



Welcome to St Mary's Church

Following Christ, serving you

SUNDAY SERVICES 12th April 2026

8.00am	HOLY COMMUNION
10:15am	PARISH COMMUNION No choir Hymns: 136, 383, 311, 140
6:00pm	EVENING PRAYER

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ 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 – Acts 2:14a, 22-32

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know - this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.” ‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, “He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.” This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

Gospel Reading – John 20:19-end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 10:00am – Holy Communion

Sunday 19th April 2026 – 3rd Sunday of Easter
8am – Holy Communion
10.15am – Parish Communion
6:00pm – Choral Evensong

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 | I Peter 1:17-23 | Luke 24:13-25

Parish news and notices

Come along and join us for a **SUNDAY STROLL at Richmond Park today - meeting 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 15th 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 17th 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 5637.

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

ALASTAIR HARRIS is marking his 65th 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 6th April to Saturday 11th April – Tywyn to Porthmadog. Stage Two: Sunday 24th May to Saturday 30th May – Porthmadog to Aberdaron (or Bardsey Island if possible). To donate please visit: <https://abcdbethlehem.org/category/events/>