

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 EPIPHANY

17 JANUARY 2021

CHURCH SERVICES

Christ Church	Parish Communion at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reader & Prayers	Bridget Williams
Musicians	Helen Coulson, Stuart Whatton

MUSIC

Opening Music	<i>Intermezzo</i> (Arthur Milner)
Hymns	269, 826
Communion Music	<i>Gesù Bambino</i> (Pietro Yon)
Closing Music	<i>Theme & Variations</i> (Arthur Milner)

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

The final verse of today's Gospel reading - when Jesus says, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man' - is a reference to the Hebrew Bible story of Jacob's ladder. In Genesis 28, on the road between Beer-sheba and Haran, Jacob stops for the night, sleeps and dreams of a ladder with its foot on the ground and its top reaching to heaven. On waking, he exclaims 'Surely the Lord is in this place - and I did not know it!' and so he names the place Bethel, which means 'God's house.' And so, in making this allusion, Jesus is saying - in Biblical scholar Tom Wright's paraphrase of his words - 'If you follow me, you'll be watching what it looks like when heaven and earth are open to each other.' Or, to put it another way, 'When you're with Jesus, it is as though you're in the house of God, the Temple itself, with God's angels coming and going, and God's own presence there beside you.' And, as Wright concludes, 'That promise, of course, remains as true today as it was then.' (John for Everyone)

God bless,



READING 1 Samuel 3.1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

GOSPEL John 1.43-end

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

HYMNS

Can we by searching find out God
Can we by searching find out God
or formulate his ways?
Can numbers measure what he is
or words contain his praise?

Although his being is too bright
for human eyes to scan,
his meaning lights our shadowed world
through Christ, the Son of Man.

Our boastfulness is turned to shame,
our profit counts as loss,
when earthly values stand beside
the manger and the cross.

We there may recognise his light,
may kindle in its rays,
find there the source of penitence,
the starting-point for praise.

There God breaks in upon our search,
makes birth and death his own:
He speaks to us in human terms
to make his glory known.

Ye holy angels bright
Ye holy angels bright,
who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song,
for else the theme
too high doth seem
for mortal tongue.

Ye blessed souls at rest,
who ran this earthly race
and now, from sin released,
behold your Saviour's face,
his praises sound,
as in his sight
with sweet delight
ye do abound.

Ye saints, who toil below,
adore your heavenly King,
and onward as ye go
some joyful anthem sing;
take what he gives
and praise him still,
through good or ill,
who ever lives.

My soul, bear thou thy part,
triumph in God above,
and with a well-tuned heart
sing thou the songs of love!
Let all thy days
till life shall end,
whate'er he send,
be filled with praise.

PARISH COVID INFORMATION

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update -

In light of rapidly escalating rates of COVID, Bishop Andrew - on receipt of a request from the Rector and the PCC - has given permission for our Sunday services to move online until mid-February. Funeral services will continue to be held in-person, subject to Government restrictions and guidelines. The PCC will review the situation at the end of January. Although we cannot be together in our church buildings, we can remain united in prayer and service.

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).

'Time to Pray' App - The 'Time to Pray' app presents everything you need for Prayer during the day and at night, with variations according to the day of the week and the season of the Church's year. The app is compatible with both smartphones and tablets. To download the app go to <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>

COVID Community Champions - Elmbridge Borough Council, Surrey County Council and Central Surrey Voluntary Action have come together to establish community champions for Elmbridge. Community Champions support our communities by communicating clear, consistent messaging relating to COVID-19. They also provide essential feedback to ensure our messages are reaching all our communities in the best way. They use local community groups, social media, WhatsApp groups, friends and family to communicate the facts and guidelines on COVID-19 and disseminate council and Government information. If you can help, please contact CSVA via www.centralsurreyvoluntaryaction.co.uk

NHS COVID-19 App - It might help to provide a reminder about why it is useful to install/use the app on your smart phone:

- it supports traditional test/trace methods
- it informs people of rising rates in their area
- it alerts people if they've been in contact with someone who has tested positive (even if they don't know them)
- it provides a 'checking in' function using QR codes displayed in venues/public areas.
- it allows people to check their symptoms, and book a test if they need one.

To find out more about the NHS COVID-19 app, go to - <https://covid19.nhs.uk/what-the-app-does.html>

Covid Symptom Study App - The app is a not-for-profit initiative that was launched in March 2020 by health science company ZOE, with scientific analysis provided by King's College London, to support vital COVID-19 research. By using the app you're helping and contributing to advance vital research on COVID-19. To find out more go to <https://covid.joinzoe.com>.

PARISH NOTICES

Esher Church School - The search for a new Headteacher has begun. Cathy Bell is leaving ECS to take on the Headship of Dorchester Primary School in Worcester Park, a 3-form entry Primary School with Nursery. We thank her for her wonderful contribution to ECS over the last twenty years. Governors now have the important task of finding a new leader for the school. Please keep all those involved in this process in your prayers:

Gracious God, we ask for your blessing on Esher Church School and its Governing Body as they seek to appoint a new Headteacher. Give all involved your gifts of wisdom and sound judgement, and help them to discern the unique qualities each candidate brings and so find a person to take forward the school's vision of 'Christ at the Centre; Life to the Full'. Amen.

Licensing - The Revd Nate Kurz, our former curate here in Esher, will be licensed as the Vicar of St Mary's East Molesey on Wednesday 27 January at 7pm. Only those who form part of the service are able to be physically present, but all are invited to join the live stream on Facebook and YouTube. See www.smem.org.uk for details. Please keep Nate and the people of St Mary's in your prayers as together they take this next step in their pilgrimage of faith.

Book Group - The group's first meeting of 2021 will be held on Tuesday 2 February at 4.30pm via Zoom, when the discussions will focus on two titles with Vatican connections - 'Conclave' by Robert Harris, and 'Let us Dream' by Pope Francis. The group would be delighted to welcome new members. If interested, contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 01372 479776 or jandrewesher@hotmail.com.

Léon & Jo Stork - As you may be aware Léon and Jo passed away within days of each other over Christmas. Both were active church members with Jo working as Parish Administrator some years ago and Léon organizing the last pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Their funeral will take place in Christ Church on Tuesday 19 January at 2.30pm led by Darren with Stuart playing and Helen singing. We hope to live stream the service on the parish Facebook page.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - This is observed the week of 18 to 25 January - the Octave of St Peter and St Paul. See ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer for more details.

Music on the Green - Our January concert this Wednesday features the guitarist Alex Hart playing a varied programme including Scarlatti, Rodrigo and Barrios. Though we cannot host an audience inside Christ Church the recital will be livestreamed at 1.15 pm via our usual online channels.

Fellowship Group - Our next meeting will be at 10am on Wednesday 17 February on Zoom. All are welcome. If you're interested please contact the Parish Office.

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

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

Christ Church Roofing Work - Repair work to the Christ Church roof will take place on February 22-24. This will address damage and water ingress to the roof area above the Rector's seat. It will likely mean scaffolding, materials and tools occupying some of the car park.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Yasmin Ingram, Stuart Williams, Maureen O'Brien, Viola Mason, Betty Whitney, Jaeseok Yang, Sandra Argent, Hedley Williams. Janette Williams, Geoff Walker, Mary Teague

RIP Anniversaries: Marjorie Dunnachie, David Fairhead, Mike Barnett, Muriel Whelan, Joan Samuel

RIP: Jo Stork, Léon Stork, Jeremy St John, Ingeborg Vahl

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

January		Time	Reading
Monday	18		Amos 6; Ps 146; 1 Corinthians 6.1-11
Tuesday	19	9.00-10.00am	Amos 7; Ps 132; 1 Corinthians 6.12-end
Wednesday	20	9.00-10.00am	Amos 8; Ps 81; 1 Corinthians 7.1-24
Thursday	21		Amos 9; Ps 76; 1 Corinthians 7.25-end
Friday	22		Hosea 1.1-2.1; Ps 27; 1 Corinthians 8

LOOKING AHEAD

January		Time	Event
Sunday	17	10.30am	Live streamed Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	18	7.15pm	Choir practice, Zoom
Tuesday	19	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
		2.30pm	Funeral of Jo & Léon Stork, Christ Church
Wednesday	20	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
		1.15pm	Music on the Green lunchtime concert (online only): Alex Hart
Sunday	24	10.30am	Live streamed Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	25	2.00pm	Funeral of Jeremy St John, Christ Church
		7.15pm	Choir practice, Zoom
Tuesday	26	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	27	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday	31	10.30am	Live streamed Parish Communion for Candlemas, Christ Church

CONTACTS

PARISH OF ESHER Website www.esherparish.org.uk Facebook www.facebook.com/EsherParish SoundCloud soundcloud.com/esherparish	RECTOR Revd Darren McCallig Tel 01372 461088 Email rector@esherparish.org.uk Rector's day off is Monday
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