

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

9 FEBRUARY 2025

CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Communion	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 9am at St George's West End (SG)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reading, Prayers	Joan Trower, Jackie Andrew
Musicians	Theo Tang
Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Helen Coulson
Sidespeople	Ivy Tang, Tom Radford
Reading, Prayers	Miranda Fuller, Helen Coulson
Refreshments	Sandra Argent, Wendy Tanqueray
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Theo Tang

SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Chorale Prelude 'Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier', BWV 731 (Bach)</i>
SG & CC hymns	743, 324, 810
SG / CC settings	Addington / Coulson
Communion anthem	<i>Arise, shine (Elvey)</i>
Closing music	<i>Prelude in Classic Style (Gordon Young)</i>

THE COLLECT

Lord of the hosts of heaven,
our salvation and our strength,
without you we are lost:
guard us from all that harms or hurts
and raise us when we fall;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Go before us, Lord, in all we do
with your most gracious favour,
and guide us with your continual help,
that in all our works
begun, continued and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Today's Gospel reading (Luke 5.1-11) is a text rich in meaning. For example, scholars see the net-busting super-abundance of fish as a reference to the prophet Ezekiel's vision of the river of life flowing from the restored temple, where a bountiful catch of fish 'of a great many kinds' is a sign of the all-inclusive ingathering of God's people in the last days (Ezekiel 47.9-10). Others see the detail of Peter, James and John leaving everything behind to follow Jesus (including, presumably, the valuable bumper catch!) as a sign of the cost of discipleship.

For me, however, a beautifully telling detail is Simon Peter's weariness at having spent all night fishing without success. Here, clearly, is a man who is exhausted and perhaps more than a little ready to give up and go home. And yet, it is when – perhaps with a heart-felt sigh – he agrees, at Jesus's prompting, to give it just one more go that the unexpected happens.

That, perhaps, is as good a definition of faith as any. Faith as the sometimes dogged and often deeply weary willingness to not give up, but to trust in God, and give it one more go.

God bless



READING 1 Corinthians 15.1-11

I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you – unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them – though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

GOSPEL Luke 5.1-11

While Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets. 'When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Other Lectionary Texts

Isaiah 6.1-8 (9-end) page 662 (OT)

Psalm 138 page 606 (OT)

The page numbers are given for Bibles that are available from the sidespeople.

PARISH NOTICES

New Electoral Roll - Under Church of England rules a parish's Electoral Roll must be completely renewed – basically begun again from scratch – every six years and 2025 is that year. In other words, if you are on the current roll you must apply to be on the new one. And if you are not on the current roll you are very welcome to apply. The application forms will be available in both churches. We will also be sending out an email with a link to allow completion of the form online. The final date to be added to the new roll will be Sunday 27 April.

Sunday School - This week we will be making boats and fishing rods to remind us that we can help 'net' people for Jesus.

Youth Group - At our recent get-together we discussed the different ways we can use our voice and how we can listen to others well, so we can hear and be heard. As requested by the group, sessions will now run on the first Friday in each month. The next Youth Group will be 7 March 5.30-7pm.

Book Group - At our next meeting at 4pm on Monday 24 February we'll discuss *Hillbilly Elegy*, US Vice President JD Vance's memoir of impoverished white working-class life and the loss of the American Dream. We hope it will help us understand better the roots of the Trump revolution. Contact Revd Jonathan Andrew for more information – 07968 765188 / jandrewsher@gmail.com.

Fellowship Group - The next meeting will be in Christ Church at 10.30am on Wednesday 5 March. Everyone is welcome to join.

Other Lectionary Texts - The Revised Common Lectionary typically specifies four scripture readings for Sunday morning services, two of which are printed in the pewsheets. Details of the other texts are given in the information box, along with their page numbers in the Bibles available from the sidespeople.

Church Development Plan - Your PCC will be shortly preparing a new Church Development Plan, outlining our objectives for the next three years, and would love your input in deciding where the focus should be. Please fill in one of the anonymous forms at the back of the church and return it by Wednesday 19 February to the box provided. Everyone on the parish email list will also receive a message outlining the process and inviting feedback by email.

Ash Wednesday - Our Ash Wednesday Choral Eucharist will be taking place in Christ Church on Wednesday 5 March at 8pm.

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.

Peace & Contemplation - The Wonder of Hope. Thursday 6 March, 8pm, at Christ Church. An evening of inspiring readings, beautiful music and reflective silence.

Music on the Green - On Wednesday 19 February our concert will be a trumpet recital by Sam Balchin (who played at our carol service). Sam will present an eclectic programme of jazz baroque and contemporary repertoire, featuring American, Romanian and German composers.

Music in the Tower - This year's artist will be a brilliant young guitarist, Nathaniel Rosales-Merkies. Lunchtime and evening performances in April will be on Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16. Please note in your diaries.

St George's Garden - We're working to create a white section in the garden. Donations of surplus garden plants or new ones – such as snowdrops, crocuses, tulips, astilbes, camellias, hydrangeas etc – would be appreciated. Please contact Andrea Lindow so we can arrange to collect/dig out plants. It will be nice to create something special for all to enjoy.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Michael Newbould, Gilly Barrett, Allen Palmer, Pam & Jim Green, George Raine, Katherine S, Keith Howell-Jones, John Cheetham, Sebastian, Ruramayi, Karen Harris, David Gerrard, Sienna Ravel, Katie Clark

RIP Anniversaries: Alan Williams, Marion Cormie, Richard Loughrey, Phyllis Riley, Laurence Green, Leonard Schwarz, Mark Pond, Patricia McKenna, Greta Olle, Sheila Hayne

RIP: Philip Brewster, David Deme, Mark Deme, Pamela Gilbertson, David Rolfe

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

February		Time	Reading
Monday	10		Joel 1.1-14; Psalm 30; John 15.1-11
Tuesday	11		Joel 1.15-end; Psalm 36; John 15.12-17
Wednesday	12		Joel 2.1-17; Psalm 34; John 15.18-end
Thursday	13	9.30-10.30am	Joel 2.18-27; Psalm 37; John 16.1-15
Friday	14		Joel 2.28-end; Psalm 31; John 16.16-22

LOOKING AHEAD

February		Time	Event
Sunday	9	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	10	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	12	7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	13	All day	Parish Office closed
		9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday	16	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		12.15pm	Interment of John Philip Brewster, Christ Church
Monday	17	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	19	All day	Parish Office closed
		1.15pm	Music on the Green lunchtime concert: Sam Balchin, trumpet
		7pm	Bellringing 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 01372 461088 rector@esherparish.org.uk Rector's day off is Monday	HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIEST Revd Jonathan Andrew 07968 765188
	CHURCHWARDENS Helen Coulson 07506 701454 Jane Tyrrell 07971 698299	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		
Live Streaming Please be aware that all services held at Christ Church are live streamed via our YouTube channel.		
Please submit information and notices for inclusion in the Sunday pewsheets by 10am on the preceding Tuesday. Thank you.		