

# PARISH OF ESHER

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

*Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love*

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

16 MARCH 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	Peter Bedford
Musician	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	Helen Coulson
Sidespeople	Stewart Henderson, Ian Royce
Reading, Prayers	Carol Henderson, Revd Darren McCallig
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane, Robert Cunningham
Refreshments	Janie McCulloch, Jennifer Meade
SERVICE MUSIC	
Opening music	<i>Siciliana in D minor</i> (William Walond)
SG & CC hymns	654, 763, 721
SG & CC setting	Addington
Communion anthem	<i>Cantique de Jean Racine</i> (Fauré)
Closing music	<i>Menuet from Suite Gothique</i> (Boëllmann)
THE COLLECT	
Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <b>Amen.</b>	
THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER	
Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <b>Amen.</b>	

## Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

In today's Gospel Jesus likens himself to a mother hen gathering her chicks under her wings. It is, arguably, a rather unlikely image. As Barbara Brown Taylor points out, a more obvious metaphor might have been the mighty eagle of Exodus or the lion of Judah. Yet, the choice is deeply evocative:

'When Herod [whom Jesus had likened to a fox] and his bullies came after Jesus and his brood ... he just put himself between them and the chicks ... it may have looked like a minor skirmish to those who were there, but that contest between the chicken and the fox turned out to be the cosmic battle of all time, in which the power of tooth and fang was put up against the power of a mother's love for her chicks ... [And] depending on whom you believe, she won. It did not look that way at first, with feathers all over the place and chicks running for cover. But as time went on, it became clear what she had done ... She died a mother hen, and afterwards she came back to them with teeth marks on her body to make sure they got the point that the power of the foxes could not kill her love for them, nor could it steal them away from her. They may have to go through what she went through in order to get past the foxes, but she would be waiting for them on the other side, with love stronger than death.' (Bread of Angels)

God bless



## READING Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

## GOSPEL Luke 13.31-end

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." '

### Other Lectionary Texts

Psalms 27 page 533 (OT)

Philippians 3.17-4.1 page 212 (NT)

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

## PARISH NOTICES

**Mothering Sunday** - On Sunday 30 March we will give thanks during our services for our mothers and those who have played a nurturing and caring role in our lives. We'll also remember those for whom Mothering Sunday is a day of grief, pain and sadness.

**Sunday School** - This week our children will be getting their hands dirty preparing for our annual Easter Garden in the grounds of Christ Church. And if there's time, we'll be making an Easter Tree for the Sunday School room!

**Choral Evensong** - We were very pleased to welcome an almost 100-strong congregation to hear Guildford Cathedral Choir sing Choral Evensong in Christ Church last Sunday. It was a joy to experience a little glimpse of heaven altogether. We must thank everyone who made this happen not least our very own Stuart Whatton for initially inviting the choir to visit us in Esher.

**Easter Eggs** - Real Easter Eggs are for sale in both churches - £6 each. They come with an Easter story book, are made of Fairtrade chocolate and support charitable projects.

**Lower Green Community Centre** - They are in much need of the following items for their Foodbank. Please put ANY contributions into the box at the back of Christ Church or take to St George's at West End. Thank you all so very much. Any queries please contact Bridget (Williams).

**Snacks**( small packets of sweets/chocolates, Crisps, Popcorn, Biscuits, Crackers). **Coffee & Tea**(small jars/boxes) & small packets/sachets of Instant **Coffee/Hot Chocolate**. **Milk Semi-skimmed** (Longlife only). **Squash**. **Cereals** (boxes). "BIG" **SOUPS** only (they are a meal!). **Tinned Sweetcorn**. **Pasta SAUCES** only. **Sponge Puddings** (Longlife or tins only). **SMALL Washing Powders/Pods**. **Fabric Conditioner**. **Baby Wipes**.

**Easter Leaflet** - Our leaflet bundles are now ready for collection from Christ Church. We'd love to have them delivered to homes across Esher before March 30, Mothering Sunday. Contact Will Stevens or the Parish Office if you can help. All help is really appreciated.

**Lent Group** - This year we're exploring Rowan Williams' book '*Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer*'. The first chapter will be discussed this Sunday, 12-12.45pm, in Christ Church. Grab a coffee and join in! Subsequently we'll meet on 23, 30 March and 6 April. The book is available from all retailers and the SPCK website. Please read each week's chapter beforehand.

**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.



**Music on the Green** - On Wednesday 19 March the Ivory Piano Duo will tickle the ivories with a piano lively four-hands programme of music by Debussy, Busoni, Saint-Saëns and Ravel

**Book Group** - We next meet on Monday 31 March, 4pm, in Christ Church, to discuss Julia Kelly's historical novel *The Last Garden in England*. Contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 07968 765188 / jandrewesher@gmail.com.

**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. Everyone must re-apply with new applications welcome. There are forms in both churches and an online form is available via this QR code. The closing date for the new roll is Sunday 27 April.



## 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: Lorna Evans, Josephine Morgan, Anne Willig, Gillian Barnett, Charles Wilson, Geoffrey Venables, Audrey Simons

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
Monday	17	Jeremiah 7.21-end; Psalm 32; John 6.41-51
Tuesday	18	Jeremiah 8.1-15; Psalm 50; John 6.52-59
Wednesday	19	Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 25; Matthew 13.54-end
Thursday	20	9.30-10.30am Jeremiah 9.12-24; Psalm 34; John 7.1-13
Friday	21	Jeremiah 10.1-16; Psalm 41; John 7.14-24

## LOOKING AHEAD

March	Time	Event
Saturday	15	2pm Surrey Strikers Bellringing visit, Christ Church
Sunday	16	9am Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am Parish Communion, Christ Church
		Midday Lent Group, Christ Church
Monday	17	7.15pm Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	19	1.15pm Music on the Green lunchtime concert: Ivory Piano Duo, Christ Church
		7pm Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	20	9.30am Parish Office closed Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday	23	9am Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am Parish Communion, Christ Church
		Midday Lent Group, Christ Church
		12.15pm Interment of Sandra Brown, 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
<b>Parish Office</b> Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS <b>Tel</b> 01372 462282 <b>Email</b> office@esherparish.org.uk <b>Parish Administrator</b> Melanie Williams <b>Office Hours</b> 9.30am to 3.45pm, 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 pewsheets by 10am on the preceding Tuesday. Thank you.		