

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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

11 OCTOBER 2020

CHURCH SERVICES

St George's	Holy Communion at 9am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reading & Prayers	Gerard Harper
Musician	Keith Howell-Jones
Christ Church	Parish Communion at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sides	Janie McCulloch
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reading	Janie McCulloch
Prayers	David Stark
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane

MUSIC

Opening Music	<i>Berceuse (Viene)</i>
Choir Anthem	<i>Day by Day (Philip Godfrey)</i>
Closing Music	<i>Allegretto, from Sonata no. 4 (Mendelssohn)</i>

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

God, our judge and saviour,
teach us to be open to your truth
and to trust in your love,
that we may live each day
with confidence in the salvation which is
given through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We praise and thank you, O Christ,
for this sacred feast: for here we receive you,
here the memory of your passion is
renewed, here our minds are filled with
grace, and here a pledge of future glory
is given, when we shall feast at that table
where you reign with all your saints for ever.
Amen

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Today's Gospel reading is, in many ways, an elaborate allegory reflecting the experiences of the early Christian communities. Those originally invited to the 'wedding feast of the Son' - the Children of Israel - had, in the main, not accepted the invitation. On the other hand, those later invited to join the feast - the Gentiles - were, in some cases, not responding appropriately to the call of God on their lives. However, the parable can also be seen as applying to us today. Preacher and author Barbara Brown Taylor explains:

'Like the underdressed guest, some of us have rolled in here without thinking much about it. We have showed up with our spiritual shirttails hanging out, lining up at the buffet table as if no one could see the ways in which we too have refused to change - refusing to surrender our fears and resentments, refusing to share our wealth, refusing to respect the dignity of every human being. These are the old clothes we wear to the king's banquet - the clothes we prefer to the wedding robe of new life - and they are as painful to him as a bride dressed in black.' (Home by another way).

In short, it's time to change - and not just our clothes either!

God bless,



READING Isaiah 25.1-9

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

PSALM 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;
3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

GOSPEL Matthew 22.1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

PARISH COVID INFORMATION

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update -

In line with the latest COVID-19 guidance from the Government and the Diocese, Sunday morning public worship has resumed with a Parish Communion at Christ Church on Sundays, at 10.30am. We are also pleased that public worship at St George's has started again with fortnightly 9am services. Regular worshippers have been advised how this works. If you would like to know more please contact the Parish Office. St George's will now remain closed during the week. Christ Church will continue to open for private prayer on Wednesdays, 9am-6pm. 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 is working remotely and is closed. If you need support, do let us know via the Parish Office email and telephone. For urgent enquiries please 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. For music or 'MOTG' enquiries, contact our Director of Music, Stuart Whatton, on 07816 011621 or fullorgan@cantab.net. Many thanks.

Daily Hope Helpline 0800 804 8044 -

This is a new free initiative launched by the Church of England and Lambeth Palace with help from Holy Trinity Claygate. Following a greeting from the Archbishop of Canterbury, a list of options includes a short talk exploring a traditional hymn, hymns on a loop, the Church of England's weekly service and morning/evening prayers.

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. We'll follow the same Order almost every week, so do re-use it.
- Please ensure the sidespeople have your details for 'Track & Trace' purposes.
- 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 now required by law in places of worship. 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.
- If you prefer to make an act of 'Spiritual Communion' please use the prayer in the Order of Service, on page 10.
- Sadly, we cannot offer coffee and we're asked to not stay inside. But, chatting outside in small groups is encouraged!
- Just as we asked you to use the hand sanitiser on the way in, please use it again on the way out.

It's wonderful to have you here - thank you for coming.

PARISH NOTICES

Harvest Services - Our second Harvest Eucharist service takes place at St George's today, Sunday 11 October at 9am. The first service took place last Sunday at Christ Church. All of our Harvest donations are being donated to the East Elmbridge Foodbank. They are particularly in need of fruit juice (long life) coffee (small jars), Fray Bentos pies, tinned hot dogs, tinned fish, tinned vegetables, ketchup/mayo (small plastic bottles), tinned fruit, custard, rice pudding and household cleaning items. There is a Foodbank Harvest Appeal on their Local Giving page for those preferring to give financially - <https://localgiving.org/east-elmbridge-foodbank-harvest2020>.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - Our delayed APCM will take place on Sunday 18 October after the Christ Church service. Sadly, we cannot offer refreshments, so please consider bringing something with you to eat and drink.

Annual Report - Our 2019 Annual Report has been emailed out to all those on the Electoral Roll. There is hard copy available to read at both churches. If you would like a copy please contact the Parish Office.

Electoral Roll - The Roll has been revised in preparation for our APCM and is available for inspection on the church noticeboard or can be requested from the Parish Office

Donations - Many thanks for your ongoing generosity to the Parish of Esher. Like many parishes, our income has fallen in recent months. Please consider supporting our mission and ministry via our JustGiving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/esherparish>. There will be a retiring collection after the service today. You can make payments to the parish bank account too - contact the Parish Office for details and for GA forms.

Macmillan 'Zoffee' Morning - Thank you to all those who attended our virtual Coffee Morning last Friday, 9 October, on Zoom. It was great to catch-up. We all look forward to enjoying a 'regular' Coffee Morning next year. In the meantime Macmillan Cancer Support still needs our help so we are very pleased that our church collections today will be donated them. To make direct donations to Macmillan please go to <https://coffee.macmillan.org.uk>. Thank you.

Book Group - We're starting a Parish Book Group, with 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry' by Rachel Joyce being the first book for discussion. The first meeting is to take place on Tuesday 13 October at 4.30pm on Zoom. If it sounds your sort of thing, please contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 01372 479776 / jandrewesher@hotmail.com

Music on the Green - Our next concert will be on Wednesday 21 October, when we will welcome the Flauguissimo Duo, a husband and wife team on baroque flute and theorbo. You can listen to the last recital on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/EsherParish>. It will be on our MOTG YouTube channel soon. Online donations are gratefully received at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/MOTG>

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - Morning Prayer will resume this Wednesday, at 9am, led by our Rector, Darren, on Zoom as usual. All are welcome to join. Contact the Parish Office for the Zoom sign-in details.

Zoom Bible Reflection & Prayer - At 9am on Tuesday mornings, there is a time of Bible reflection and prayer. All are welcome to join this informal Zoom gathering which finishes about 10am. Contact the Parish Office for the Zoom sign-in details.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Yasmin Ingram, Stuart Williams, Maureen O'Brien, Viola Mason, Helena Miller

RIP Anniversaries: Patricia Richards, Gladys Thomas, Barbara Pratt, Dan Walter

RIP: Jackie Hinton, Peter Langley, Patricia McKenna, Patricia Newman, Michael Wishaw

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Taken from the Church of England Lectionary – readings for Morning Prayer are given below.

October		Time	Reading
Monday	12		2 Kings 5; Ps 80; Acts 26.1-23
Tuesday	13	9.00-10.00am	2 Kings 6.1-23; Ps 89.1-18; Acts 26.24-end
Wednesday	14	8.50-10.00am	2 Kings 9.1-16; Ps 119.105-128; Acts 27.1-26
Thursday	15		2 Kings 9.17-end; Ps 92; Acts 27.27-end
Friday	16		2 Kings 12.1-19; Ps 88; Acts 28.1-16

LOOKING AHEAD

October		Time	Event
Sunday	11	Midday	Interment of Patricia McKenna, Christ Church
Monday	12	7.15-8.30pm	Choir rehearsal, Christ Church
Tuesday	13	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
		4.30pm	Parish of Esher Book Club, Zoom
Wednesday	14	8.50-10.00am	Morning Prayer & Zoffee!, Zoom
Thursday	15	7.30pm	West End Committee Meeting, Zoom
Sunday	18	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		Midday	Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Christ Church
Monday	19	12.30pm	Cremation of Patricia Newman, Randalls Park Crematorium
		7.15-8.30pm	Choir rehearsal, Christ Church
Tuesday	20	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	21	8.50-10.00am	Morning Prayer & Zoffee!, Zoom
		10.00am	Fellowship Group, Christ Church
		1.10pm	Music on the Green lunchtime concert: Flauguissimo Duo

CONTACTS

PARISH OF ESHER Website www.esherparish.org.uk Twitter www.twitter.com/esherparish Christ Church open Wednesday, 9am to 6pm	RECTOR Rev'd Darren McCallig Tel 01372 461088 Email rector@esherparish.org.uk Rector's day off is Monday
PARISH OFFICE Christ Church, Church Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 8QS Tel 01372 462282 Email office@esherparish.org.uk	