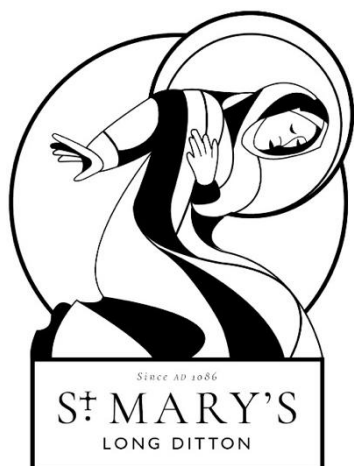




Welcome to St Mary's Church

Following Christ, serving you

SUNDAY SERVICES 4th October 2026

8.00am

HOLY COMMUNION

10:15am

PARISH COMMUNION

Anthem: Fear Not O Land (Elgar)

Hymns: 270, 271, 272, 275

6:00pm

EVENING PRAYER

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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 – Deuteronomy 8:7-18

For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you. Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

Gospel Reading – Luke 12:16-30

Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.' He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; 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 – LDSM and LDI Harvest Celebration

Wednesday 10am – Holy Communion

Sunday 11th October – 19th Sunday after Trinity Sunday

8am – Holy Communion

10.15am – Parish Communion with Holy Baptism of Frank Clifford Herring

6pm – Evening Prayer

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 25:1-9 | Philippians 4:1-9 | Matthew 22:1-14

Parish news and notices

SUNDAY STROLL – Our next **Sunday Stroll** will be on **Sunday, 11th October**. We'll set off from St. Mary's Church, Long Ditton, at 12:00pm. Car sharing is available if you'd like a lift. We'll make our way to Hampton Court and walk alongside the river for an hour or so. Everyone is welcome, so please bring your friends, families, neighbours – and your dog, if you have one! Any questions, please ask Felix on 07977 112920.

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA – This has been moved temporarily to the side chapel so that children can play safely (including during services) until repairs to the cracks in the north-east corner have been carried out.

The next **BOOKBOX** will on **Wednesday, 14th October at 8:00pm in the Community Hall** on '**Why Poetry Matters**'. This is a poetry workshop with poets **Heather Cook** and **Linda Huxley**, who will explore what poetry is, where their inspiration comes from and how to get started. Research has shown that more people are engaging in writing poetry, so their guidance will be really helpful.

FILM FRIDAY 16th October 2.00pm in the Community Hall. The film being shown is the 2025 historical drama '**Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale**' as we were unable to show it in September as planned. All are welcome to attend and enjoy refreshments afterwards. For more details, contact Joanne Hall on 020 8398 5637.

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