

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (*translated*)

4 FEBRUARY 2024

CHURCH SERVICE	
Feast of Candlemas Service	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 6pm at Old St George's Church
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwardens	Jane Tyrrell, Helen Coulson
Sides	Will Stevens
Reading, Prayers	Helen Coulson, Jane Tyrrell
Musician	Stuart Whatton
SERVICE MUSIC	
Opening music	<i>Prelude in B minor, Op. 28 no. 6</i> (Chopin)
Hymns	710 (omit v 4,5), 99 (omit v 2), 42
Setting	Coulson
Post-sermon motet	<i>O Radiant Dawn</i> (James Macmillan)
Communion anthem	<i>When to the temple Mary went</i> (Eccard)
Closing music	<i>Sonata in D, Kp. 288</i> (Scarlatti)
THE COLLECT	
Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God. Amen.	
THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER	
Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. 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 Hebrews 2.14-end

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

GOSPEL Luke 2.22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

PARISH NOTICES

Candlemas Service - We are pleased to be holding our service in Old St George's this evening. The infant Jesus was presented in the Temple – when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people – on the liturgical day of 2 February. 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. We hope you enjoy the service. The collection will be donated to the Churches Conservation Trust (www.visitchurches.org.uk) which takes care of Old St George's Church. The candles are yours with our compliments.

First Aid Course – Many, thanks to Polly Jordan, one of our Safeguarding Officers, for organising our Parish First Aid Course for volunteers and staff. We hugely appreciated Polly's work and the support from her family..

Christ Church Defibrillator - During the first aid course it was emphasised to everyone the importance of a defibrillator in saving lives – from 6% to 75% survival. We will be prioritising the purchase and installation of one at Christ Church. St George's has an external one very close by at the West End Village Hall. Depending on model, supplier and servicing they cost about £1k. We are fundraising for this life saving equipment.

To donate to the Parish First Aid Fund please scan the QR code here or in either church, use the card machine in Christ Church or contact the Parish Office



Advent Appeal - The parish raised £2,919 for the 'Friends of the Holy Land Appeal'. It is still possible to donate to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem by giving via the website: www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

Music on the Green - Our next concert will be on Wednesday 21 February at 1.15pm. More details to follow. All our lunchtime concerts are free with a light lunch from 12.30pm in a nice warm church!

Darren - The Rector's Adoption Leave will continue until Tuesday 20 November 2024. We pray that Darren and his wife have the time and space to grow and enjoy their new family. During this time for all enquiries, in the first instance, please do 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.

Fellowship Group - The next meeting will be in Christ Church at 11am on Wednesday 7 February. Everyone is welcome to join.

Book Group - Our next meeting will be on Monday 26 February, 4pm, when we will discuss George Orwell's early memoir *Down and Out in Paris and London*. If you'd like to join us contact Revd Jonathan Andrew – 01372 464380 / jandrewsher@gmail.com

Youth Group - The next Youth Group will be on Sunday 3 March, 4.30-6pm, at Christ Church, where we'll be exploring our parish values of faith, hope and love.

Parish Giving - Donate today via cash, the card machine in St George's or online by scanning the QR code opposite.

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

Weekly Organ Meditations - Barbara Wadley's organ series continues at St Mark's Church in Whiteley Village, KT12 4ES, with a musical journey through composers A-Z. Thursday lunchtimes, 12-12.30pm. Free admission. Retiring collection for the historic organ. Refreshments provided. Everyone welcome.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

RIP Anniversaries: Eileen Armstrong, Jean Tesh, Alan Williams, Marion Cornie, Richard Loughrey, Phyllis Riley, Laurence Green

RIP: John Bosten, Rosalind Moysen (Wilkes), Eileen Pocklington

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

February		Time	Reading
Monday	5		Genesis 29.31-30.24, Ps 2, 2 Timothy 4.1-8
Tuesday	6		Genesis 31.1-24, Psalm 5, 2 Timothy 4.9-end
Wednesday	7		Genesis 31.25-32.2, Psalm 119.1-32, Titus 1
Thursday	8	9.30-10.30am	Genesis 32.3-30, Psalm 15, Titus 2
Friday	9		Genesis 33.1-17, Psalm 19, Titus 32

LOOKING AHEAD

February		Time	Event
Sunday	4	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	All Age Eucharist, Christ Church
		4.30pm	Youth Group, Christ Church
		4.15pm	Choir practice, Old St George's Church
		6pm	Candlemas Service, Old St George's Church
Monday	5	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	7	11am	Fellowship Group, Christ Church
		7.45pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	8	All day	Parish Office closed
		9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday	11	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	12		No choir practice, Christ Church

CONTACTS

PARISH OF ESHER Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS what3words location ///frosted.forum.firms St George's Church, West End Lane, Esher, KT10 8LF what3words location ///sugars.hulk.chip 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 Office Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS Tel 01372 462282 Email office@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.		