



Welcome to St Mary's Church

Following Christ, serving you

SUNDAY SERVICES 12th January 2025

8.00am

HOLY COMMUNION

10:15am

PARISH COMMUNION

Anthem: The Call (Vaughan Williams)

Hymns: 93, 383, 92, 612

Postlude: Toccata on Angels We

Have Heard on High (Richard Elliott)

6:00pm

EVENING PRAYER

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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.

First Reading – Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth - everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

Second Reading – Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; 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.

Church Diary

NEXT WEEK'S SERVICES

Monday 9:15am – Morning Prayer

Wednesday 10:00am – Holy Communion

Sunday 19th January 2025 – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

8:00am – Holy Communion

10:15am – Parish Communion

6:00pm – Choral Evensong

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

to help you prepare to worship next Sunday

Isaiah 62:1-5 | 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 | John 2:1-11

Parish news and notices

FUNdraiser: Pass on gifts you don't want and find some gifts you do want while raising money for St. Mary's Church. WIN! WIN! An '**Auction of Unwanted Christmas Presents**' will be held after the **10:15am service next Sunday, 19th January**, so save those bath bombs that you won't use and those extra sweets and biscuits that you won't eat and bring them along next Sunday. If you are not going to be there, items can be dropped in the box at the back of the church or left in the Parish Office during the week. All items must be brand new, in pristine condition.

The next **FILM FRIDAY** will be held at **2:00pm** on **17th January in the Community Hall**. The film being shown is the 2019 biographical drama chronicling the life of painter L. S. Lowry, which stars Timothy Spall and Vanessa Redgrave. Refreshments are served afterwards. All are welcome – contact Joanne Hall for more information on: 020 8398 5637.

HYMNS WE LOVE a five-week course created by Pippa and Steve Cramer from Holy Trinity Claygate. Each session explores a different aspect of the Christian faith through a familiar, well-loved hymn. Each time we meet, there'll be an opportunity to enjoy a beautiful rendition of a hymn, before a short talk that explores the story behind its author and the meaning behind the words. And of course, there'll be lots of time to chat, too. The course will be on **Thursdays at 8pm at the Rectory starting on 23rd January**.

100 CLUB – Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership of the 100 Club and thank you to all those new people who joined. We had full allocation and raised £1,050 for the re-oiling of the Hall floor, which will be done in February half-term. The first draw of this year's 100 Club took place on Sunday, 5th January. The results were as follows:

1st Prize: No. 91

2nd Prize: No. 39

3rd Prize: No. 17

Congratulations to all the winners. The next draw will take place on Sunday, 2nd February in St. Mary's Community Hall after the 10:15am service.

Our next **BookBox** is on **Wednesday 12 February** with much loved newspaper columnist and author **Bryony Gordon** who joins us to celebrate the paperback launch of her new book, *Mad Woman*, reflecting on ten years of leading the drive for acceptance of the importance of good mental health. Please note that there will be an earlier start time of **7pm in Church**. Tickets are £10 which also gives you a £2 discount on the book, thanks to our friends at The Regency Bookshop. Please book your tickets www.stmaryslongditton.org.uk/events.