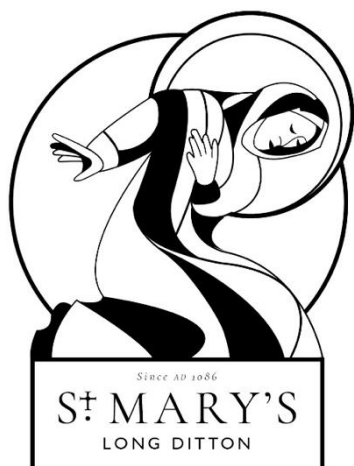




Welcome to St Mary's Church

Following Christ, serving you

SUNDAY SERVICES 30th August 2026

8.00am

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. William Allberry presiding

10:15am

PARISH COMMUNION

Canon Richard Truss presiding

Hymns: 538, 383, 582, 609

6:00pm

EVENING PRAYER

13TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY SUNDAY

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, 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 12:9-end

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 16:21-end

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? 'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; 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.
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Church Diary

Monday – Bank Holiday

Wednesday 10:00am – Holy Communion

Sunday 6th September - 14th Sunday after Trinity Sunday

8am – Holy Communion

10.15am – All Sorts Parish Communion

6:00pm – Evening Prayer

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Romans 13: 8-end | Matthew 18:15-20

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.