

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

23 FEBRUARY 2025

CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Communion	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 9am at St George's West End (SG)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reading, Prayers	Charles Hawkshaw-Burn, Peter Bedford
Musicians	Oliver Macfarlane
Eucharist & Holy Baptism (live streamed)	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Helen Coulson
Sidespeople	Karen Sarkissian, Janie McCulloch
Reading	Janie McCulloch
Refreshments	Helen Griffin, Wendy Tanqueray
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane, Robert Cunningham

SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Adagio e mesto from Sonata in D</i> (C P E Bach)
SG / CC hymns	116, 713, 475
SG / CC settings	Addington / Coulson
Communion anthem	<i>Let all mortal flesh keep silence</i> (Cleobury)
Closing music	<i>Allegro in B flat</i> (Mendelssohn)

THE COLLECT

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our creator,
by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

In today's Gospel reading (Luke 8.22-25) Jesus is portrayed as one who has authority to calm the storm. He is the one who can rebuke the wind and the raging waves. It's a remarkable episode which is all the more meaningful when we recall how in Jewish thought water signifies so much more than just H₂O! As priest and author Jeffrey John reminds us, the sea was considered the natural abode of demons.

'[That is why] ... when Jesus calms the storm he addresses it as if it were a quasi-personal force. He uses exactly the same word that he used to the demoniac in the synagogue – a curious verb, which means literally "be muzzled" – in the way one might subdue a rabid animal ... the calming of the storm shows Jesus' power over the forces of supernatural evil just as clearly as the explicit healing of the possessed.'
(The Meaning in the Miracles).

The implication, therefore, of Jesus's control of the stormy seas is this: here, in the life of a Rabbi from Nazareth, we can see the power of God at work. Here – as Saint Paul put it – we see how 'at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.' (Philippians 2.10)

God bless



READING Revelation 4

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.' At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and cornelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal. Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing, 'Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.' And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, 'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.'

GOSPEL Luke 8.22-25

One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

Other Lectionary Texts

Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-end page 2 (OT)

Psalms 65 page 557 (OT)

The page numbers are given for Bibles that are available from the sidespeople.

PARISH NOTICES

Choral Evensong - Guildford Cathedral Choir, directed by the cathedral's own director of music Katherine Dienes-Williams, will sing Choral Evensong in Christ Church on Sunday 9 March, 6pm, with specially chosen repertoire for Women Composers Sunday. Considered to be one of the great riches of the Anglican tradition, Evensong combines music, scripture and prayer in a way which many experience as a little glimpse of heaven. Don't miss it!

ECS Prayer Book - On Sunday 2 March, at the 10.30am All Age Service, we will celebrate the publication of the Esher Church School Prayer Book. All children had the opportunity to write a prayer or reflection for the new volume, with chapters for each year group and artwork from some of the fantastic artists in school. Copies of the book will be available to purchase on the day.

Sunday School - This week, we will be hearing how Jesus calmed the storm on lake Galilee and creating our own stormy scene from the Bible passage.

Book Group - At our next meeting at 4pm on Monday 24 February we'll discuss *Hillbilly Elegy*, US Vice President JD Vance's memoir of impoverished white working-class life and the loss of the American Dream. Contact Revd Jonathan Andrew for more information – 07968 765188 / jandrewesh@gmail.com.

Music on the Green - Wednesday's superb trumpet recital attracted a bumper audience of 100 and raised about £360 for parish funds. On Wednesday 19 March come and hear the Ivory Piano Duo tickle the ivories with a lively piano four-hands programme of music by Debussy, Busoni, Saint-Saëns and Ravel. Light lunch from 12.30pm, concert from 1.15pm.

Peace & Contemplation - The Wonder of Hope. Thursday 6 March, 8pm, at Christ Church. An evening of inspiring readings, beautiful music and reflective silence.

Lent Group - This year we're exploring Rowan Williams' book '*Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer*'. Very conveniently it falls into four short but stimulating chapters, which we'll discuss on Sundays 16, 23 and 30 March and 6 April from 12 to 12.45pm in Christ Church. So, grab a coffee after the service and join in! The book is available from the usual online and offline outlets as well as the publisher's website: spckpublishing.co.uk. It would be good if everyone could aim to read each week's chapter before we meet.

Church Development Plan - Many thanks to all who submitted their thoughts online or on paper. Your input is very much appreciated and will inform the PCC's discussions in the coming weeks. Watch this space for updates as the new CDP is prepared.

New Electoral Roll - Under Church of England rules a parish's Electoral Roll must be completely renewed – basically begun again from scratch – every six years and 2025 is that year. In other words, if you are on the current roll you must apply to be on the new one. And if you are not on the current roll you are very welcome to apply. Application forms are available in both churches. The final date to be added to the new roll is Sunday 27 April.

Ash Wednesday - Our Ash Wednesday Choral Eucharist will be taking place in Christ Church on Wednesday 5 March at 8pm.

Fellowship Group - The next meeting will be in Christ Church at 10.30am on Wednesday 5 March. Everyone is welcome to join.

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - Morning Prayer continues each Thursday at 9.30am.

St George's Garden - We're working to create a white section in the garden. Donations of surplus garden plants or new ones would be appreciated. Please contact Andrea Lindow so we can arrange to collect/dig out plants.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Michael Newbould, Gilly Barrett, Allen Palmer, Pam & Jim Green, George Raine, Katherine S, Keith Howell-Jones, John Cheetham, Sebastian, Ruramayi, Karen Harris, David Gerrard, Sienna Ravel, Katie Clark

RIP Anniversaries: Hugh Eccles, Albert Hayhoe, Doreen Trimmer, Stephen Bush, 'Teddy' Baumann, Denise Green, Clive Sexton, Suzanne Collins

RIP: Pamela Gilbertson, David Rolfe, Elizabeth Arnold

Baptism: Matilda Rose Christie-Mew

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

February	Time	Reading
Monday 24		Ecclesiastes 7.1-14; Psalm 71; John 19.1-16
Tuesday 25		Ecclesiastes 7.15-end; Psalm 73; John 19.17-30
Wednesday 26		Ecclesiastes 8; Psalm 77; John 19.31-end
Thursday 27	9.30-10.30am	Ecclesiastes 9; Psalm 78.1-39; John 20.1-10
Friday 28		Ecclesiastes 11.1-8; Psalm 55; John 20.11-18

LOOKING AHEAD

February	Time	Event
Sunday 23	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
	10.30am	Eucharist & Holy Baptism, Christ Church
	12.15pm	Interment of Elizabeth Arnold, Christ Church
Monday 24	4pm	Book Group, Christ Church
	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday 26	7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday 27	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
	10am	Funeral of Pamela Gilbertson, St George's Church
March	Time	Event
Sunday 2	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
	10.30am	All Age Eucharist, Christ Church
Monday 3	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 01372 461088 rector@esherparish.org.uk Rector's day off is Monday	HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIEST Revd Jonathan Andrew 07968 765188
	CHURCHWARDENS Helen Coulson 07506 701454 Jane Tyrrell 07971 698299	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 9.30am to 3.45pm, 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 pewsheet by 10am on the preceding Tuesday. Thank you.		