



# Welcome to St Mary's Church

*Following Christ, serving you*

**SUNDAY SERVICES 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**8.00am            HOLY COMMUNION**

**10:15am          ALL SORTS PARISH  
COMMUNION**

**6:00pm            EVENING PRAYER**

**EPIPHANY**

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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.

## **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 – Isaiah 60:1-6**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you

shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

### **Gospel Reading – Matthew 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, 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 9:15 - Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10:00am – Holy Communion

Sunday 11th January 2026 – Baptism of Christ

8:00am – Holy Communion

10.15am – Parish Communion

6:00pm – Evening Prayer

### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

Isaiah 42:1-9 | Acts 10:34-43 | Matthew 3:13-end

## Parish news and notices

**FILM FRIDAY – 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2:00pm in the Community Hall.** The film being shown is the 2024 comedy-drama A REAL PAIN (with Kieran Culkin and Jesse Eisenberg). All are welcome to attend and refreshments will be served afterwards. For more details contact Joanne Hall on 020 8398 5637.

**FRIENDSHIP LUNCH – Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> January at 1:00pm in the Community Hall.** Do join us for a delicious two-course lunch followed by tea or coffee, and why not bring a friend or two with you, as everyone is most welcome! If you would like to join us and/or have any dietary requirements, just let us know before Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> January. Please either sign up on the list on the notice board at the back of the church or contact one of the following people by phone: Diana Jemmett (020 8398 1184) or Florence Caley (020 8398 3182). We look forward very much to welcoming you!

Our annual **Burns Night** celebration will take place on **Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. Enjoy a traditional meal with a performance by a bagpiper and the poetry of both Burns and others. Tickets are currently available but are going quickly! Please see Alison after Sunday service, or email her on: [alison.baverstock@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:alison.baverstock@kingston.ac.uk) to book. Tickets are £35 for individuals and £40 each for five people or more booking to sit together.

**USED POSTAGE STAMPS.** There is a collecting box for used stamps in the History Corner and Katharine Lankey has been taking these stamps to Princess Alice Hospice. Unfortunately, Princess Alice can no longer take our stamps, but Katharine has discovered that Oxfam will be happy to have them. Any stamps left in the collecting box will now go to Oxfam.