Welcome to St Mary's Church

Following Christ, serving you

SUNDAY SERVICES 15th November 2026

8.00am	**HOLY COMMUNION**
9:45am	**PARISH COMMUNION** **Anthem: Listen Sweet Dove (Ives)** **Hymns: 474, 386, 627**
6:00pm	**CHORAL EVENSONG** **Introit: Oculi Omnium (Wood)** **Anthem: O Thou the Sweetest Source (Wood)** **Psalm 89 vs. 19-29, Hymns: 166, 546** **Postlude: Fanfare (Lemmens)**

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

God of compassion, you have taught us that the greatest among us is the servant of all: give us hearts that are open to the vulnerable, eyes that are alert to abuse, and a commitment to make our church a place of safety and peace; 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. Amen.

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: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-end

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 25:14-30

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts

with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious God, whose Son Jesus Christ came to bring healing and wholeness: comfort all who have suffered the trauma of abuse. Give them your peace, restore their trust, and grant them justice. Guide your Church to listen with humility, to speak out with courage, and to act with integrity, that all your children may know your protecting love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 – No Morning Prayer

Wednesday – 10:00am – Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd November – Christ the King
8am – Holy Communion
10:15 - Parish Communion
No Evening Prayer – please come along to Long Ditton Lights Up!

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
Ezekiel 34:11-16 | Ephesians 1:15-end | Matthew 25:14-30

Parish news and notices

The next **BOOKBOX** will on **Wednesday, 18th November at 8:00pm in the Community Hall** – Steve Owens from the **COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION** will outline the creation of the Imperial War Graves Commission, the development of memorials and cemeteries, before moving on to outline the Commission's work around the world today. He will include stories relating to those buried locally, of which St. Mary's provides some first-class examples.

FILM FRIDAY 20th November at 2.00pm in the Community Hall. The film being shown is the Alfred Hitchcock directed 1954 mystery thriller 'REAR WINDOW' with James Stewart and Grace Kelly. All are welcome to attend and enjoy refreshments afterwards. For more details contact Joanne Hall 020 8398 5637.

LONG DITTON LIGHTS UP! takes place on **Sunday 22nd November, 4.00pm - 6.00pm** in the car park next to Anny's. Fun for all the family with Food / Drink / Games / Carols / Raffle - Father Christmas will switch the tree lights on at 5.45pm. Do come along to support this community event!

LADIES NIGHT OUT – Wednesday 2nd December 7:00pm at The Angel Pub. All ladies are invited to enjoy a delicious meal and convivial company at The Angel on Wednesday 2nd December at 7:00pm. Please contact Joanne Hall (020 8398 5637) or Diana Jemmett (020 8398 1184) to book a place (**by Wednesday 25th November latest**). Look forward to seeing you there!