

# PARISH OF ESHER

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

*Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love*

EPIPHANY

5 JANUARY 2025

## CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Communion	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 9am at St George's West End (SG)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reading, Prayers	Sue Langley, Stephen Lee
Musician	Theo Tang
Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Helen Coulson
Sidespeople	Bob Lonnon, Will Stevens
Reading, Prayers	Alison Bownes, Kath Chapman
Refreshments	Wendy Tanqueray, Janie McCulloch
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane, Theo Tang

## SERVICE MUSIC

SG / CC hymns	103, 105, 94 (omit v4) / 103, 105, 94
SG / CC setting	Addington / Coulson
Communion music	<i>The Three Kings</i> (Cornelius)

## THE COLLECT

Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE 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.

**Amen.**

## Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

The Feast of the Epiphany, from the Greek word *epiphaneia* meaning 'revelation' or 'manifestation', underlines the universal significance of the child born in the Bethlehem manger. In today's readings from both the Old Testament (Isaiah 60.1-6) and the Gospel (Matthew 2.1-12) we see that Christ's light is for everyone – wise men from the East, Syrians from the North, Egyptians from the South and Romans from the West.

As theologian Kendra G. Hotz has written:

'Christ is for all humanity, not only for the chosen few ... he comes to draw people together ... The truth that grasps us in the moment of Epiphany, the moment when Christ is revealed to the Gentiles, is that Jesus Christ is the very love of God incarnate, and that love cannot be confined to ethnic or national identity; it cannot be restricted by gender or claimed only by the powerful and privileged ... The expansive scope of God's love in Jesus Christ means that all are invited, all are included. God's sovereign grace reaches out and calls every last one of God's beloved children who will come from every compass point to worship God, to kneel before Christ and to dine at the heavenly banquet.' ('Feasting on the Word').

God bless



## 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 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.

## PARISH NOTICES

**New Year Message** - As we move into 2025, we'd like to share with you this prayer of blessing from the Church of England's resources for the beginning of a New Year: *Jesus, Lord of time, hold us in your eternity. Jesus, image of God, travel with us the life of faith. Jesus, friend of sinners, heal the brokenness of our world. Jesus, lord of tomorrow, draw us into your future. Amen.*

May the year bring gifts of new possibility, much-needed refreshment and bright hope.

**Sunday School** - For our first Sunday School of 2025 we'll be making Epiphany craft celebrating Jesus as the light of the world and our greatest gift.

**Youth Group** - At our get-together in Christ Church this afternoon, 4.30-6pm, we will be starting the new year off with some intention setting and exploring self-care.

**Fellowship Group** - The group will next meet in Christ Church on Wednesday 8 January at 10.30am. All are welcome.

**Book Group** - On Monday 27 January we'll discuss Bernhard Schlink's hailed novel *The Reader*. For details contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 07968 765188.

**'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee!** - Many thanks to Tom and Sally Radford for keeping this Zoom service going over the last twelve months. We will resume again on Thursday 9 January. Please contact the Parish Office for the sign-in details.

**Holy Communion** - The sacrament is distributed by 'simultaneous administration' – the priest touches the communion wafer in to the wine surface before giving it to the communicant.

**Parish Office** - The office is closed for the holidays. It will re-open on Monday 6 January.

**Candlemas Service** - This year's Candlemas Service will be held in Old St George's, Esher at 6pm on Sunday 2 February. The liturgical feast recalls the day on which Jesus was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, and in our celebration we offer ourselves for cleansing. We celebrate both the joy of Jesus' coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion. All are welcome to join us for this reflective and atmospheric evening.

**Parish Giving** - Donate today via cash, the card machine in Christ Church or online by scanning the QR code on the little pewcards.

**Parish Communications** - Every Friday we send out Sunday's pewsheets and order of service. To receive the email please complete an Electoral Roll form or a contact form.

**Music on the Green** - Join us on Wednesday 15 January, 1.15pm, to welcome in the New Year with the soothing sounds of The Orion Harp Trio and a luscious programme including works by Debussy, Ravel and Bax. Free concert with lunch served from 12.30pm.

**Parish Winter Help & Support** - Now with winter is upon us we need to look after each other. Check for telltale signs that something isn't right – curtains staying drawn, lights left on or deliveries stacking up. Family and friends should stay in touch with vulnerable and elderly people. Do contact our Pastoral Team for help and go to Surrey County Council's website: [www.surreycc.gov.uk/adults/care-and-support/contact](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/adults/care-and-support/contact)

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Michael Newbould, Gilly Barrett, Allen Palmer, Pam & Jim Green, George Raine, Katherine S, Keith Howell-Jones, John Cheetham, Sebastian, Ruramayi, Karen Harris, David Gerrard, Sienna Ravel

RIP Anniversaries: James Bath, Cyril Handison, Doris Blake, Audrey Orr, Patrick Alderton, Audrey Humphrys, Sarah Holton, Irene Redfern, Edward Buckley, Hedley Williams

RIP: John Patrick

Banns of Marriage: Ralph Gill & Madeleine Bayley

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

January		Time	Reading
Monday	6		Isaiah 62; Ps 48; John 1.19-28
Tuesday	7		Isaiah 63.7-end; Ps 99; 1 John 3
Wednesday	8		Isaiah 64; Ps 77; 1 John 4.7-end
Thursday	9	9.30-10.30am	Isaiah 65.1-16; Ps 148; 1 John 5.1-12
Friday	10		Isaiah 65.17-end; Ps 55; 1 John 5.13-end

## LOOKING AHEAD

January		Time	Event
Sunday	5	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		4.30pm	Youth Group, Christ Church
Wednesday	8	10.30am	Fellowship Group, Christ Church
		7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	9	9.30am	Zoom Morning Prayer
Sunday	12	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	13	7.15pm	Choir practice
Wednesday	15	1.15pm	Music on the Green lunchtime concert: The Orion Harp Trio
		7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church

## CONTACTS

<b>PARISH OF ESHER</b> Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS what3words location ///frosted.forum.firms St George's Church, West End Lane, Esher, KT10 8LF what3words location ///sugars.hulk.chip Website <a href="http://www.esherparish.org.uk">www.esherparish.org.uk</a> Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/EsherParish">www.facebook.com/EsherParish</a> YouTube <a href="https://www.youtube.com/esherparish">www.youtube.com/esherparish</a> Instagram <a href="https://www.instagram.com/esherparish/">www.instagram.com/esherparish/</a>	<b>RECTOR</b> Revd Darren McCallig 01372 461088 <a href="mailto:rector@esherparish.org.uk">rector@esherparish.org.uk</a> Rector's day off is Monday	<b>HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIESTS</b> Revd Jonathan Andrew 07968 765188 Ven David Gerrard
	<b>CHURCHWARDENS</b> Helen Coulson 07506 701454 Jane Tyrrell 07971 698299	<b>CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES WORKER</b> Kathryn Chapman <a href="mailto:youth@esherparish.org.uk">youth@esherparish.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Office</b> Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS Tel 01372 462282 Email <a href="mailto:office@esherparish.org.uk">office@esherparish.org.uk</a> <b>Parish Administrator</b> Melanie Williams <b>Office Hours</b> 9am to 3.15pm, Monday to Wednesday & Friday		
<b>Live Streaming</b> Please be aware that all services held at Christ Church are live streamed via our YouTube channel.		
Please submit information and notices for inclusion in the Sunday pewsheet by 10am on the preceding Tuesday. Thank you.		