



Welcome to St Mary's Church

Following Christ, serving you

SUNDAY SERVICES 1st February 2026

8.00am	HOLY COMMUNION
10:15am	ALL SORTS PARISH COMMUNION Anthem: When to the temple Mary went (Eccard) Hymns: 80, 360, 516, 476, 513
6:00pm	EVENING PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by 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.

First Reading – Malachi 3:1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

Gospel Reading – Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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

Thursday 9:15am – Visit of LDSM Year 4

Friday 11:30am – Funeral of Peter Stuart-William RIP

Sunday 8th February 2026 – Second Sunday before Lent

8:00am – Holy Communion

10.15am – Parish Communion

6:00pm – Evening Prayer

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Genesis 1:1-2:3 | Romans 8:18-25 | Matthew 6:25-end

Parish news and notices

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH – Friday, 6th February at 1pm in the Community Hall.

Do join us for a delicious two course meal followed by coffee. Do bring a friend or two with you – everyone is most welcome! If you would like to come along to join us and/or have any dietary requirements, please let us know before Wednesday, 4th February. Contact either Diana Jemmett (020 8398 1184) or Florence Caley (020 8398 3182) or add your name to the list on the notice board at the back of church. We look forward very much to welcoming you and others you may bring along with you but please let us know that you are going to join us.

HINCHLEY WOOD SCHOOL AFTERNOON TEA PARTY Friday 6th February 2-4pm

Year 9 students are hosting a tea party for senior members of the local community. To book a free ticket please contact Kay Mullady at info@hinchleywoodschool.co.uk.

Our next **BOOKBOX** will be at 8pm on **Wednesday 11th February** with Roger Morgan-Grenville – a former soldier who has a passion for nature and who was a founding member of the conservation charity Curlew Action. Roger is now an author and will share his most recent title: 'The Restless Coast: A Journey around the edge of Britain'. Tickets are £10 and can be bought from Alison Baverstock.

FILM FRIDAY 20th February at 2:00pm in the Community Hall. The film being shown is the classic 1938 mystery-thriller 'The Lady Vanishes' (with Margaret Lockwood and Michael Redgrave). All are welcome and refreshments are served afterwards. For more details contact Joanne Hall on: 020 8398 5637.