

# PARISH OF ESHER

CHRIST CHURCH, ESHER with ST GEORGE'S, WEST END

*Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love*

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

3 OCTOBER 2021

## CHURCH SERVICES

Christ Church	Harvest Thanksgiving at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Preacher	Dave Whymark
Churchwarden	Helen Coulson
Sidespeople	Sandra Argent
Reading & Prayers	Esher Church School pupils
Musicians	David Pimm, Diana Johns
Refreshments	Sandra Argent, Will Stevens

## MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Chorale Prelude on 'Lobe den Herren' (Walther)</i>
Christ Church hymns	287, 282, 290
Setting	Coulson
Anthem	<i>Thou visitest the earth</i> (Greene)
Closing music	<i>Toccata in G major</i> (Dubois)

## THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Creator God,  
you made the goodness of the land,  
the riches of the sea  
and the rhythm of the seasons;  
as we thank you for the harvest,  
may we cherish and respect  
this planet and its peoples,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord of the harvest,  
with joy we have offered thanksgiving for  
your love in creation and have shared in  
the bread and the wine of the kingdom:  
by your grace plant within us a reverence  
for all that you give us and make us  
generous and wise stewards  
of the good things we enjoy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Here's a question for us on this Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday: how do we conceive of our relationship to creation?

Speaking in 1945, the pioneering environmentalist Aldo Leopold outlined two contrasting approaches. In one perspective, nature is seen as little more than a repository of resources and raw materials. A farm, for example, is just a factory producing agricultural products for the consumer market. The measure of success in this approach is the financial bottom line, the extent of profit.

In a second perspective, however, the farm is a place to live and 'the criterion of success is a harmonious balance between plants, animals, and people; between the domestic and the wild; between utility and beauty.' In other words, in this second vision, we acknowledge our embeddedness in creation and so our watchwords are gratitude, reverence and – where appropriate – self-limitation.

Leopold's words suggest that getting to grips with current environmental crises will require heart and soul change as well as political change. As Jesus reminds us in today's Gospel (Matthew 6.25-33) lasting transformation begins within. It begins when striving for the values of the Kingdom of God – the realm of justice and peace – comes before everything else.

God bless,



## READING 1 Timothy 6.6-10

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

## PSALM 126

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
- 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'
- 3 The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
- 4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.
- 5 May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
- 6 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

## GOSPEL Matthew 6.25-33

Jesus said 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

## PARISH COVID INFORMATION

### Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update

We are very happy to have Christ Church and Saint George's West End open again for in-person public worship. Christ Church will also open for private prayer most Wednesdays, 10am to 4pm.

### Communion

In line with Church of England guidance those who wish to make an act of Spiritual Communion can use this prayer.

*Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits you have given me,  
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day.*

*Amen.* after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

### Daily Hope Helpline 0800 804 8044

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line 24 hours a day. A Church of England initiative (in partnership with Holy Trinity Claygate, and Faith in Later Life).

### Help & the Parish Office

The office is now manned however if you do need any help please make contact via the office email and telephone initially. For all urgent enquiries contact the Rector, the Revd Darren McCallig (01372 461088 or rector@esherparish.org.uk) or a churchwarden - Helen Coulson on 07506 701454 or Jane Tyrrell on 07971 698299. Many thanks.

## CHRIST CHURCH SERVICE NOTES

Welcome! It's great to be together for Sunday worship.

A few things to remember:

- Please take the Pewsheets with you.
- Apart from the designated socially-distanced zone, please feel free to sit in any pew. Please also feel free to sit with friends if you wish.
- We will continue to keep a list of those in attendance. Please be assured that this information is held securely.
- We ask, please, that you continue to wear a face covering, bearing in mind that masks primarily provide protection to others. Exemptions are: those leading worship; children under 11; those unable to put on/wear a face mask because of a physical or mental illness or disability; those for whom wearing a mask will cause severe distress; and anyone assisting someone who relies on lip reading to communicate.
- We are delighted to be able to sing again as a congregation.
- The toilet (at the back of the church) is open, but please use only if necessary.
- The service will be live streamed on the Parish YouTube channel.
- Communion will be in one kind only (consecrated bread) with the priest wearing a face covering for distribution. Please come 'up' the centre aisle and use the hand sanitiser before receiving. Please return to your seat 'down' the side aisles.
- To make an act of 'Spiritual Communion' please use the prayer opposite.
- Refreshments will be served afterwards. This will be outside, weather permitting.
- Just as you used the hand sanitiser on the way in, please use it again on the way out.

It's wonderful to have you here - thank you!

## PARISH NOTICES

**Harvest Thanksgiving** - We are holding two Harvest services - the first is today here at Christ Church with the second at St George's at 9am on Sunday 10 October. All donations will be given to the East Elmbridge Foodbank. They particularly need more fruit juice (long life), squash, tinned hot dogs/vegetables/potatoes, biscuits, crisps, chocolate, sweets, spreads/preserves (not strawberry jam), instant soup/noodle packets, pulses (kidney beans/chickpeas etc) and sugar/tea bags (small packs). To give financially go to the Foodbank's Harvest Appeal website at <https://eastelmbridge.foodbank.org.uk/2021/09/22/harvest-with-east-elmbridge-food-bank/>. Thank you.

**'Blessing our Pets' Service** - We are very pleased to announce we will be holding a Pet Service this year at Christ Church on Sunday 17 October at 4pm. Let's thank God for our pets and all creatures great and small and fill the church with fun!

**'Zoom' Bible Reflection & Prayer** - The group is starting up again on Tuesday 5 October at 9am. Please ask the Parish Office for details.

**'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee!** - Morning Prayer continues at 9am every Wednesday. Please ask the Parish Office for details.

**Fellowship** - We are pleased to announce the Fellowship Group is meeting in Christ Church on Wednesday 13 October at 11am.

**Lunchtime Music in Guildford** - Our Director of Music, Stuart Whatton, will be giving an organ recital at St Mary's Quarry Street in Guildford, on Wednesday 13 October at 1.10 pm, with a programme including works by Bach, Pachelbel, Albinoni and Stanford. All friendly audience faces welcome!

**Macmillan Coffee Morning** - Many thanks to all who contributed. The total raised will be announced in the pewsheet shortly.

**Music on the Green** - To mark Beethoven's recent 250th anniversary we are staging two concerts, at 3pm and 7pm, by piano duo, Tessa Uys and Ben Schoeman, on Sunday 10 October. Please see posters and website for details. To buy in-person or live-stream tickets please go to [www.webgig.tv](http://www.webgig.tv).

Do watch last month's concert featuring the Diphonon Duo - Michael Iskas on viola and Iñigo Mikeleiz-Berrade on accordion - on our 'Music on the Green Esher' YouTube channel.

**Friends Update** - Our first Coffee Morning is to take place at St George's in West End on Wednesday 13 October at 10.30am.

Friends of Christ Church & St George's and all guests are welcome to join us for coffee, tea, cake and good company and a natter!

**The Nutcracker** - The Everyman Cinema in Esher is showing a live screening of the ballet (<https://www.everymancinema.com/Esher/events>) from the Royal Opera House at 7pm on Thursday 9 December. Andrea and Bridget have booked seats (G21 & G22) and would love to have more Parish friends join them, perhaps with early pizza supper beforehand.

**Parish Giving** - Thank you for your ongoing support. If you're able to, you can donate today or via our 'Give A Little' page at <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/d9f42eab-78e6-4ce8-880b-215b3f77c260> or via <https://www.justgiving.com/esherparish>.

To donate to our bank account, contact the Parish Office for details and Gift Aid forms.

**Afghan Refugees** - The Home Office has asked the Church of England to help in the search for accommodation for Afghans who are seeking asylum in this country. As they worked for the UK government they are having to flee. To help contact the Diocese Asylum Seeker Adviser, The Revd Diane Peters, at [diane.peters@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:diane.peters@cofeguildford.org.uk)

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Yasmin Ingram, Stuart Williams, Maureen O'Brien, Jaeseok Yang, Betty Walker, Geoff Walker, Elizabeth Arnold, Sue Lynn, Hugh Miller, Stewart Henderson, Graham Woolgar, John Treneman

RIP Anniversaries: David Rennie, Dorothy Ward

RIP: Viola Mason, John Matterson Allen

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Readings for Morning Prayer taken from the Church of England Lectionary.

October		Time	Reading
Monday	4		1 Maccabees 3.1-26; Ps 80; Mark 15.1-15
Tuesday	5	9.00-10.00am	1 Maccabees 3.27-41; Ps 89.1-18; Mark 15.16-32
Wednesday	6	9.00-10.00am	1 Maccabees 3.42-end; Ps 119.105-128; Mark 15.33-41
Thursday	7		1 Maccabees 4.1-25; Ps 92; Mark 15.42-end
Friday	8		1 Maccabees 4.26-35; Ps 88; Mark 16.1-8

## LOOKING AHEAD

October		Time	Event
Sunday	3	10.30am	Harvest Thanksgiving, Christ Church
Monday	4	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday	5	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	6	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
		10.00am-4.00pm	Christ Church open
		7.00pm-8.30pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	7	All day	Parish Office closed
Friday	8	12.30pm	Funeral of Viola and Brian Mason, Christ Church
Sunday	10	9.00am	Harvest Thanksgiving, St George's
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		3.00pm	Beethoven Concert I, Christ Church
		7.00pm	Beethoven Concert II, Christ Church
Monday	11	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday	12	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom

## CONTACTS

PARISH OF ESHER Website <a href="http://www.esherparish.org.uk">www.esherparish.org.uk</a> Facebook <a href="http://www.facebook.com/EsherParish">www.facebook.com/EsherParish</a> SoundCloud <a href="http://soundcloud.com/esherparish">soundcloud.com/esherparish</a>	RECTOR Revd Darren McCallig Tel 01372 461088 Email <a href="mailto:rector@esherparish.org.uk">rector@esherparish.org.uk</a> Rector's day off is Monday
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