVEST FESTIVAL Sunday 4th October. As usual, we will be collecting food items for the local Women's Refuge. Please bring donations to any of the services that Sunday (dried goods only, e.g. tea/coffee/cereal/pasta/any tinned items/biscuits etc). Thank you.

QUIZ NIGHT Saturday, 24th October 6:30pm at Long Ditton Village Hall, £10 per person (maximum 8 per team). Bring your own food/drink/glass and money for the raffle. To book a place, contact Joanne Hall (020 8398 5637) or Diana Jemmett (020 8398 1184).

URGENTLY REQUIRED - One or two people to deliver our popular Lychgate Magazine in roads off Ditton Hill. The roads include- Manderville Drive and Saffron Way (34 Mags) and/ or Oaks Way and Devonshire Drive (62 Mags). The estate is very quiet and pleasant, and delivery is every two months starting at the end of this month. Anyone interested in joining our wonderful team, please contact Val Tanner on email- val.a.tanner@gmail.com or Tel. 07771817760 Thank you.