

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

NAMING & CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

31 DECEMBER 2023

CHURCH SERVICES

Eucharist & Holy Baptism Service	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Helen Coulson
Sidespeople	Ivy Tang, Michael Banks
Reading	Janie McCulloch
Refreshments	Debbie Banks, Janie McCulloch
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Theo Tang

SERVICE MUSIC

CC hymns	59 (omit v 4), 88, 593
CC setting	Coulson
Communion music	<i>Shepherds in the Manger</i> (Liszt)
Anthem	<i>Love came down at Christmas</i> (RO Morris)

THE COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose blessed Son was circumcised
in obedience to the law for our sake
and given the Name that is above every name:
give us grace faithfully to bear his Name,
to worship him in the freedom of the Spirit,
and to proclaim him as the Saviour of the world;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God,
whose incarnate Son was given the Name of Saviour
grant that we who have shared
in this sacrament of our salvation
may live out our years in the power
of the Name above all other names,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Welcome to the Parish

The Parish of Esher is for everyone.

The two church buildings, Christ Church in Esher and St George's in West End, have been beacons of faith, hope and love in Esher for well over a century.

Generations have come through the doors to celebrate their marriages, welcome their new-borns and grieve their losses – all of it embraced by the beauty of the worship offered in these houses of prayer week in and week out.

On Sundays we explore the riches of the Christian spiritual tradition through words and music, silence and sacrament. Some of us grew up in church and have never left. Some of us grew out of church, but are testing the waters again. Some of us have more questions than answers. All of us belong here.

You can also check-out some of our services on YouTube to get a flavour of what we're about, or just come along some Sunday at 10.30am in Christ Church or at 9.00am in St George's West End.

Whether you join online or in person, we hope you'll find a community committed to a thoughtful Faith, a hard-won Hope, and a generous Love.

You are very welcome.

READING Numbers 6.22-end

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:
Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying,
Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You
shall say to them, The Lord bless you
and keep you; the Lord make his face
to shine upon you, and be gracious to
you; the Lord lift up his countenance
upon you, and give you peace.
So they shall put my name on the
Israelites, and I will bless them.

GOSPEL Luke 2.15-21

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. After
eight days had passed, it was time to
circumcise the child; and he was called
Jesus, the name given by the angel
before he was conceived in the womb.

ADDITIONAL LECTIONARY TEXTS

Galatians 4.4-7

When the fullness of time had come,
God sent his Son, born of a woman,
born under the law, in order to redeem
those who were under the law, so that
we might receive adoption as children.
And because you are children, God has
sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,
crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no
longer a slave but a child, and if a child
then also an heir, through God.

Psalms 8

- 1 O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is
your name in all the earth! You have set
your glory above the heavens.
- 2 Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of
your foes, to silence the enemy and the
avenger.
- 3 When I look at your heavens, the work
of your fingers, the moon and the stars
that you have established;
- 4 what are human beings that you are
mindful of them, mortals that you care for
them?
- 5 Yet you have made them a little lower
than God, and crowned them with glory
and honour.
- 6 You have given them dominion over the
works of your hands; you have put all
things under their feet,
- 7 all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts
of the field,
- 8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the
sea, whatever passes along the paths of
the seas.
- 9 O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is
your name in all the earth!

PARISH NOTICES

New Year Message - As we move into 2024, we'd like to share with you this prayer of blessing from the Church of England's resources for the beginning of a New Year:

Jesus, Lord of time, hold us in your eternity. Jesus, image of God, travel with us the life of faith. Jesus, friend of sinners, heal the brokenness of our world. Jesus, lord of tomorrow, draw us into your future. Amen.

May the year bring gifts of new possibility, much-needed refreshment, and bright hope.

Sunday School - We look forward to a creative return on Sunday 7 January! See Kath if you can help, even for one Sunday per term! We can't run without our much-appreciated volunteers as our cohort of wonderful children grows. We look forward to welcoming our wonderful children back in 2024! Thank you.

Youth Group - The next get-together will be in Christ Church on Sunday 7 January, 4.30-6pm, when we'll learn about our intuition.

Parish Giving - Donate today via cash, the card machine in Christ Church or online by scanning the QR code on the little cards in Christ Church and that will soon be in St George's.

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

Christ Church Barrier - The new barrier is having a few issues. We'll leave it up for now.

Parish Winter Help & Support - Now that winter is upon us we all need to look out for each other. Family and friends should keep in contact with vulnerable and elderly people. Do contact our Pastoral Team for help and go to Surrey County Council's website: www.surreycc.gov.uk/adults/care-and-support/contact

Home for Ukrainian Family - We have been contacted by a local friend of Tetiana from Ukraine who has been living with her 18 year old daughter in a flat in Claygate for the past year. Tetiana now needs to look locally for her and her daughter as their stay in the flat is coming to an end. They are kind, gentle and respectful. Tetiana's husband and son are still fighting in Ukraine. She is a data analyst and has recently passed a UK finance exam. She is currently working as a waitress at Sandown Park. If you can help Tetiana in any way please contact the Parish Office. Alternatively contact Tetiana direct on her mobile (07445 554922) or via her email (bontanya5@gmail.com) Thank you.

Darren - The Rector's Adoption Leave will continue until Tuesday 20 November 2024. For parish enquiries please contact the Churchwardens or the Parish Office.

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.

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - Morning Prayer continues each Thursday at 9.30am.

Jane's Granddaughter - During today's service little Alba will be baptised in Christ Church. Please stay to celebrate with cake.

Parish Office - The office is closed for the holidays. It will re-open on Tuesday 9 January. Should you need any help please contact the churchwardens. All office phone calls and emails will be redirected to them.

Fellowship Group - The next meeting will be on Wednesday 10 January at 11am.

Book Group - On Monday 22 January we'll discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. If you'd like to join us, just turn up or contact Revd Jonathan Andrew – 01372 464380 / jandrewesher@gmail.com

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Elizabeth Arnold, Betty Walker, Michael Newbould, Malcolm Sayer, Gilly Barrett, Allen Palmer, Katherine S, Keith Howell-Jones, Gill Barnett, George Raine, Sebastian, Pam & Jim Green, Armand Sarkissian

RIP Anniversaries: Ellen Garratt, Joseph Finnis, Ingeborg Vahl, Phyllis Crabbe, Francis Krejsa, James Bath

RIP: Barbara Welham, Joy Jenner, Hannelore Schulze, Andy Peake, John Treneman, Stuart Williams, John Bosten

Baptism: Alba Beatrix Davies

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

January		Time	Reading
Monday	1		Genesis 17.1-13, Ps 103, Romans 2.17-end
Tuesday	2		Ruth 1, Psalm 18.1-30, Colossians 2.8-end
Wednesday	3		Ruth 2, Psalm 127, Colossians 3.1-11
Thursday	4	9.30-10.30am	Ruth 3, Psalm 89.1-37, Colossians 3.12-4.1
Friday	5		Ruth 4.1-17, Psalm 48, Colossians 4.2-end

LOOKING AHEAD

December		Time	Event
Sunday	31	10.30am	Eucharist & Holy Baptism Service, Christ Church
January		Time	Event
Monday	1	All day	New Year's Day Bank Holiday
Wednesday	3	7.45pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	4	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday	7	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		4.30pm	Youth Group, Christ Church
Monday	8	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday	9	All day	Parish Office re-opens
Wednesday	10	11am	Fellowship Group, Christ Church
		7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church

CONTACTS

PARISH OF ESHER Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS St George's Church, West End Lane, Esher, KT10 8LF Tel 01372 462282 Email office@esherparish.org.uk Website www.esherparish.org.uk Facebook www.facebook.com/EsherParish YouTube www.youtube.com/esherparish Instagram www.instagram.com/esherparish/	RECTOR Revd Darren McCallig On Adoption Leave until 20/11/24. For parish enquiries contact the Churchwardens or the Parish Office.	HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIESTS Revd Jonathan Andrew & Ven David Gerrard
	CHURCHWARDENS Helen Coulson & Jane Tyrrell	CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER Kathryn Chapman youth@esherparish.org.uk
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR Melanie Williams OFFICE HOURS 9am to 3.15pm, Monday to Wednesday & Friday Please submit information and notices for inclusion in the Sunday pewsheet by midday on the preceding Wednesday. Thank you.		