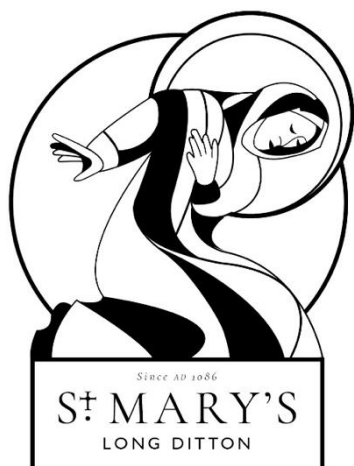




Welcome to St Mary's Church

Following Christ, serving you

SUNDAY SERVICES 23rd August 2026

8.00am

HOLY COMMUNION

10:15am

PARISH COMMUNION

Rev. Stuart Saddler preaching

Hymns: 585, 581, 368, 549

Postlude: Fugue in Eb 'St. Anne' (JS Bach)

11:45am

BURIAL OF ASHES

Pamela Jessop RIP

6:00pm

EVENING PRAYER

12TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY SUNDAY

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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 – Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Post Communion Prayer

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of 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

Wednesday 10:00am – Holy Communion

Revd. William Allberry presiding

Sunday 30th August – 13th Sunday after Trinity Sunday

8am – Holy Communion

Revd. William Allberry presiding

10.15am – Parish Communion

Canon Richard Truss presiding

6:00pm – Evening Prayer

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Romans 12: 9-end | Matthew 16:21-end

Parish news and notices

ALPHA COURSE starting **Thursday 3 September 8pm at the Rectory**, 5 Church Meadow for five weeks. Alpha is a series that explores the basics of the Christian faith. All are welcome. Here are some quotes from people who have previously done the Alpha course at St Mary's:

I enjoyed the social and relaxed atmosphere of the meetings and the open discussions of Christianity. (Sue)
Although the guy talking in the videos was too smooth, the course certainly impressed me, and I did learn quite a lot. (Gerda)

I went into the Alpha Course feeling unsure, but the gentle, discussion-based format helped me relax and explore faith without pressure or performance. Alpha became a space where my relationship with God felt clearer, calmer, and more personal. I would highly recommend this course. (Lucy).

PARISH OFFICE TIDY UP – Mandy recently had an almighty clear out of the Parish Office and it is now looking smart and tidy! Could we please ask that nobody leaves anything in there without checking with Mandy, or with Joanne Hall, first. Thank you very much.

Please join us for a **PET BLESSING SERVICE on Sunday, 13th September at 4:00pm**. If your pet is too shy or you are worried about bringing them to church, then please come along with a photo of your pet. All are welcome.

The next **BOOKBOX** will be taking place on **WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER at 7:30pm in the Church**. **Andrew Lownie** - distinguished publisher, literary agent and author - will talk about his book ***‘Entitled: The Rise and Fall of the House of York’***.

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.