

# PARISH OF ESHER

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

*Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love*

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

12 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	Gerard Harper
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Robert Cunningham
Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Jane Tyrrell
Sidespeople	Bob Lonnon, Sia Marshall
Reading, Prayers	Miranda Fuller, Martin Fuller
Refreshments	Sue Dunne, Jennifer Meade
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane, Robert Cunningham

## SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Chorale Improvisation 'O Gott du frommer Gott'</i> (Karg-Elert)
SG / CC hymns	327, 108, 341 / 108, 342, 341
SG / CC setting	Addington / Coulson
Communion music	<i>The Lord bless you and keep you</i> (Lutkin)
Closing music	<i>Prelude and Fugue in B flat, BWV 560</i> (Bach)

## THE COLLECT

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.**

## THE 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. In other words, the affirmation received by Jesus at his Baptism by John in the Jordan, is also spoken to each one of us – 'You are my beloved son, you are my beloved daughter; with you I am well pleased.' As theologian Robert M. Brearley notes, allowing this profound truth to seep into our souls can change everything for us.

'We need to hear this affirmation from God, and we need to hear it from each other. These are life-giving words that every human being upon this earth should hear ... When Jesus heard those words, they changed his life forever. They will do the same for our children, our neighbours, our spouses, our church members, and, Jesus promised, even our enemies.'  
(Feasting on the Word)

On this – the Feast of the Baptism of Christ – may we know that we are beloved.

God bless 

## READING Isaiah 43.1-7

Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth – everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

## GOSPEL Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance. As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

### Other Lectionary Texts

Psalms 29 pages 534-535 (OT)

Acts 8.14-17 page 135 (NT)

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

## PARISH NOTICES

**Music on the Green** - Join us to welcome in the New Year on Wednesday 15 January, 1.15pm, 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.

**Leave** - The Rector will be away on leave from Monday 13 to Monday 20 January inclusive.

**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.

**Sunday School** - This week at Sunday School we'll be creating a 'descending dove' hanging decoration in celebration of the baptism of Jesus.

**Youth Group** - In the first Youth Group of 2025, the children explored what looking after themselves means and set a self-care intention for the year. Please note our next get-together will take place in Christ Church on Friday 31 January, 5-6.30pm.

**Sunday School Supplies** - As our children's activities are expanding, we're looking for any spare items you may have, including A4 card (any colour), pens and cardboard inner tubes. Please leave them in the box at the back of Christ Church. Thank you!

**'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee!** - Morning Prayer continues every Thursday morning at 9.30am. To join please contact the Parish Office for the sign-in details.

**Fellowship Group** - The group will meet next on Wednesday 5 February, 10.30am.

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

**Candlemas Service** - This year's Candlemas Service will be held in Old St George's Church, 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.

**First Aid Training** - Polly Jordan has very kindly arranged a morning of First Aid training with NHS colleagues. The training is free and will take place on Saturday 1 February, 9.30-11.30am, at Christ Church. The session will cover Basic Life Support (BLS), AED (defibrillator) training and key skills like choking management (child/adult) and anaphylaxis. You will get a chance to practice CPR and gain experience with an automated external defibrillator (AED) like the one now installed at Christ Church. It is open to all in the Parish. If interested please contact the Parish Office or Polly on [pollyjordan08@googlemail.com](mailto:pollyjordan08@googlemail.com)

**Other Lectionary Texts** - The Revised Common Lectionary typically specifies four scripture readings for Sunday morning services, two of which are printed in the pewsheet. Details of the other texts are given in the information box opposite, along with their respective page numbers in the Bibles available from the sidespeople.

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

## 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: Ivy Bagley, Jenny Willment, Michel Botibol, Penny Harrison, Brian Willey, Marjorie Dunnachie, Mary Teague, Betty Whitney

RIP: John Patrick, Elizabeth Garsten, Philip Brewster

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	13		Amos 1; Psalm 2; 1 Corinthians 1.1-17
Tuesday	14		Amos 2; Psalm 9; 1 Corinthians 1.18-end
Wednesday	15		Amos 3; Psalm 20; 1 Corinthians 2
Thursday	16	9.30-10.30am	Amos 4; Psalm 21; 1 Corinthians 3
Friday	17		Amos 5.1-17; Psalm 67; 1 Corinthians 4

## LOOKING AHEAD

January		Time	Event
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
Thursday	16	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Friday	17	10.30am	Funeral of Elizabeth Garsten, Christ Church
Sunday	19	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	20	7.15pm	Choir practice
Wednesday	22	7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	23	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
		11am	Funeral of Philip Brewster, Christ Church

## CONTACTS

<b>PARISH OF ESHER</b> Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS <b>what3words location</b> ///frosted.forum.firms St George's Church, West End Lane, Esher, KT10 8LF <b>what3words location</b> ///sugars.hulk.chip <b>Website</b> www.esherparish.org.uk <b>Facebook</b> www.facebook.com/EsherParish <b>YouTube</b> www.youtube.com/esherparish <b>Instagram</b> www.instagram.com/esherparish/	<b>RECTOR</b> Revd Darren McCallig 01372 461088 rector@esherparish.org.uk Rector's day off is Monday	<b>HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIEST</b> Revd Jonathan Andrew 07968 765188
	<b>CHURCHWARDENS</b> Helen Coulson 07506 701454 Jane Tyrrell 07971 698299	<b>CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES WORKER</b> 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 9am to 3.15pm, 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 pewsheets by 10am on the preceding Tuesday. Thank you.