



Welcome to St Mary's Church

Following Christ, serving you

SUNDAY SERVICES 17th May 2026

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| 8.00am | HOLY COMMUNION |
| 10:15am | PARISH COMMUNION With Holy Baptism of Evelyn Ali-Jones Anthem: Awake Thou Wintry Earth (Bach) Hymns: 167, 163, 311, 166 |
| 12:00pm | APCM |
| 6:00pm | CHORAL EVENSONG Introit: Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace (Wesley) Anthem: Blessed Be the God and Father (Wesley) Psalm 47 Hymns: 395, 585 Postlude: Choral Song (S.S. Wesley) |

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, 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 1:6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’ Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Second Reading – 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading – John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ‘I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they

have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; 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 10:00am – Holy Communion
Friday 1:00pm – Wedding of Michael Bonney and Jessica Woods

Sunday 24th May 2026 – Pentecost
8am – Holy Communion
10.15am – Parish Communion with Holy Baptism
12:00pm – Burial of Ashes – Valerie Triebner RIP
6:00pm – Evening Prayer

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
Acts 2:1-21 | John 20:19-23

Parish news and notices

The **100 CLUB Results for April 2026** were as follows:

1st Prize: No. 14
2nd Prize: No. 59
3rd Prize: No. 61

The **100 CLUB Results for May 2026** were as follows:

1st Prize: No. 37
2nd Prize: No. 64
3rd Prize: No. 45

Congratulations to all the winners! The next draw will take place on Sunday, 7th June. Good luck to everyone – especially those members who have not yet won a prize this year.

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 walking the route in two parts and has already walked Stage One: Tywyn to Porthmadog. Next Sunday he will begin 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/>

Some dates for your diary with future **BOOKBOX** events:

Wednesday 20th May **Baroness Sayeeda Warsi** will be talking about her book *Muslims Don't Matter*.

Saturday 30th May at 2pm **Mary Turner**, creator of the **THUNDERBIRDS** puppets, will join us in the Community Hall.

Another date for your diary: **SATURDAY, 4TH JULY AT 8:00PM** there will be a performance of **THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK** by **The Songbirds & Friends** at St. Mary's Church. Tickets will be £15 each and can be booked in advance – please call 0208 398 5322. Tickets will shortly be available in Church, or you can also pay on the door.