

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

17 MARCH 2024

CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Communion	Led by Revd Caroline Mullins at 9am at St George's Church (SG)
Preacher	Revd Caroline Mullins
Reading, Prayers	Joan Trower, David Gerrard
Musician	Stuart Whatton
Parish Communion	Led by Revd Caroline Mullins at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Caroline Mullins
Churchwarden	Jane Tyrrell
Sidespeople	Stewart Henderson, Will Stevens
Reading, Prayers	Christine Steeds, Tom & Sally Radford
Refreshments	Sandra Argent, Jennifer Meade
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane Rowan Marshall

SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Andante tranquillo from Sonata no. 3</i> (Mendelssohn)
SG hymns	702, 124, 763
CC hymns	702, 806, 763
SG & CC setting	Addington
Communion anthem	<i>Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake</i> (Farrant)
Communion music	<i>Prière à Notre-Dame, from Suite</i> <i>Gothique</i> (Boëllmann)
Closing music	<i>Fugue in C minor, BWV 549</i> (Bach)

THE COLLECT

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Amen.

Welcome to the Parish

The Parish of Esher is for everyone.

The two church buildings, Christ Church in Esher and St George's in West End, have been beacons of faith, hope and love in Esher for well over a century.

Generations have come through the doors to celebrate their marriages, welcome their new-borns and grieve their losses – all of it embraced by the beauty of the worship offered in these houses of prayer week in and week out.

On Sundays we explore the riches of the Christian spiritual tradition through words and music, silence and sacrament. Some of us grew up in church and have never left. Some of us grew out of church, but are testing the waters again. Some of us have more questions than answers. All of us belong here.

You can also check-out some of our services on YouTube to get a flavour of what we're about, or just come along some Sunday at 10.30am in Christ Church or at 9.00am in St George's West End.

Whether you join online or in person, we hope you'll find a community committed to a thoughtful Faith, a hard-won Hope, and a generous Love.

You are very welcome.

READING Jeremiah 31.31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt – a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

GOSPEL John 12.20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. 'He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

ADDITIONAL LECTIONARY TEXTS

Hebrews 5.5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.' In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Psalms 51.1-12

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offences.
2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.
3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
4 Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.
5 And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgement.
6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.
7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
8 Purge me from my sin and I shall be pure; wash me and I shall be clean indeed.
9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.
10 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.
11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
12 Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me.

PARISH NOTICES

Lent Appeal 2024 - This year we are raising funds for much needed CCTV at Christ Church. For more details see separate Lent Appeal notice overleaf. You can donate via the card machine in Christ Church or online by scanning the QR code pew cards. Do think about using the appeal envelopes, including your details, so we can claim Gift Aid and enhance your donation.

Food donations - In Lent we're encouraging donations. They'll be split 50/50 between the Esher Lower Green Community Centre (www.lowergreen.org) and the local Foodbank (www.eastelmbridge.foodbank.org.uk). Please donate to the box in Christ Church.

Lent Reflections - Lent is a wonderful time to practice gratitude and lean into our faith through appreciation of what we have, and what's important to us - individually, as a community and as disciples of Jesus. We're encouraging everyone, children as well, to think about what they appreciate. Each Sunday we'll hand out a different question sheet to fill in and leave in church to go on our Lent Reflections board in Christ Church. We'll share all responses with the children and use to create our 2024 Lent Reflections cards to add to last year's collection which can be purchased now (£7.50 donation).

Christ Church Defibrillator - During a recent first aid course it was emphasised to all of the importance of a defibrillator in saving lives – from 6% to 75% survival. We're fundraising now for this life saving equipment. To donate to the First Aid Fund scan the QR code here or in either church, use the card machine in Christ Church or contact the Parish Office



M25 Junction 10 - For information, from 15 March 9pm to 18 March 6am the M25 will be closed between junction 10 and 11 both ways. Just in case you had not heard!

Celebrations! - Do please join us at Christ Church after the Palm Sunday service for cake and drinks to celebrate Darren's birthday. We would love to see you all. We're hoping to keep this a surprise so please do help us in keeping this quiet :) There are cards at both St George's and Christ Church for you to sign with your birthday wishes. We look forward to seeing you. Helen & Jane

Easter Crazy Crafts - You're invited to come crafting on Saturday 23 March at the Lower Green Community Centre, Farm Road. Drop in anytime, 10am-1pm, to enjoy Easter craft activities. It's a free family event – you'll be responsible for your children. The cafe will open. Children will get a free goodie bag!

Easter Gardens - Sunday School prepared an Easter Garden at Christ Church and buried a 'Hallelujah'. This celebratory word is removed from church liturgy in Lent and is traditionally marked by this ceremony and resurrected on Easter Day. The St George's folks will also be creating their own little Easter Garden shortly.

Sunday School - Today we'll be having the Easter story and doing some creative cross crafting. Huge thanks to Sally Gunn for leading Sunday School in Kath's absence.

Easter Eggs - We're offering Real Easter Eggs for sale in both churches - £5 each. The Real Easter Egg is the only one that includes an Easter story book, which features a brand new design for 2024, supports charitable projects and is made of Fairtrade chocolate.

Mothering Sunday Daffodils - We thank Waitrose, Buds & Blooms, Tesco and Garsons for the daffodil donations and to Kath and the team of helpers for creating the posies.

Youth Group - Youth Group will be back on Sunday 7 April in Christ Church, 4.30-6pm for more games and meaningful conversation.

Kid's Activities - Old St George's Church is offering free plant-based family activities on Wednesdays 3 and 11 April, 11am-3pm.

PARISH NOTICES

Music on the Green - Our next lunchtime concert will be on Wednesday 20 March when we welcome Alastair Penman and Jonathan Pease, bringing us a classically based programme, on saxophone and piano respectively, including music by Debussy, Satie and Demersseman.

Music in the Tower 2024 - This year our featured artist will be Emilija Karaliūtė, who is bringing us a programme entitled *'The Power of Nature - Melodies from the Forest'*. A former National Laureate of Lithuania, Emilija will perform on the kanklės, a Lithuanian folk instrument related to the zither. The music will be interspersed with selected readings for this contemplative time of year. There'll be four performances in the Tower Room of Christ Church during Holy Week – on Tuesday 26 March and Wednesday 27 March, at 1pm and 8pm. This year's admission price will be £15 per person, to include light refreshments after the performance. This annual event is always a highlight of the Esher cultural calendar and seats are strictly limited to 20 per performance. Please reserve your places now on the sign-up sheet in Christ Church or via the Parish Office!

Book Group - Our next meeting will be on Monday 25 March, 4pm, when we'll discuss *Unlawful Killings* by Wendy Joseph KC. A High Court Judge gives an inside view of the justice system sharing what it's like to witness humanity good and bad – at times very bad. To know more contact Revd Jonathan Andrew – 01372 464380 / jandrewesher@gmail.com

Weekly Organ Meditations - Barbara Wadley's organ series continues at St Mark's Church in Whiteley Village, KT12 4ES. Thursday lunchtimes, 12-12.30pm. Free admission. Retiring collection for the historic organ. Refreshments provided. Everyone welcome.

Parish Easter Card - Do pick up a copy of our Easter card for 2024. It gives details of all Easter services and events. We're also now delivering the card. For as many people as possible to receive our missive, we need to try to cover more roads in our Parish. To do this, please see Will Stevens who is coordinating delivery.

Holy Communion - The sacrament is distributed by 'simultaneous administration' – the priest touches the communion wafer in to the wine surface before giving it to the communicant.

Margot Williams - Very sadly we received news from Cornwall of the passing of dear Margot. She turned a 100 only a few months back! Margot was a stalwart of the Parish and a regular worshipper at St George's. We remember Margot's whole family in our prayers at this very difficult time. We'll share news of the family's plans soon.

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - Morning Prayer continues each Thursday at 9.30am. To join please contact the Parish Office.

Fellowship Group - The next meeting will be in Christ Church at 11am on Wednesday 3 April. We welcome all to pray, to reflect on their faith and to put the world to rights!

Royal Connections in Surrey Churches - The Churches Conservation Trust has arranged a guided tour of Old St George's, Christ Church, St George's in West End and Claremont House for Wednesday 29 May, 10am to 4.30pm. Rediscover Esher, its historical connections and how royalty has influenced local church design. For more details and to book go to: www.visitchurches.org.uk/what-s-on/hct-2024-surrey.html

Darren - The Rector's Adoption Leave will continue until Tuesday 20 November 2024. We pray that Darren and his wife have the time and space to grow and enjoy their new family. For all enquiries please do contact the Churchwardens or the Parish Office.

Our Parish Lent Appeal 2024

The Parish supported an international cause for its recent Advent Appeal, as is our custom. We're now supporting a local issue for our Lent Appeal.

The Diocese of Guildford is advocating local community needs, and we are following suit. As the old saying goes 'Charity begins at home' and we have a specific need following the unwelcome visit of an intruder a year ago. It was particularly unnerving for Darren and Jennifer who both happened to be in Christ Church at the time. The ensuing Police visit emphasised that our security was, to say the least, somewhat inadequate. So it is extremely fortunate the intruder made the decision to run off.

We have already made some improvements and at the recommendation of the Diocese, we called in a security company to survey Christ Church and to provide recommendations and a quote for the installation of a CCTV system with cameras at all our external doors.

We now have the required Diocese of Guildford approval to proceed with the work, but needless to say it is costly. We need to raise circa £5k to cover this cost, and this is the aim of our Lent Appeal in 2024.

Keeping Christ Church open outside of worship times is a key element in the link we have with the local community we serve. Our open doors provide people with a quiet place to pray, somewhere to sit and think and enables visitors to enjoy our historic and magnificent building.

We need to be able to open Christ Church in the safest way possible for visitors and for our staff and key volunteers working onsite.

It is for these reasons that we are aiming to raise the funds required for the CCTV cameras and installation, which will help to provide the extra security needed whilst the church is open for use by our community.

To donate to the Lent Appeal please scan the QR code here or on the pew cards in either church, use the card machine in Christ Church or contact the Parish Office. You can also donate via cash/cheque using the Gift Aid appeal envelopes.



Thank you for your support.
The Parochial Church Council of Esher

Parish of Esher youth
and the Lower Green community

Saturday 23 March, 10am-1pm

Easter CRAZY CRAFTS

Lower Green Community Centre
Farm Road, Esher

We warmly invite you to our free
Easter community crafting event!

Come anytime 10am-1pm to the Lower Green Community Centre (Recreation Ground, KT10 8AU) to make super creations, like greetings cards, Easter baskets, tissue flowers and our great Kindness Jars. Entry is free, the cafe will be open and kids get a goodie bag. Please look after your children at all times.



Parish of Esher - Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End
Tel: 01372 462282 Email: office@esherparish.org.uk Website: www.esherparish.org.uk

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Elizabeth Arnold, Michael Newbould, Pam & Jim Green, Gilly Barrett, Allen Palmer, Katherine S, Keith Howell-Jones, Gill Barnett, George Raine, Sebastian, Malcolm Sayer, Ann Willig

RIP Anniversaries: Loma Evans, Josephine Morgan, Charles Wilson, Geoffrey Venables, Audrey Simons, Peter Robinson

RIP: John Bosten, Betty Walker, Margot Williams, Jamie Bush

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

March		Time	Reading
Monday	18		Exodus 8.1-19, Psalm 73, Hebrews 11.17-31
Tuesday	19		Isaiah 11.1-10, Psalm 25, Matthew 13.54-end
Wednesday	20		Exodus 9.1-12, Psalm 55, Hebrews 12.3-13
Thursday	21	9.30-10.30am	Exodus 9.13-end, Psalm 40, Hebrews 12.14-end
Friday	22		Exodus 10, Psalm 22, Hebrews 13.1-16

LOOKING AHEAD

March		Time	Event
Sunday	17	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	18	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	20	1.15pm	Music on the Green lunchtime concert: Alastair Penman & Jonathan Pease, Christ Church
		7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	21	All day	Parish Office closed
		9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Saturday	23	10am-1pm	Easter Crazy Crafts, Lower Green Community Centre
Sunday	24	9am	Palm Sunday Service, St George's Church
		10.30am	Palm Sunday Service, Christ Church
Monday	25	4.30pm	Book Group, Christ Church
		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 On Adoption Leave until 20/11/24. For parish enquiries contact the Churchwardens or the Parish Office.	HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIESTS Revd Jonathan Andrew & Ven David Gerrard
	CHURCHWARDENS Helen Coulson & Jane Tyrrell	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 9am to 3.15pm, 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 midday on the preceding Wednesday. Thank you.		