

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

11 APRIL 2021

CHURCH SERVICES

Christ Church	Parish Communion at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Helen Coulson
Reader	Carol Henderson
Prayers	Dave Whymark
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane

MUSIC

Opening Music	<i>Adagio from Concerto in A minor, BWV 593 (Bach)</i>
Music & Hymns	A&M 188, 200 (omit v 4,6), 221 (omit v.3)
Anthem	<i>Come, ye faithful, raise the strain (Thatcher)</i>
Closing Music	<i>'Little' Praeludium in E minor (Bruhns)</i>

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked,
no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Today's Gospel Reading (John 20.19-31) is the origin of the well-known expression 'Doubting Thomas' - a nickname which is not usually a compliment! But, perhaps, we are a little unfair to Thomas. After all, his great virtue was that he absolutely refused to say that he understood what he did not understand, and refused to say that he believed what he did not believe. You might say that there was an admirable honesty about Thomas.

One might even say that the kind of doubt exhibited by Thomas shows concern and leads to questioning, which can lead to a deeper, more mature and dynamic faith. Louis Untermeyer (1885-1977), the American author and poet, appears to have appreciated this possibility. In his poem 'Prayer' he coined the phrase 'buoyant doubt.'

Ever insurgent let me be,

*Make me more daring than devout;
From sleek contentment set me free,
And fill me with a buoyant doubt.*

From 'sleek contentment' and un-thinking certainties, Good Lord, deliver us!

God bless,



READING Acts 4.32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

PSALM 133

- 1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
- 2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.
- 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life for evermore.

GOSPEL John 20.19-end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and

said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

HYMNS

Sing, choirs of heaven!

Sing, choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!
Around God's throne exult in harmony.
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave.
Salute your King in glorious symphony.
Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly.
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death.
The night is past; the day of life is here.
Sing, Church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won.
Your Saviour lives: he's with you evermore.
Let all God's people shout the long Amen.

Christ the Lord is risen again

Christ the Lord is risen again,
Christ has broken every chain.
Hark, angelic voices cry,
singing evermore on high, *Alleluia!*
He who gave for us his life,
who for us endured the strife,
is our Paschal Lamb to-day:
we too sing for joy, and say *Alleluia!*
He who bore all pain and loss
comfortless upon the cross,
lives in glory now on high,
pleads for us, and hears our cry: *Alleluia!*
He who slumbered in the grave
is exalted now to save;
now through Christendom it rings
that the Lamb is King of kings. *Alleluia!*
Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed,
Christ, thy ransomed people feed;
take our sins and guilt away:
let us sing by night and day *Alleluia!*

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
your sweetest notes employ,
the Paschal victory to hymn
in strains of holy joy.
How Judah's Lion burst his chains,
and crushed the serpent's head;
and brought with him, from death's domains,
the long-imprisoned dead.
Triumphant in his glory now
his sceptre ruleth all,
earth, heaven and hell before him bow,
and at his footstool fall.
While joyful thus his praise we sing,
his mercy we implore,
into his palace bright to bring
and keep us evermore.
All glory to the Father be,
all glory to the Son,
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
while endless ages run.
Alleluia! Amen.

PARISH COVID INFORMATION

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update -

We are very happy to have Christ Church open again for in-person public worship for our Eastertide services. It is hoped that public worship will continue, and that services will recommence at St George's, West End in May. Please contact the Parish Office nearer the time for further information. Christ Church will also open for private prayer on Wednesdays, 10am to 4pm.

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. 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 with Holy Trinity Claygate, and Faith in Later Life).

Call to the Nation - The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell, invite us to pray each day at 6pm to remember those who have died from COVID-19. For more details go to: [tps://www.churchofengland.org/resources/call-prayer-nation](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/call-prayer-nation)

'Time to Pray' App – This app presents everything you need, with variations for the day of the week and the season of the Church's year. To download the app go to <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>

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 - Choir members will raise their beautiful voices on our behalf.
- The toilet (at the back of the church) is open, but please use only if necessary.
- The service will be live streamed on the Parish YouTube channel.
- 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

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

The Archbishop of Canterbury has led the Church of England in paying tribute to His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, giving 'thanks to God for his extraordinary life of dedicated service. Prince Philip continually demonstrated his unflinching support and unstinting loyalty to Her Majesty The Queen for 73 years ... Theirs was a marriage grounded in friendship and mutual respect and sustained by a shared faith in Christ. I pray that God will comfort Her Majesty and the rest of the Royal Family at this time. May His Royal Highness rest in peace and rise in glory.

God of our lives,
we give thanks for the life of Prince Philip,
for his love of our country,
and for his devotion to duty.

We entrust him now to your love and mercy,
through our Redeemer Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Zoom Bible Reflection & Prayer - All are welcome to join this informal Zoom gathering at 9am on Tuesday mornings. Contact the Parish Office for details.

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - Morning Prayer continues on Wednesdays at 9am, led by Darren, on Zoom. All are welcome.

Lent Appeal - Many thanks to everyone who has donated. We will aim to provide an update in the pewsheet shortly.

Book Group - The next Zoom meeting will be at 5pm on Tuesday 4 May when we will be discussing something rather different - Duncan Hamilton's award-winning biography of the great sports writer Neville Cardus. If you'd like to know more, contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 01372 479776 or jandrewesher@hotmail.com.

Heart Stones - Here's an idea: paint a stone or pebble with something close to your heart. It could be words of hope and encouragement. It could be someone or something which helped you through these difficult times. It could be a painted prayer offered for those in need. Then, when you're out on your daily exercise, drop by Christ Church and add your 'Heart Stone' to the growing line around the building. Who knows we might encircle the church with beautiful expressions of faith, hope and love!

Easter Egg Hunt - We are grateful to God for dry weather over the Easter weekend as we hosted an Easter Egg Hunt at Christ Church. We welcomed families old and new, who had a fun time hunting down Easter eggs some of which were very tricky to find! Thank you for all your prayers and support of this event!

Parish Office - Just a little reminder that Melanie will continue to work remotely for a little while longer. Also please note that Melanie does not work on Thursdays.

Music on the Green - Our next monthly concert on Wednesday 21 April will feature Duo Kottos on guitar and cello. Donations are always very welcome at www.justgiving.com/campaign/MOTG

Parish Giving - Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity to the Parish of Esher. Like most parishes there's been pressure on our income recently, so if you're in a position to do so, please consider supporting our mission and ministry. Donations can be made today or via JustGiving at <https://www.justgiving.com/esherparish>. Or to donate to our Parish bank account, please contact the Parish Office or Parish Treasurer for details and Gift Aid forms.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Yasmin Ingram, Stuart Williams, Maureen O'Brien, Viola Mason, Jaeseok Yang, Headley Williams, Betty Walker, Geoff Walker, Elizabeth Arnold, Sue Lynn, Shireen Sahni, Jennie Seller, Stewart Henderson, Revd Canon Christopher Scott

RIP Anniversaries: Ann Boreham, Peter van Tol, Margaret Williams, Gerald Garratt, Kathleen Portch

RIP: David Moore

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

	April	Time	Reading
Monday	12		Deuteronomy 1.3-18; Ps 19; John 20.1-10
Tuesday	13	9.00-10.00am	Deuteronomy 1.19-40; Ps 8; John 20.11-18
Wednesday	14	9.00-10.00am	Deuteronomy 3.18-end; Ps 30; John 20.19-end
Thursday	15		Deuteronomy 4.1-14; Ps 28; John 21.1-14
Friday	16		Deuteronomy 4.15-31; Ps 61; John 21.15-19

LOOKING AHEAD

	April	Time	Event
Sunday	11	10.30am	Parish Communion Service, Christ Church
		6.00pm	Live streamed Youth Worship Service, YouTube
Monday	12	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday	13	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	14	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
		10.00am-4.00pm	Christ Church open for private prayer
Thursday	15	All day	Parish Office closed
Sunday	18	10.30am	Parish Communion & Baptism Service, Christ Church
		6.00pm	Live streamed Youth Worship Service, YouTube
Monday	19	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday	20	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	21	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
		10.00am-4.00pm	Christ Church open for private prayer
		1.15pm	Music on the Green lunchtime concert: Duo Kottos, guitar & cello

CONTACTS

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