

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

9 MARCH 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	Gerard Harper
Musician	Theo Tang
Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Sean Seymour-Cole, Ivy Tang
Reading, Prayers	Christine Steeds, Jane Tyrrell
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane, Theo Tang
Refreshments	Helen Griffin, Janie McCulloch
Choral Evensong (live streamed)	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 6pm at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwardens	Helen Coulson, Jane Tyrrell
Sidespeople	Ivy Tang, Will Stevens
Readings	Jane Tyrrell, Helen Coulson
Prayers	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Musicians	Katherine Dienes-Williams, George Baldwin
MORNING SERVICE MUSIC	
Opening music	<i>Lent from Grand Dialogue</i> (Marchand)
CC hymns	121, 702, 669
CC setting	Addington
Communion anthem	<i>Panis angelicus</i> (Franck)
Closing music	<i>Fugue from Sonata 2</i> (Mendelssohn)
THE COLLECT	
Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.	
THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER	
Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.	

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Today's Gospel reading (Luke 4.1-13) recounts the forty days Jesus spent fasting and praying in the wilderness. During that time he was tempted by the devil to (i) turn stones into bread, (ii) bow down to the devil in return for worldly power, and (iii) test God by throwing himself off the pinnacle of the Temple. Writing on the parallel passage in Matthew's Gospel, Biblical scholar Tom Wright comments:

'The temptations we all face, day by day and at critical moments of decision and vocation in our lives, may be very different from those of Jesus, but they have exactly the same point. They are not simply trying to entice us into committing this or that sin. They are trying to distract us, to turn us aside, from the path of servanthood to which our baptism has commissioned us ... But as God's children, we are entitled to use the same defence as the son of God himself. Store scripture in your heart, and know how to use it. Keep your eyes on God, and trust him for everything. Remember your calling, to bring God's light into the world. And say a firm 'no' to the voices that lure you back into darkness.' (Matthew For Everyone)

God bless



READING Deuteronomy 26.1-11

Moses spoke to the people, saying: When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

GOSPEL Luke 4.1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."' Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Other Lectionary Texts

Psalms 91.1-11 page 577 (OT)

Romans 10.8b-13 page 170 (NT)

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

PARISH NOTICES

Choral Evensong - We are delighted to welcome Guildford Cathedral Choir, directed by the cathedral's own director of music Katherine Dienes-Williams, to sing Choral Evensong in Christ Church this Sunday at 6pm, with specially chosen repertoire for Women Composers Sunday. Considered to be one of the great riches of the Anglican tradition, Evensong combines music, scripture and prayer in a way which many experience as a little glimpse of heaven. Don't miss it!

Lower Green Community Centre - They are in much need of the following items for their Foodbank. Please put ANY contributions into the box at the back of Christ Church or take to St George's at West End. Thank you all so very much. Any queries please contact Bridget (Williams).

Snacks(small packets of sweets/chocolates, Crisps, Popcorn, Biscuits, Crackers). **Coffee & Tea**(small jars/boxes) & small packets/sachets of Instant **Coffee/Hot Chocolate**. **Milk Semi-skimmed** (Longlife only). **Squash**. **Cereals** (boxes). **"BIG" SOUPS** only (they are a meal!). **Tinned Sweetcorn**. **Pasta SAUCES** only. **Sponge Puddings** (Longlife or tins only). **SMALL Washing Powders/Pods**. **Fabric Conditioner**. **Baby Wipes**.

Book Group - The next meeting will be on Monday 31 March, 4pm, in Christ Church, when we will discuss Julia Kelly's historical novel *The Last Garden in England*. Contact Revd Jonathan Andrew for more information – 07968 765188 / jandrewesher@gmail.com.

Easter Leaflet - Our leaflet bundles will soon be ready to collect from Christ Church. We would love to have them delivered to homes across Esher before March 30, Mothering Sunday. Please contact Will Stevens or the Parish Office if you can help with any areas or roads. All help will be appreciated.

Lent Group - This year we're exploring Rowan Williams' book *'Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer'*. The four short but stimulating chapters will be discussed on Sundays 16, 23 and 30 March and 6 April, 12-12.45pm in Christ Church. So, after the service grab a coffee and join in! The book is available online/offline and from the publisher's website: spckpublishing.co.uk. It would be good to read each week's chapter beforehand.

Lent Appeal 2025 - This year our Lent Appeal will raise funds for the Princess Alice Hospice – our local hospice caring for patients and families through illness and bereavement for as long as needed. Please use the appeal envelopes, pay by card or via this QR code and remember to add your details so we can claim Gift Aid to enhance your donation.



Mothering Sunday - On Sunday 30 March we will give thanks during our services for our mothers and those who have played a nurturing and caring role in our lives.

Sunday School - We're creating 'What Would Jesus Do?' craft to help us make good choices and to remind us that we need not just food nourishment to thrive. Thank you to Sally for running Sunday School in Kath's absence.

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. If you're on the current roll you must re-apply and all new applications are very welcome. Forms are available in both churches. One can also complete an online form via this QR code. The closing date for the new roll is Sunday 27 April.



Music on the Green - On Wednesday 19 March the Ivory Piano Duo will tickle the ivories with a piano lively four-hands programme of music by Debussy, Busoni, Saint-Saëns and Ravel.

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: Bertha Stark, Beryl Taylor, Elli Weller, Kooi Yin Chang, Violet Barker Betty Pemberton, James Seaton, Frances Cate, Peter Whicheloe, June Josephine Trew, Jill Treneman, Robert Tesh, Mark Allen

RIP: Pamela Gilbertson, David Rolfe

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

	March	Time	Reading
	Monday	10	Jeremiah 4.19-end; Psalm 98; John 5.1-18
	Tuesday	11	Jeremiah 5.1-19; Psalm 44; John 5.19-29
	Wednesday	12	Jeremiah 5.20-end; Psalm 6; John 5.30-end
	Thursday	13	9.30-10.30am Jeremiah 6.9-21; Psalm 42; John 6.1-15
	Friday	14	Jeremiah 6.22-end; Psalm 22; John 6.16-27

LOOKING AHEAD

	March	Time	Event	
	Sunday	9	Holy Communion, St George's Church	
		9am		
		10.30am		
		6pm	Choral Evensong, Christ Church	
	Monday	10	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
	Tuesday	11	7.30pm	Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting, Esher Church School
	Wednesday	12	7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
	Thursday	13	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
	Saturday	15	2pm	Surrey Strikers Bellringing visit, Christ Church
	Sunday	16	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
			10.30am	Eucharist & Holy Baptism, Christ Church
	Monday	17	7.15pm	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 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 9.30am to 3.45pm, 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.		