

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

ASH WEDNESDAY

5 MARCH 2025

CHURCH SERVICES

Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 8pm at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Jane Tyrrell
Sidespeople	Will Stevens
Reading	Keith Chapple
Musicians	Stuart Whatton
SERVICE MUSIC	
Opening music	<i>Erhalt uns Herr bei deinem Wort, BuxWV 185 (Buxtehude)</i>
CC hymns	121, 127, 128
CC setting	Addington
Communion anthem	<i>Turn thy face from my sins (Attwood)</i>
Closing music	<i>Capriccio 'Desperato' (Gottlieb Muffat)</i>

THE COLLECT

Holy God,
our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God,
you have given your only Son to be for us
both a sacrifice for sin
and also an example of godly life:
give us grace
that we may always most thankfully receive
these his inestimable gifts,
and also daily endeavour
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

On Sunday 17 March 2013, Pope Francis celebrated his first public mass after his election as Bishop of Rome the previous Wednesday. The Gospel reading that morning – the account of the woman accused of adultery – is also our reading this evening. Francis took the opportunity to speak about what he considers to be ‘the Lord’s strongest message’ – Mercy.

But accepting that mercy can be very difficult: both for those who consider themselves blameless, but also for those who consider themselves to be irredeemable. In this connection, Francis related a dialogue he had with a man who, on being given this explanation of mercy, answered: ‘Oh, Father, if you knew my life you wouldn’t talk to me like that! I have done some terrible things!’

Undaunted, however, Francis replied, ‘Even better! Go to Jesus: he likes to hear about these things! He forgets, he has a special knack for forgetting. He forgets, he kisses you, he embraces you, and he says: “Nor do I condemn you; go, and sin no more.” ... The Lord never tires of forgiving; never! It is we who tire of asking him for forgiveness. We need to ask for the grace not to get tired of asking for forgiveness, because he never gets tired of forgiving.’ (The Name of God is Mercy).

God bless



READING Isaiah 58.1-12

Thus says the Lord:

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. 'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones

strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

GOSPEL John 8.1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

Other Lectionary Texts

Joel 2.1-2, 12-17 page 880 (OT)

Psalms 51.1-18 page 550 (OT)

2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10 page 194 (NT)

Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21 page 5 (NT)

The page numbers are given for Bibles that are available from the sidespeople.

PARISH NOTICES

Choral Evensong - Guildford Cathedral Choir, directed by the cathedral's own director of music Katherine Dienes-Williams, will sing Choral Evensong in Christ Church on Sunday 9 March, 6pm, with specially chosen repertoire for Women Composers Sunday. Considered to be one of the great riches of the Anglican tradition, Evensong combines music, scripture and prayer in a way which many experience as a little glimpse of heaven. Don't miss it!

Peace & Contemplation - The Wonder of Hope. Thursday 6 March, 8pm, at Christ Church. An evening of inspiring readings, beautiful music and reflective silence.

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - Morning Prayer continues each Thursday at 9.30am.

Youth Group - We will return on Friday at 5.30pm when we'll look at what Jesus meant by 'Man cannot live on bread alone' (Luke 4.4) and how we need to have awareness that each part of us needs nourishment, and what that means in practice.

Book Group - The next meeting will be on Monday 31 March, 4pm, in Christ Church, when we will continue our varied diet by discussing Julia Kelly's historical novel *The Last Garden in England* – nicely described by one reviewer as “England, gardens, historical fiction and romance, without going into the lewd details”! Contact Revd Jonathan Andrew for more information – 07968 765188 / jandrewsher@gmail.com.

Fellowship Group - The next meeting is on Wednesday 2 April, 10.30am, in Christ Church

Easter Leaflet - We have just received the leaflets from the printers. We would love to have them delivered to homes across Esher before March 30, Mothering Sunday. The bundles will be ready to collect from Christ Church from this Sunday. Please contact Will Stevens or the Parish Office if you can help with any areas/roads. All help is appreciated.

Lent Appeal 2025 - This year our Lent Appeal will raise funds for the Princess Alice Hospice – our local hospice caring for patients and families through illness and bereavement for as long as needed. Please use the appeal envelopes, pay by card or via this QR code and remember to add your details so we can claim Gift Aid to enhance your donation.



Lent Group - This year we're exploring Rowan Williams' book *'Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer'*. Very conveniently it falls into four short but stimulating chapters, which we'll discuss on Sundays 16, 23 and 30 March and 6 April from 12 to 12.45pm in Christ Church. So, grab a coffee after the service and join in! The book is available from the usual online and offline outlets as well as the publisher's website: spckpublishing.co.uk. It would be good if everyone could aim to read each week's chapter before we meet.

New Electoral Roll - Under Church of England rules a parish's Electoral Roll must be completely renewed – basically begun again from scratch – every six years and 2025 is that year. In other words, if you are on the current roll you must apply to be on the new one. And if you are not on the current roll you are very welcome to apply. Application forms are available in both churches. One can also complete the form online via this QR code. The final date to be added to the new roll is Sunday 27 April.



Music on the Green - Come on Wednesday 19 March to hear the Ivory Piano Duo tickle the ivories with a lively piano four-hands programme of music by Debussy, Busoni, Saint-Saëns and Ravel. Light lunch from 12.30pm, concert from 1.15pm.

St George's Garden - Any donations of white flowering plants are appreciated for the garden. Contact Andrea Lindow if you can help.

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, Katie Clark

RIP Anniversaries: William Waugh, Tony Johns, Mary Roome, Ernest Griffin

RIP: Pamela Gilbertson, David Rolfe

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

	March	Time	Reading
Wednesday	5		Daniel 9.3-6, 17-19; Psalm 38; 1 Timothy 6.6-19
Thursday	6	9.30-10.30am	Jeremiah 2.14-32; Psalm 77; John 4.1-26
Friday	7		Jeremiah 3.6-22; Psalm 88; John 4.27-42

LOOKING AHEAD

	March	Time	Event
Wednesday	5	10.30am	Fellowship Group, Christ Church
		7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
		7pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
		8pm	Ash Wednesday Service, Christ Church
Thursday	6	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
		7pm	Peace & Contemplation, Christ Church
Friday	7	Midday	Memorial Service for David Rolfe, St George's Church
		5.30pm	Youth Group, Christ Church
Sunday	9	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		6pm	Choral Evensong, Christ Church
Monday	10	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday	11	7.30pm	Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting, Esher Church School
Wednesday	12	7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	13	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom

CONTACTS

PARISH OF ESHER 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 www.esherparish.org.uk Facebook www.facebook.com/EsherParish YouTube www.youtube.com/esherparish Instagram www.instagram.com/esherparish/	RECTOR Revd Darren McCallig 01372 461088 rector@esherparish.org.uk Rector's day off is Monday	HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIEST Revd Jonathan Andrew 07968 765188
	CHURCHWARDENS Helen Coulson 07506 701454 Jane Tyrrell 07971 698299	CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER Kathryn Chapman youth@esherparish.org.uk
Parish Office Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS Tel 01372 462282 Email office@esherparish.org.uk Parish Administrator Melanie Williams Office Hours 9.30am to 3.45pm, Monday to Wednesday & Friday		
Live Streaming 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.		