

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

CHRISTMAS DAY

25 DECEMBER 2020

CHURCH SERVICES & MUSIC

St George's	Christmas Communion at 9.00am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reading & Prayers	Peter Bedford
Musician	Oliver Macfarlane
Christ Church	Christmas Communion at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Helen Coulson
Sides	Kath Chapman, Jane Tyrrell
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reader	Helen Coulson
Prayers	Jane Tyrrell
Musicians	Oliver Macfarlane, Stuart Whatton
Opening Voluntary	<i>Fuga in C</i> (Buxtehude)
Choir Introit	<i>Ding dong, merrily on high</i>
Anthem	<i>Joy to the world</i> (Holford/Mason, arr. Coulson)
Closing Voluntary	<i>Theme & Finale from Variations sur un Noël</i> (Dupré)

COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven
touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

You may have noticed the phrase '*Christmas is about light in the darkness - this year perhaps more than ever*' on our festive publicity material. Given what we've been through in 2020 it seemed an apt summation of the meaning of the season. It reminds us that just as when the glow appears on the eastern horizon we can trust that the light of a new morning is approaching; so too, when we celebrate the birth of Christ, we can trust that a new light, a new day, and a new understanding of what it means to be fully alive is dawning. Author Brian McLaren takes up the theme of the new path illuminated by Christ:

'Aliveness, he will teach, is a gift available to all by God's grace. It flows not from taking but from giving, not from fear but from faith, not from conflict but from reconciliation, not from domination but from service ... it springs up from our innermost being like a fountain of living water. It intoxicates us like the best wine ever and so turns life from disappointment into a banquet. This new light of aliveness and love opens us up to rethink everything – to go back and become like little children again. Then we can rediscover the world with a fresh, child-like wonder – seeing the world in new light, the light of Christ.' ('We make the road by walking').

This Christmas,
let there be light!



READING Isaiah 9.2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

GOSPEL Luke 2.1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she

gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours! 'When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROLS

O come, all ye faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him,
born the King of Angels:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

God of God,
Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created:

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God
in the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

God rest you merry, gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay!
for Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface:

Hark, the herald angels sing

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King!
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with the angelic host proclaim:
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

*Hark, the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
Hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

PARISH COVID INFORMATION

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update -

Even though we are now in Tier Four (since 20 December), in-person public worship can continue - we will keep the situation under review. Christ Church will continue to open (generally speaking) for private prayer on Wednesdays, 10am-4pm (but not Wednesday 30 December). 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

ST GEORGE'S 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.
- 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.
- Face coverings/masks are now required by law in places of worship. 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 stay in your seats and the priest will come to you. Before receiving the bread each person should apply hand sanitiser from their own personal bottle (we have some available if you have forgotten to bring yours).'
- If you prefer to make an act of 'Spiritual Communion' please use the prayer in the Order of Service, on page 10.
- Sadly, we are asked to not stay inside after the service. But, chatting outside in small groups is encouraged!
- 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 for coming.

PARISH COVID INFORMATION

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update -

Even though we are now in Tier Four (since 20 December), in-person public worship in Christ Church and St George's West End can continue. Christ Church will continue to open (generally speaking) for private prayer on Wednesdays, 10am-4pm (but not Wednesday 30 December). 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

Peace and Joy at Christmas - As we come to the end of this most extraordinary year, I want - as your Rector, along with the Wardens and the PCC - to thank you for all your support, prayers, help and encouragement in 2020. We know that many in our community are facing dark and difficult times right now, but we pray that wherever you are the peace and joy of Christmas will be with you. 'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.' (John 1.5).

Esher Shines - We'd like to share a simple idea to spread some Christmas light and love this year: let's all display a star in our windows until the New Year. It could be something that you already have or you could have a go at making one - a paper star, a painted star, a glittery star - the only limit is your imagination! You'll also notice two of our lovely holly trees have been designated star trees! One by the car park and the other by the lychgate. You can hang a star on the trees as a symbol of hope for all to see. So let's all join in, if we can, and make Esher shine!

Christmas Post - Do please check the A-Z pigeonholes at the back of Christ Church! There may be some Christmas cards there for you!

Thank you - A big thank you for our shared ministry together over the last year. A very special big thank you to the pastoral team, the choir, organists, bellringers, gardeners, flower arrangers, coffee and rota teams for all their help, organization, hospitality and overall dedication during 2020. It is all so very much appreciated. Thank you.

Delivery of Christmas Light - A real big thank you to everyone who has delivered our Parish Christmas leaflet. Thanks to Will for organising it so well. We might still have a few roads that need to be done. It might be good to still deliver them as all our services are online anyway. Please contact Will Stevens if you can help. Thank you.

Zoom Bible Reflection & Prayer - We will be returning in the New Year, on Tuesday 5 January at 9am.

Zoom Morning Prayer - The next gathering will be on Wednesday 6 January at 9am.

Parish Office - The office will be taking an extended Christmas break from Christmas Eve to Monday 11 January inclusive. Melanie will return on Tuesday 12 January.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

RIP Anniversaries: Edith May, Doreen Hinds, Janet Bedford, Kenneth Brookes, Ellen Garratt

RIP: Jeremy St John, Léon Stork

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Dec/Jan		Time	Reading
Monday	28		Baruch 4.21-27; Ps 36; Matthew 18.1-10
Tuesday	29		Exodus 33.12-end; Ps 21; 1 John 2.1-11
Wednesday	30		Isaiah 59.1-15a; Ps 113; John 1.19-28
Thursday	31		Isaiah 59.15b-end; Ps 102; John 1.29-34
Friday	1		Genesis 17.1-13; Ps 103; Romans 2.17-end

LOOKING AHEAD

December		Time	Event
Christmas Day		9.00am	Christmas Communion, St George's
		10.30am	Christmas Communion, Christ Church
Sunday	27	9.00am	Holy Communion, St George's
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	28	All day	Boxing Day bank holiday
January		Time	Event
Friday	1	All day	New Year's Day bank holiday
Sunday	3	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	4		No choir practice (rehearsals resume Jan 11)
Sunday	10	9.00am	Holy Communion, St George's
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	11	7.15pm	Choir practice
Tuesday	12	All day	Parish Office re-opens
Wednesday	13	10.00am	Fellowship Group, Zoom

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	