

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 BEFORE ADVENT

15 NOVEMBER 2020

SERVICE

Christ Church	Parish Communion at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reading & Prayers	Bridget Williams
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Keith Chapple

MUSIC

Opening Music	<i>Adagio from Suite Modale</i> (Flor Peeters)
Hymns	A&M 448i (tune St Botolph) A&M 782 (tune Northampton)
Anthem	<i>The Lord bless you and keep you</i> (Peter Lutkin)
Closing Music	<i>Prelude & Fugue in A minor,</i> <i>BWV 559</i> (Bach)

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Today's Gospel reading and its 'Parable of the Talents' is often understood as a call to utilise our God-given abilities and skills - our talents - to the full. Indeed, scholars tell us that the word 'talent', which was a unit of money in the ancient world, came into the English language from this very passage, and on account of this interpretation.

And while - as with all of Jesus's parables - there is a good deal more to be said (and I'll try to say some of it in today's sermon) it is true that there is something almost blasphemous about 'burying' the gifts God has given us. The key, I suppose, is to remember that 'all is grace' - an insight that the great contemporary novelist Marilynne Robinson articulated most beautifully in her novel 'Gilead'.

'Theologians talk about a prevenient grace that precedes grace itself and allows us to accept it. I think there must also be a prevenient courage that allows us to be brave - that is, to acknowledge that there is more beauty than our eyes can bear, that precious things have been put into our hands and to do nothing to honor them is to do great harm. And therefore, this courage allows us, as the old men said, to make ourselves useful. It allows us to be generous, which is another way of saying exactly the same thing.'

God bless,



READING Zephaniah 1.7, 12-end

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.

That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

PSALM Psalm 90.1-8

1 Lord, you have been our dwelling-place in all generations.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

3 You turn us back to dust, and say, 'Turn back, you mortals.'

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

7 For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

8 You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

GOSPEL Matthew 25.14-30

Jesus said 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things;

enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

HYMNS

I come with joy, a child of God

I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free;
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.

The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.

Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one.

Songs of praise the angels sang

Songs of praise the angels sang,
heaven with alleluias rang,
when creation was begun,
When God spake and it was done.

Saints below, with heart and voice,
still in songs of praise rejoice;
learning here, by faith and love,
songs of praise to sing above.

Hymns of glory, songs of praise,
Father, unto thee we raise,
Jesus, glory unto thee,
with the Spirit, ever be.

PARISH NOTICES

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update -

This month's lockdown sadly means that both Christ Church and St George's will be closed for Sunday public worship. Thankfully we are allowed to open Christ Church for private prayer and to hold funerals. Christ Church will be open on Wednesdays, 10am to 4pm, and on Sundays, 12 noon until 4pm.

Prayer for the Nation - The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have asked that we make November a time of prayer for the nation. You can read their letter, and find helpful prayer resources here at churchofengland.org/PrayerForTheNation.

COVID Community Champions - Central Surrey Voluntary Action (CSVA) together with Elmbridge Borough Council are looking to recruit a number of volunteer COVID Community Champions to help disseminate up-to-date COVID information within Elmbridge. Please contact CSVA if you're interested via www.centralsurreyvoluntaryaction.co.uk

Helena Miller - We had the sad news this week from the Netherlands that Hugh Miller's wife, Helena, has passed away. Our love and thoughts are with Hugh.

Clive Craigmile - It is with great sadness that we announce Clive has passed away. The funeral will take place at Randalls Park Crematorium on Thursday 19 November at 2.45pm. We remember Clive, Clare and their family in our prayers.

Jacqueline Lister Hinton - Jackie's funeral will take place on Wednesday 25 November at 11.15am at Christ Church with Revd Linda Morgan, a Holy Trinity Claygate minister, leading with Darren assisting. We plan to organise a private live stream of the service.

Remembrance Sunday - Thankfully our Act of Remembrance was able to take place and we were relieved it went well. Thank you to all those who took part. Sadly the pandemic has restricted the Royal British Legion's fundraising this year, but we can still donate via: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/donate>

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.

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - Morning Prayer continues every Wednesday, at 9am, led by our Rector, Darren, on Zoom. All are very welcome to join.

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 one hour Zoom gathering which. Contact the Parish Office for details.

Christmas Shoeboxes - 'Link to Hope' is a Christian charity that believes 'in distributing love to those in need regardless of colour, creed, background or religion.' Every year they organise a shoe box appeal for those living in desperately difficult circumstances in Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine. You can help by filling a shoe box full of gifts and useful items for a family or an elderly person. The appeal launched on Sunday 1 November. You can still join-in by obtaining a leaflet from the Parish Office or from linktohope.co.uk. Watch this space, and our website, for details of how to return your filled and wrapped shoebox.

Music on the Green - Due to the lockdown, sadly we cannot hold a live concert in Christ Church this month, but MOTG is instead pleased to offer a virtual piano recital by Tim Rumsey. His programme of Beethoven, Debussy and Liszt will be available from Wednesday on our YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs60Nys0liNK3Y10JOnMu1w?view_as=subscriber). Do listen to the performance and add your comments! Donations are most welcome and can be made via our JustGiving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/MOTG>.

Harp Success! - Congratulations to Annabelle Doolan, who has just won a place in the National Youth Harp Orchestra, the harpist's equivalent of the National Youth Orchestra. We have been thrilled in having Annabelle contribute to our worship services - from last year's Carol Service onwards - and we wish her well in her budding musical career!

Book Club - The Club met on Tuesday to discuss 'The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy' by Rachel Joyce (a companion novel to their previous read - 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry'). They are now reading something very different - 'Dare to be Daniel' a memoir by Tony Benn focussing on his early years and how they influenced his political beliefs. It will be discussed at the next Book Club session on Tuesday 8 December at 4.30pm, via Zoom. The group would be delighted to welcome new members. If interested, contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 01372 479776 or jandrewesher@hotmail.com.

Christingle Service - Our Parish Christingle Service will take place hopefully in Christ Church on Sunday 6 December at 10.30am

Cards for Good Causes - Many of you will be missing the opportunity to get your charity Christmas cards from the annual pop-up shop in St George's, Esher. It is still possible to support the cause of your choice by visiting its online shop. You can order for delivery, to click and collect or send online cards with a charitable donation. It is hoped that the shop itself will open for a few days after December 2 but to be safe go to: <https://www.cardsforcharity.co.uk/>

Christmas Tree at Christ Church - We are looking for help with setting up and decorating the Christmas Tree on Saturday 5 December at 10am. Please let the Parish Office know if you can help. Thank you.

Festival of Lessons & Carols - We are very much hoping to hold our annual service this year. It is a great occasion to prepare for the good news of Christmas.

Growing Leaders - Emly Deanery is planning a Growing Leaders course for January 2021. It's a Christian leadership development course produced by the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) to develop leaders in all areas, and at every level, of church life. Emly Deanery, in which the Parish of Esher sits, has run the course for many years. Contact the Rector if you're interested.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Yasmin Ingram, Stuart Williams, Maureen O'Brien, Viola Mason, Jo Stork, Alice Coulson, Betty Whitney

RIP Anniversaries: Joseph Underwood, Peter Page, Brian Stapley, Peggy Fermont, William Ward

RIP: Jackie Hinton, Clive Craigmile, Helena Miller

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

November		Time	Reading
Monday	16		Daniel 8.1-14; Ps 47; Revelation 10
Tuesday	17	9.00-10.00am	Daniel 8.15-end; Ps 52; Revelation 11.1-14
Wednesday	18	8.50-10.00am	Daniel 9.1-19; Ps 56; Revelation 11.15-end
Thursday	19		Daniel 9.20-end; Ps 62; Revelation 12
Friday	20		Daniel 10.1-11.1; Ps 63; Revelation 13.1-10

LOOKING AHEAD

November		Time	Event
Monday	16	7.15pm	Choir catch-up, Zoom
Tuesday	17	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	18	All day	Parish Office 'closed', 18-22 November incl.
		8.50-10.00am	Morning Prayer & Zoffee!, Zoom
Thursday	19	2.45pm	Funeral of Clive Craigmile, Randalls Park Crematorium
Sunday	22	10.30am	Parish Communion, Facebook & Soundcloud
Tuesday	24	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	25	8.50-10.00am	Morning Prayer & Zoffee!, Zoom
		11.15am	Funeral of Jackie Hinton, Christ Church
Sunday	29	10.30am	Parish Communion, Facebook & Soundcloud
Monday	30	7.15pm	Choir catch-up, Zoom
December		Time	Event
Tuesday	1	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	2	8.50-10.00am	Morning Prayer & Zoffee!, Zoom

CONTACTS

PARISH OF ESHER Website www.esherparish.org.uk Twitter www.twitter.com/esherparish Christ Church open Wednesday, 9am to 6pm	RECTOR Revd Darren McCallig Tel 01372 461088 Email rector@esherparish.org.uk Rector's day off is Monday
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