

PARISH OF ESHER

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

SHARING THE POWER OF GOD'S LOVE IN ESHER

Reconciling - Sustaining - Guiding - Healing

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6 DECEMBER 2020

CHURCH SERVICES

Christ Church	Parish Communion at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Sandra Argent
Sides	Helen Coulson, Karen Harris
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reading & Prayers	Esher Church School pupils
Musician	Stuart Whatton

MUSIC

Opening Music	<i>Chorale Improvisation 'Freu dich sehr', Op 65 no. 5 (Karg-Elert)</i>
Hymns	A&M 160, A&M 42
Christingle Song	<i>Hope of Heaven (Johnson)</i>
Closing Music	<i>Toccata (Domenico Paradies)</i>

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes
again as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Today's second reading comprises the very first verses of the Gospel according to Mark. Unlike the authors of Luke and Matthew, the composer of this rendition of the 'Good News' begins, not with the story of Jesus's birth, but with the ministry of his cousin John. And what an unexpected and unconventional figure John the Baptist turns out to be! Theologian Kathy Beach-Verhey explains: 'John the Baptist is to us a great prophet who prepared the way for Jesus, but compared with the political and religious leaders of his day, he was just an ordinary guy - and yet, God chose John, and not the luminaries of his time, to be the messenger.'

Moreover, God sent the message to John, not in a seat of religious or political power - such as Jerusalem or Rome - but out in the wilderness, far from any 'authorised' centres of influence. Nonetheless, says Beach-Verhey, both the choice of John and the choice of location are indications of what God expects from us. She writes, 'Our repentance, our turning around, will likely involve us looking at the structures and the systems and the people of the world around us in new and different ways.' (Feasting on the Word).

So, let us, by the grace of God, 'prepare the way of the Lord' this Advent.

God bless,



READING Isaiah 40.1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

PSALM 85.8-end

8 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.
12 The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
13 Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

GOSPEL Mark 1.1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

HYMNS

Make way, make way, for Christ the King

Make way, make way, for Christ the King
in splendour arrives.

Fling wide the gates and welcome him
into your lives.

Make way! Make way for the King of kings!
Make way! Make way and let his
kingdom in!

He comes the broken hearts to heal,
the prisoners to free.

The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,
the blind shall see.

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,
who weep and sigh;

With laughter, joy and royal crown
he'll beautify.

We call you now to worship him
as Lord of all.

To have no other gods but him:
their thrones must fall!

Hope of Heaven

Light up a candle and hold out the globe,
Here in the darkness the light of the world.

The red in the ribbon for love that He showed,
And sweets as a sign of His goodness.

A life freely given, a love we can know,
The light of the world ever with us.

(Repeat)

Hope of heaven,

in our darkness,

You came to Earth bringing peace and life.

Hope of heaven,

Full of kindness,

Come shine your light

In this candle that I hold.

(Repeat opening verse without repeat)

*Light up a candle and hold out the globe,
Here in the darkness the light of the world.*

Christ, be our light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,

many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

PARISH COVID INFORMATION

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update -

Following the Government's announcement that all of Surrey will move into Tier 2 from Wednesday 2 December, we can restart in-person public worship in Christ Church on Sunday 6 December and in St George's on Sunday 13 December. Christ Church will continue to open (generally speaking) for private prayer on Wednesdays, 10am-4pm, (except this Wednesday as it is being hired) and on Sundays, 12 noon to 4pm. In both church buildings there are safety guidelines to be followed and social distancing to be maintained. Please read the instructions upon entering. Thank you.

Help & the Parish Office - The office will continue to work remotely. If you need support, do please let us know via the office email and telephone. For urgent enquiries contact the Rector, the Revd Darren McCallig (rector@esherparish.org.uk or 01372 461088) or a churchwarden - Helen Coulson on 07506 701454 or Sandra Argent on 07973 909152. or fullorgan@cantab.net. Many thanks.

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 Holy Trinity Claygate, and Faith in Later Life

COVID Community Champions - Central Surrey Voluntary Action (CSVA) together with Elmbridge Borough Council are looking to recruit a number of volunteer COVID Community Champions to help disseminate up-to-date COVID information within Elmbridge. Please contact CSVA if you're interested via www.centralsurreyvoluntaryaction.co.uk

CHRIST CHURCH SERVICE NOTES

Welcome! It's great to be back together for Sunday worship. A few things to remember:

- Please take the Order of Service and the Pewsheets with you.
- Please ensure the sidespeople have your details for 'Track & Trace' purposes.
- Individuals, households and support bubbles are asked not to 'mingle with others' before, during, or after the service.
- Sadly, congregational singing is still not permitted - the Choir will raise their beautiful voices on our behalf.
- The toilet (at the back of the church) is open, but please use only if necessary.
- Our service will be live-streamed on our Parish Facebook page. The camera is angled so that only the priest and those speaking from the lectern can be seen.
- Face coverings/masks are required by law. 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.
- 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' use the prayer in the Order of Service.
- Sadly, we cannot offer coffee and we're asked to not stay inside after the service.
- 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

Christingle Service - We are pleased to be fundraising today for the Children's Society. Founded in 1881 by Sunday School teacher, Edward Rudolf, the Children's Society has supported millions of this country's children and restored hope to their lives. The charity runs vital local services providing vulnerable children with support, advice and guidance.

Christmas Shoeboxes - Thank you to all those who filled boxes for the 'Link to Hope' Christmas Appeal. We were able to send 25 boxes on their way to bring light and love to those in need. Read about 'Link to Hope' - <https://linktohope.co.uk>

2020 Advent Appeal - This year we will be raising funds for the Samaritans, a long established UK charity whose focus is to provide emotional support to anyone in distress and struggling to cope. Every year, Samaritans volunteers spend over a million hours answering calls for help via their unique 24-hour listening service. To help please send in your donation to the Parish Office or use the Advent Appeal envelopes in our churches. Thank you.

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - Morning Prayer continues every Wednesday, at 9am, led by Darren, on Zoom. All are welcome.

Zoom Bible Reflection & Prayer - At 9am on Tuesday mornings, there is a time of Bible reflection and prayer. All are welcome to join this informal one hour Zoom gathering. Contact the Parish Office for details.

Stewart Henderson - Stewart can be heard presenting 'Pick Of The Week' on Radio 4 on Sunday 6 December at 6.15pm. The following week, Sunday 13 December, Stewart will also be presenting 'Something Understood' on Radio 4, at 6.05am and 11.30pm, with Carol contributing readings.

Delivery of Christmas Light - The freshly-printed Parish Christmas leaflet gives details of this year's festive services. It also gives details of how to book a seat through the Parish Office. Please make your booking as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. We are very keen to recruit volunteers to deliver these cards to homes in Esher. Please contact Will Stevens or the Parish Office if you can help in anyway. Thank you.

A Christmas Tree Thank You! – Thank you to the small band of people, both children and those young at heart, who helped decorate our lovely Christmas tree in Christ Church. It goes without saying we are also very grateful to our secret Christmas tree donor! Also we should thank our local Waitrose who very kindly donated the sweets and oranges for the Christingles.

Music on the Green - Our December concert is usually given over to festive music with a selection of prose and poetry. This year's event will be carefully crafted to celebrate Christmas as best we can within constraints!

Parish Christmas Cards for Sale - Our cards cost £8 per pack and are sold as a mixed pack of 12 cards featuring four images of our parish and sold in aid of the Parish of Esher. Limited availability. To buy please contact the Parish Office. Many thanks to Margaret Dane and Angela Stockbridge for this fundraising initiative.

Growing Leaders - Emly Deanery is planning a Growing Leaders course for January 2021. It's a Christian leadership development course produced by the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) to develop leaders in all areas, and at every level, of church life. Emly Deanery, in which the Parish of Esher sits, has run the course for many years. Contact the Rector if you're interested.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Yasmin Ingram, Stuart Williams, Maureen O'Brien, Viola Mason, Jo Stork, Betty Whitney, Ingeborg Vahl

RIP Anniversaries: George Thirtle, Charles Watson, Cicely Martin, Ron Williams, Elizabeth England, Mary Henry, Leonard Guest, John Lancaster-Smith, Dolly Nightingale

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

December		Time	Reading
Monday	7		Isaiah 45.14-end; Ps 44; 1 Thessalonians 1
Tuesday	8	9.00-10.00am	Isaiah 46; Ps 56; 1 Thessalonians 2.1-12
Wednesday	9	8.50-10.00am	Isaiah 47; Ps 62; 1 Thessalonians 2.13-end
Thursday	10		Isaiah 48.1-11; Ps 54; 1 Thessalonians 3
Friday	11		Isaiah 48.12-end; Ps 86; 1 Thessalonians 4.1-12

LOOKING AHEAD

December		Time	Event
Monday	7	7.15-8.45pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday	8	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
		4.30pm	Book Group, Zoom
Wednesday	9	8.30am-4.00pm	Claremont Fan Court School Christmas Concert Recording, Christ Church
		8.50-10.00am	Morning Prayer & Zoffee!, Zoom
		10.00am	Fellowship Group, Zoom
Sunday	13	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	14	7.15-8.45pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday	15	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	16	8.50-10.00am	Morning Prayer & Zoffee!, Zoom
		1.15pm	Music on the Green lunchtime concert 'A Celebration of Christmas'

CONTACTS

PARISH OF ESHER Website www.esherparish.org.uk Twitter www.twitter.com/esherparish Christ Church open Wednesday, 9am to 6pm	RECTOR Revd Darren McCallig Tel 01372 461088 Email rector@esherparish.org.uk Rector's day off is Monday
PARISH OFFICE Christ Church, Church Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 8QS Tel 01372 462282 Email office@esherparish.org.uk	