

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

23 DECEMBER 2018

WELCOME TO OUR SERVICES

If you are new to the parish or worshipping with us for the first time please introduce yourselves to a member of the clergy or one of our churchwardens or sidespeople. This sheet gives some words that will be needed in the services and notices about the life of the church communities. Please do take it home.

TODAY'S SERVICES

9.00am	Sung Communion at St George's led by Andrew Cowie
Reading/Prayers	Gerard Harper
Chalice	Ann Willig
10.30am	Parish Communion at Christ Church led by Andrew Cowie
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sides	Margaret Dane, Hannah Emerson, Hugh Miller
Reading	Margaret Dane
Prayers	Rosemary Seaton
Chalice	Margaret Dane, Hannah Emerson
6.00pm	Festival of Lessons & Carols at Christ Church led by David
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sides	Sue Dunne, Pam Stark, David Stark
Reading	Jill Woolgar, Will Stevens, Carol Henderson, Jennifer Meade, Stewart Henderson, Jan Sayer, David Stark, Bridget Williams

MUSIC

9.00am	Sung Communion
Hymns	80 (omit v3,4), 815, 452
10.30am	Parish Communion
Hymns	80 (omit v3,4), Unto us is born a Son, 452, 75
6.00pm	Festival of Lessons & Carols
Carols	81, 86, 89, 70, 83, 66
Musicians	Keith Howell-Jones, Stuart Whatton, Nicholas Dibb-Fuller

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

READING Micah 5.2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

PSALM 80.1-8

- 1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
- 2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!
- 3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- 6 You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- 8 You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

GOSPEL Luke 1.39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

PARISH PRAYER

We ask that everyone prays for our Parish and our upcoming Vision Day on Saturday 12 January. Thank you.

God our Father, you have welcomed each one of us in Jesus and called us to be His body in this place: Send us your Holy Spirit at this time of uncertainty and change, to fill us with vision and energy and faithfulness in prayer, that we may be true to our calling to bring new life to our community. Give your heavenly wisdom to those who are to choose a new incumbent for this parish, that she or he may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people, ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith and to lead us by example in loving obedience to your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

PARISH NOTICES

Happy Christmas - May we, the Churchwardens, Sandra and Beverley, and the PCC wish you all a very happy Christmas and a blessed new year. Thank you for another wonderful year together, sharing our lives and working together to create God's community here in Esher and West End.

2018 Advent Appeal - This year we are raising money for the Children's Society, a charity specialising in providing direct support to the most vulnerable 10-18 year olds. Please give generously to this worthwhile cause by using an appeal envelope in the pews. Thank you.

Festival of Lessons & Carols - Our annual Festival of Lessons & Carols is at 6pm this evening - it is a great occasion to prepare for the good news of Christmas. We shall be serving mince pies and mulled wine after the service. Everyone is very welcome.

A Choir Thank You - Many thanks to the Christ Church choir for visiting Arbrook House and Moore Place care homes recently to carol sing for the residents. Greatly appreciated.

Christmas Eve Crib Services - May we invite all children and their parents/carers to our Crib services tomorrow - 3pm at St George's, West End and 4pm at Christ Church. Feel free to come as angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, donkeys, wise men and women etc, as we recount and celebrate the Christmas story together.

Interregnum - The next key milestone in the interregnum process is the Vision Day, which will be held on Saturday 12 January, and will be led by Rev. Danny Wignall from the Diocese. The purpose of the Vision Day is to discern God's future direction for the parish. The Parish Profile & Statement of Needs will be written expounding on the vision and hopefully inspiring the right person to come and lead our churches forward. All being well, we will advertise for a new rector in spring. Do please pray for the Vision Day, and those involved.

Ever wondered if you could help - Yes, you can, either by being a sidesperson, a reader, an intercessor or a chalice assistant. And you would be very welcome too! If you are interested please do speak to a churchwarden or sign-up. If you would like to volunteer as a chalice assistant it is necessary to undertake training now arranged for the morning of Saturday 19 January. It would be great to involve more people in our services at Christ Church and St George's so please do think about how you can help.

Christmas Post - Do check the A-Z pigeonholes at the back of Christ Church for your post!

Noah's Ark - Noah's Ark has now docked and will set sail again on Sunday 13 January.

Services on Sunday 30 December - Please note both the 8am and 9am will not run. The 10.30am service will run as a Parish Communion service as usual.

Christ Church Graveyard - A big thank you to Ian Royce who has tirelessly been clearing the graveyard of many overgrown shrubs and rose bushes. It has been a mammoth undertaking for which we are very grateful. We are also pleased to say that Elmbridge Borough Council have now tidied up the boundary hedge alongside the car park and planted some native British hedge saplings to fill the gaps. So we're looking shipshape!

Parish Office - The office is now closed until Monday 7 January.

Please stay for coffee or tea after the service.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Tara Duffy, Jackie Hinton, Shirley Marshall, Yasmin Ingram, Betty Walker, Margaret Williams, Beverley Eastwood-Taylor, Lindsay Handcock, Margaret Miller

RIP Anniversaries: Richard Barlow, Antony Fraser, Edith May, Janet Bedford, Kenneth Brookes, Ellen Garratt

RIP: Stephen Semple, Mark Redman, Ian Armstrong

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Taken from the Church of England Lectionary – readings for Morning Prayer are given below. All are welcome to use Christ Church for daily prayer.

December		Time	Reading
Christmas Eve			Isaiah 52.13-53; Ps 45; 2 Peter 1.1-15
Christmas Day			Isaiah 62.1-5; Ps 110; Matthew 1.18-end
Wednesday	26		Jeremiah 26.12-15; Ps 13; Acts 6
Thursday	27		Exodus 33.12-end; Ps 21; 1 John 2.1-11
Friday	28		Genesis 37.13-20; Ps 36; Matthew 18.1-10

LOOKING AHEAD

December		Time	Event
Sunday	23	6.00pm	Festival of Lessons & Carols, Christ Church
Christmas Eve		All day	Parish Office closed 24 December to Friday 4 January inclusive
		3.00pm	Crib Service, St George's, West End
		4.00pm	Crib Service, Christ Church, Esher
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass, Christ Church, Esher
Christmas Day		9.00am	Christmas Communion, St George's, West End
		10.30am	Christmas Communion, Christ Church, Esher
Wednesday	26	All day	Boxing Day
Sunday	30	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church, Esher
January		Time	Event
Monday	1	All day	New Year's Day
Wednesday	2	8.00pm	Prayer for our Churches, Christ Church
Tuesday	8	8.00pm	Prayer for our Churches, Christ Church
Thursday	10	10.00am	Fellowship Group
Saturday	12	All day	Vision Day

CONTACTS

RECTOR Vacancy	PARISH OF ESHER Website www.esherparish.org.uk Twitter www.twitter.com/esherparish Christ Church Open Every day, 9am to 3pm
PARISH OFFICE Christ Church, Church Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 8QS Tel 01372 462282 Email office@esherparish.org.uk Office Open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 10-12am	

All main events at Christ Church unless stated otherwise