

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

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

10 JANUARY 2021

CHURCH SERVICES

Christ Church	Parish Communion at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reader	Stuart Whatton
Prayers	Peter Bedford
Musicians	Keith Chapple, Stuart Whatton

MUSIC

Opening Music	Danse lente (César Franck)
Hymns	A&M 108, 507
Anthem	Bread is blessed and broken (John Bell)
Communion Music	Invocation à Schumann (Déodat de Séverac)
Closing Music	Vivace from Voluntary VI in B flat (Maurice Greene)

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus
as your Son: may we recognize him
as our Lord and know ourselves
to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

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.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

This Feast of the Baptism of Christ is not just about Jesus - it is also about us! As Saint Paul reminds us, God has 'destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ' (Ephesians 1.5) and so we too, through Grace, are beloved sons and daughters of God. To paraphrase today's Gospel, 'You are my beloved son, you are my beloved daughter; with you I am well pleased.' (see Luke 3.22). Sadly we too often fail to acknowledge our 'Belovedness', but intimations of the beautiful truth can strike when we least expect it. As the Irish poet William Butler Yeats described so memorably in his poem 'Vacillation', our hearts can be blown wide open at any time and in any place.

*My fiftieth year had come and gone,
I sat, a solitary man,*

*In a crowded London shop,
An open book and empty cup
On the marble table-top.*

*While on the shop and street I gazed
My body of a sudden blazed;
And twenty minutes more or less
It seemed, so great my happiness,
That I was blessed and could bless.*

On this - the Feast of the Baptism of Christ - may we know that we are blessed and can bless.

God bless,



READING Genesis 1.1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

GOSPEL Mark 1.4-11

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.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

HYMNS

When Jesus came to Jordan

When Jesus came to Jordan
to be baptized by John,
he did not come for pardon,
but as his Father's Son.
He came to share repentance
with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence
with which good news begins.

He came to share temptation,
our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation
to die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended
on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended,
the age of grace began.

Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
to keep the vows we make,
this very day invade us,
and every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
the gift we covet most:
to share the resurrection
that leads to Pentecost.

We have a Gospel to proclaim

We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem
not in a royal house or hall
but in a stable dark and dim,
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;,
in lonely suffering on the cross;
for all he loved his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified.
He sends his Spirit on his church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

PARISH COVID INFORMATION

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update -

In light of rapidly escalating rates of COVID, Bishop Andrew - on receipt of a request from the Rector and the PCC - has given permission for our Sunday services to move online until mid-February. Funeral services will continue to be held in-person, subject to Government restrictions and guidelines. The PCC will review the situation at the end of January. Although we cannot be together in our church buildings, we can remain united in prayer and service.

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. 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 with 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

PARISH NOTICES

Fellowship Group - This group meets at 10am on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month on Zoom. We have a 40 minute service of prayers and Bible readings, followed by some open discussion. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 13 January. All are welcome to join. If you're interested please contact the Parish Office for further information.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - This is traditionally observed around the week of 18 to 25 January - the Octave of St Peter and St Paul. See ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer for more information.

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - Morning Prayer continues on Wednesdays 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.

Music on the Green - Our next concert on Wednesday 20 January was scheduled to feature Alex Hart on guitar. Sadly it cannot now take place live in Christ Church, but we hope to offer an online recital instead. Watch this space!

Parish Office - The office will reopen on Tuesday 12 January.

Christ Church Roofing work - We just wanted to give you advance notice of some planned roofing work at Christ Church on February 22-24. This is to address damage and water ingress to the roof area above the Rector's seat. It will likely mean scaffolding, materials and tools occupying some of the car park for the duration.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Yasmin Ingram, Stuart Williams, Maureen O'Brien, Viola Mason, Betty Whitney, Jaeseok Yang, Sandra Argent

RIP Anniversaries: Patrick Alderton, Audrey Humphrys, Sarah Holton, Ivy Bagley, Jenny Willment

RIP: Jo Stork, Léon Stork, Jeremy St John, Ingeborg Vahl

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

January		Time	Reading
Monday	11		Amos 1; Ps 80; 1 Corinthians 1.1-17
Tuesday	12		Amos 2; Ps 9; 1 Corinthians 1.18-end
Wednesday	13		Amos 3; Ps 20; 1 Corinthians 2
Thursday	14		Amos 4; Ps 92; 1 Corinthians 3
Friday	15		Amos 5.1-17; Ps 88; 1 Corinthians 4

LOOKING AHEAD

January		Time	Event
Monday	11	7.15pm	Choir practice, Zoom
Tuesday	12	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection and Prayer, Zoom
		All day	Parish Office re-opens
Wednesday	13	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
		10.00am	Fellowship Group, Zoom
Sunday	17	10.30am	Live streamed Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	18	7.15pm	Choir practice, Zoom
Tuesday	19	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection and Prayer, Zoom
		2.30pm	Funeral of Jo and Léon Stork, Christ Church
Wednesday	20	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday	24	10.30am	Live streamed Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	25	2.00pm	Funeral of Jeremy St John, Christ Church
		7.15pm	Choir practice, Zoom
Tuesday	26	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection and Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	27	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom

CONTACTS

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