

# 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

EPIPHANY

3 JANUARY 2021

## CHURCH SERVICES

Christ Church	Parish Communion at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Helen Coulson
Sides	Kath Chapman, Dave Whymark
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reader	Joan Howell-Jones
Prayers	Dave Whymark
Musicians	Oliver Macfarlane, Stuart Whatton, Tom Doolan

## MUSIC

Opening Music	Adagio from Concerto in G, BWV 592 (Bach/Ernst)
Hymns	A&M 105, 94 (omit v.4), 103
Anthem	Love came down at Christmas (R O Morris)
Closing Music	Presto from Concerto in G, BWV 592 (Bach/Ernst)

## THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God,  
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:  
may we who with the wise men  
have been drawn by your light  
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,  
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

The Feast of the Epiphany, from the Greek word *epiphaneia* meaning 'revelation' or 'manifestation', underlines the universal significance of the child born in the Bethlehem manger. In today's readings from both the Old Testament (Isaiah 60:1-6) and the Gospel (Matthew 2:1-12) we see that Christ's light is for everyone - wise men from the East, Syrians from the North, Egyptians from the South and Romans from the West. As theologian Kendra G. Hotz has written:

'Christ is for all humanity, not only for the chosen few ... he comes to draw people together ... The truth that grasps us in the moment of Epiphany, the moment when Christ is revealed to the Gentiles, is that Jesus Christ is the very love of God incarnate, and that love cannot be confined to ethnic or national identity; it cannot be restricted by gender or claimed only by the powerful and privileged ... The expansive scope of God's love in Jesus Christ means that all are invited, all are included. God's sovereign grace reaches out and calls every last one of God's beloved children who will come from every compass point to worship God, to kneel before Christ and to dine at the heavenly banquet.' ('Feasting on the Word')

God bless,



## READING Isaiah 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

## GOSPEL Matthew 2.1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." ' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## HYMNS

**We three kings of Orient are**

We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star:

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
king forever, ceasing never  
over us all to reign:

Frankincense to offer have I,  
incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, all men raising,  
Worship him, God most high:

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb:

Glorious now behold him arise,  
king and God and sacrifice.  
Heaven sings: 'Alleluia';  
'Alleluia,' the earth replies:

**As with gladness men of old**

As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

In the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
alleluias to our King.

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of  
holiness**

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of  
lowliness,  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy  
prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as  
thine:  
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and  
fearfulness,  
he will accept for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of  
lowliness,  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

## 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. 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](http://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

**New Year Message** - As we move into 2021, I'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 this New Year bring gifts of new possibility, much-needed refreshment, and bright hope.

**Candlemas Service** - This service is usually held at Old St George's Church in Esher at the turn of January / February. Our Candlemas celebration 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 a reflective and atmospheric evening. Further details to follow.

**Fellowship Group** - This group meets at 10am on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month on Zoom. We have a 40 minute service of prayers and Bible readings, followed by some open discussion. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 13 January. All our welcome to join. If you are interested please contact the Parish Office for more information.

**Zoom Bible Reflection & Prayer** – Our first Zoom gathering of 2021 will be on Tuesday 5 January at 9am.

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

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

**Ever wondered if you could help?** - Yes, you can, either by being a welcomer or a sidesperson, a reader or an intercessor. And you would be very welcome too! Do to pandemic restrictions we are very short of welcomers in particular. If you are interested please do speak to a churchwarden or contact the Parish Office. 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. Thank you.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** - This is traditionally observed around the week of 18 to 25 January - the Octave of St Peter and St Paul. If interested please do go to [ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer](http://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer) for more information.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

RIP Anniversaries: Phyllis Crabbe, Francis Krejsa, James Bath, Cyril Handison, Doris Blake, Audrey Orr

RIP: Jo Stork, Léon Stork, Jeremy St John

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

January		Time	Reading
Monday	4		Isaiah 60-13-end; Ps 89.1-37; John 1.43-end
Tuesday	5		Isaiah 61; Ps 48; John 2.1-12
Wednesday	6		Isaiah 62; Ps 132; John 2.13-end
Thursday	7		Isaiah 63.7-end; Ps 99; 1 John 3
Friday	8		Isaiah 64; Ps 46; 1 John 4.7-end

## LOOKING AHEAD

January		Time	Event
Monday	4		No choir practice (rehearsals resume Jan 11)
Tuesday	5	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection and Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	6	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday	10	9.00am	Holy Communion, St George's
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	11	7.15pm	Choir practice
Tuesday	12	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection and Prayer, Zoom
		All day	Parish Office re-opens
Wednesday	13	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
		10.00am	Fellowship Group, Zoom
Sunday	17	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	18	7.15pm	Choir practice
Tuesday	19	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection and Prayer, Zoom
		2.30pm	Funeral of Jo and Léon Stork, Christ Church
Wednesday	20	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom

## CONTACTS

<b>PARISH OF ESHER</b> Website <a href="http://www.esherparish.org.uk">www.esherparish.org.uk</a> Twitter <a href="https://www.twitter.com/esherparish">www.twitter.com/esherparish</a> Christ Church open Wednesday, 9am to 6pm	<b>RECTOR</b> Revd Darren McCallig Tel 01372 461088 Email <a href="mailto:rector@esherparish.org.uk">rector@esherparish.org.uk</a> Rector's day off is Monday
<b>PARISH OFFICE</b> Christ Church, Church Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 8QS Tel 01372 462282 Email <a href="mailto:office@esherparish.org.uk">office@esherparish.org.uk</a>	