

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

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

22 JULY 2018

WELCOME TO OUR SERVICES

If you are new to the parish or worshipping with us for the first time please introduce yourselves to a member of the clergy or one of our churchwardens or sidespeople. This sheet gives some words that will be needed in the services and notices about the life of the church communities. Please do take it home.

TODAY'S SERVICES

8.00am	Holy Communion at Christ Church led by Stefan
9.00am	Sung Communion at St George's led by Stefan
Reading & Prayers	Peter Bedford
Chalice	Ann Willig
10.30am	Parish Communion at Christ Church led by Stefan
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sides	Debbie Banks, Michael Banks, Wendy Tanqueray
Reading	Helen Coulson
Prayers	Juliet Philip
Chalice	Diana Johns, Geoff Walker

MUSIC

Anthem	<i>How lovely are thy dwellings</i> (Noel Rawsthorne)
9.00am	Sung Communion
Hymns	632 (omit v.5,6), 451, 588 (omit v.2)
10.30am	Parish Communion
Hymns	632 (omit v.5,6), 809, 451, 588 (omit v.2)
Organists	Keith Howell-Jones, Stuart Whatton

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen

READING Acts 7.1-60

Then the high priest asked him, 'Are these things so?' And Stephen replied:

'Brothers and fathers, listen to me. The God of glory appeared to our ancestor Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, "Leave your country and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you." Then he left the country of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After his father died, God had him move from there to this country in which you are now living. He did not give him any of it as a heritage, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as his possession and to his descendants after him, even though he had no child. And God spoke in these terms, that his descendants would be resident aliens in a country belonging to others, who would enslave them and maltreat them for four hundred years. "But I will judge the nation that they serve," said God, "and after that they shall come out and worship me in this place." Then he gave him the covenant of circumcision. And so Abraham became the father of Isaac and

circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

'The patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him, and rescued him from all his afflictions, and enabled him to win favour and to show wisdom when he stood before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who appointed him ruler over Egypt and over all his household. Now there came a famine throughout Egypt and Canaan, and great suffering, and our ancestors could find no food. But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our ancestors there on their first visit. On the second visit Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to Pharaoh. Then Joseph sent and invited his father Jacob and all his relatives to come to him, seventy-five in all; so Jacob went down to Egypt. He himself died there as well as our ancestors, and their bodies were brought back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had bought for a sum of silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.

'But as the time drew near for the fulfilment of the promise that God had made to Abraham, our people in Egypt increased and multiplied until another king who had not known Joseph ruled over Egypt. He dealt craftily with our race and forced our ancestors to abandon their infants so that they would die. At this time Moses was born, and he was beautiful before God. For three months he was brought up in his father's house; and when he was abandoned, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son. So Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in his words and deeds.

'When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his relatives, the Israelites. When he saw one of them being wronged, he defended the oppressed man and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian. He supposed that his kinsfolk would understand that God through him was rescuing them, but they did not understand. The next day he came to some of them as they were quarrelling and tried to reconcile them, saying, "Men, you are brothers; why do you wrong each other?" But the man who was wronging his neighbour pushed Moses aside, saying, "Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?" When he heard this, Moses fled and became a resident alien in the land of Midian. There he became the father of two sons.

'Now when forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in the flame of a burning bush. When Moses saw it, he was amazed at the sight; and as he approached to look, there came the voice of the Lord: "I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Moses began to tremble and did not dare to look. Then the Lord said to him, "Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. I have surely seen the mistreatment of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to rescue them. Come now, I will send you to Egypt." 'It was this Moses whom they rejected when they said, "Who made you a ruler and a judge?" and whom God now sent as both ruler and liberator through the angel who appeared to him in the bush. He led them out, having performed wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea, and in the wilderness for forty years. This is the Moses who said to

the Israelites, “God will raise up a prophet for you from your own people as he raised me up.” He is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received living oracles to give to us. Our ancestors were unwilling to obey him; instead, they pushed him aside, and in their hearts they turned back to Egypt, saying to Aaron, “Make gods for us who will lead the way for us; as for this Moses who led us out from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him.” At that time they made a calf, offered a sacrifice to the idol, and revelled in the works of their hands. But God turned away from them and handed them over to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets: “Did you offer to me slain victims and sacrifices forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? No; you took along the tent of Moloch, and the star of your god Rephan, the images that you made to worship; so I will remove you beyond Babylon.”

‘Our ancestors had the tent of testimony in the wilderness, as God directed when he spoke to Moses, ordering him to make it according to the pattern he had seen. Our ancestors in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our ancestors. And it was there until the time of David, who found favour with God and asked that he might find a dwelling-place for the house of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet says, “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?”

‘You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.’ When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

GOSPEL John 14.1-6

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

PARISH NOTICES

Stefan - Stefan will be instituted, inducted and installed as Rector of Christleton on Thursday 13 September at 7.30pm. You all are welcome; though I appreciate it is a long way. The parish have kindly offered accommodation to those who may need it. Please contact Stefan if you need this. **“My last Sunday in the parish will be 5 August.** It has been a great privilege to share life with you over the past, almost, five and a half years. Thank you. One of my prayers for us, going forward, is what bookends the Rule of St. Benedict. Father, help us to listen to the guidance of your Son..attend to the message we hear, and let it pierce our hearts. May we Lord value nothing whatsoever above Christ himself, and in this way be bound together in His love for us. Amen. With love, Stefan”

Stefan’s Last Sunday & Collection - On Sunday 5 August we will have our usual services at 9am at St George’s and at 10.30am at Christ Church with a Bring & Share Parish Party after the Christ Church service. All are welcome. Please sign-up at the back of church if you plan to attend and can bring some food. If you wish to contribute to a collection for Stefan please contact our churchwardens, Sandra Argent and Beverley Eastwood-Taylor.

Sunday 29 July - The 8am and 9am services will not run. The Prudential RideLondon cycle race is taking place on this Sunday so only the 10.30am service at Christ Church will run. For race information check the ‘Info Hub’ at www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk.

8am Services at Christ Church - During August the 8am services will be taking a break. The next 8am service will take place on Sunday 2 September.

Noah’s Ark - Now that the state schools have broken for the summer holidays our Sunday School, Noah’s Ark, will take a holiday too and will return in September.

Choir - The Christ Church choir will take a breather in August to rest their vocal chords!

West End Village Show - Please save the day, Saturday 25 August. Last year St. George's, West End and Christ Church together raised just over £2,000 with their legendary cake stall and afternoon cream teas. We would love to exceed that figure but we need your help. Can you spare 1, 2, 3 hours on the Friday or Saturday or, alternatively, you can help by baking cakes or scones. Please sign-up at the back of the church. Thank you!

Ecclesiastical Insurance will donate £130 to our Parish - To celebrate their 130th anniversary Ecclesiastical Insurance are offering to donate £130 when a new home insurance policy is taken out. All you have to do is quote 'Trust130' when you take out a new home insurance policy with them before 31 December 2018 and they will arrange the rest. Call Ecclesiastical Insurance on 0800 7830130 to find out more and get a quote and please don’t forget to mention the Parish of Esher. Every little will help! Thank you.

Family Cooking Workshops - Surrey Community Action and the Lower Green Community Centre are organizing some Family Cooking Workshops for 6-10 year olds. The dates are Tuesday 21, Wednesday 22, Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 August, 10am to 1pm. They are keen to have a few more volunteers. If you can help please contact Joanne on joannas@surreyca.org.uk or 07719323573. Learning to cook easy, fun food!

Please stay for coffee or tea after the service.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Naomi Shaw, Tara Duffy

RIP Anniversaries: Rose Mason, Rosemary Simmons, Edward de Haan, May Roberts, Annie Dixon

RIP: Mike Simpson, Ian Maclean

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Taken from the Church of England Lectionary - readings for Morning Prayer (MP) are said at the times below. All are welcome to attend daily prayer at Christ Church.

	July	Time	Reading
Monday	23		1 Samuel 16.14-end; Ps 30; Luke 8.1-3
Tuesday	24	9.00-9.30am	1 Samuel 15.1-23; Ps 36; Luke 23.26-43
Wednesday	25	9.00-9.30am	2 Kings 1.9-15; Ps 7; Luke 9.46-56
Thursday	26	9.00-9.30am	1 Samuel 17.1-30; Ps 37; Luke 23.56b-24.12
Friday	27	9.00-9.30am	1 Samuel 17.31-54; Ps 31; Luke 24.13-35

LOOKING AHEAD

	July	Time	Event
Sunday	22	2.00pm	Wedding: Claudia Manolache & Harry Thomas
Monday	23	11.30am	Funeral: Mike Simpson
Tuesday	24	7.30pm	The Bible Course, Christ Church
Wednesday	25	8.00pm	St George's Church Committee Meeting, Member's home
Thursday	26	10.00am	Fellowship Group
Sunday	29	All day	Prudential RideLondon
		10.30am	United Parish Service, Christ Church
August		Time	Event
Sunday	5	9.00am	Stefan's Leaving Service, St George's
		10.30am	Stefan's Leaving Service, Christ Church
Saturday	25	All day	Bank Holiday
		12.30pm	West End Village Show, West End Green
		12.30pm	Wedding Blessing: Robert & Kate Brown
September		Time	Event
Tuesday	4	9.45am	Esher High School Y7 Welcome Service
Wednesday	5	9.00am	Esher High School Welcome Services
		8.00pm	Parochial Church Council (PCC) Meeting

CONTACTS

RECTOR Revd Dr Stefan Collier Tel 01372 462611 Email rector.esher@gmail.com Day off is Monday	PARISH OF ESHER Website www.esherparish.org.uk Twitter www.twitter.com/esherparish Christ Church Open Every day, 9am to 3pm
PARISH OFFICE Christ Church, Church Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 8QS Tel 01372 462282 Email office@esherparish.org.uk Office Open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 10-12am	

All main events at Christ Church unless stated otherwise