

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

23 MARCH 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	Jackie Andrew
Musician	Stuart Whatton
Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Helen Coulson
Sidespeople	Angela Sweet, Ivy Tang
Reading, Prayers	Brian Elliott, David Stark
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane, Theo Tang
Refreshments	Sandra Argent, Helen Griffin
SERVICE MUSIC	
Opening music	<i>Andante from Sonata no. 6</i> (Mendelssohn)
SG & CC hymns	593, 621, 652
SG & CC setting	Addington
Communion anthem	<i>Almighty Lord and God of love</i> (Nathaniel Giles)
Closing music	<i>Dialogue for Trumpet & Larigot</i> (Couperin)
THE COLLECT	
Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.	
THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER	
Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.	

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Today's reading from the prophet Isaiah opens with the invitation: 'Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters!' It is a gracious summons to return to the One who alone can satisfy our eternal longings. However, as Daniel M. DeBevoise points out, the difficulty is that we sometimes forget just how thirsty we are. He writes:

'In my home climate of central Florida during the summer, when the humidity is so intense that you step outside and immediately begin to perspire, you know when you are thirsty ... [however] in the southwestern United States, where the humidity is low, you may be thirsty and not even know it. Your perspiration evaporates so quickly that you do not realise you are becoming dehydrated ... In Grand Canyon National Park there are signs strategically placed along the trails that remind you to stop and drink water. "Stop! Drink water. You are thirsty, whether you realise it or not."'

Discerning our true thirst is a central theme of this season of Lent. This is our annual opportunity to prayerfully and carefully distinguish between what nourishes us and what simply drugs us. Most of all, Lent is an invitation to turn to Christ who said: "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink." (John 7.37-38). (Feasting on the Word)

God bless



READING Isaiah 55.1-9

The Lord says this:

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

GOSPEL Luke 13.1-9

There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

Other Lectionary Texts

Psalm 63.1-9 page 556 (OT)

1 Corinthians 10.1-13 page 184 (NT)

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

PARISH NOTICES

Mothering Sunday - On Sunday 30 March we will give thanks during our services for our mothers and those who have played a nurturing and caring role in our lives. We'll also remember those for whom Mothering Sunday is a day of grief, pain and sadness.

Sunday School - We're creating pretty flower garlands to decorate Christ Church and for the children to take home for Mothering Sunday.

Easter Leaflet - Our leaflet bundles can be collected from Christ Church. We'd love them to be delivered across Esher before March 30, Mothering Sunday. Contact Will Stevens or the Parish Office if you can help.

Real Easter Eggs - These eggs are for sale in both churches - £6 each. They come with an Easter story book, are made of Fairtrade chocolate and support charitable projects.

Lent Group - This year we're exploring Rowan Williams' book *'Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer'*. We'll discuss the second chapter on Sunday, 12-12.45pm. We'll next meet on 30 March and 6 April. Please read each week's chapter beforehand.

Music in the Tower 2025 - This year's artist is the guitarist Nathaniel Rosales-Merkies. The highlight of this specially curated programme of music and readings will be a performance of the iconic Chaconne from Bach's Partita in D minor. There'll be four sittings on Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 April, at 1pm and 8pm. The admission price is £15 per person, including light refreshments. Seats are strictly limited to 20 per performance. Please reserve your places on the sign-up sheets either in church or via the Parish Office!

Book Group - We next meet on Monday 31 March, 4pm, in Christ Church, to discuss Julia Kelly's historical novel *The Last Garden in England*. Contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 07968 765188 / jandrewesher@gmail.com.

Confirmation - A Deanery Confirmation Service will be held at St Peter's Hersham on Sunday 22 June at 5pm. Please speak to the Rector if you're interested in being confirmed. Preparation sessions will begin in May.

CDP Update - Many thanks to all who contributed their ideas to the PCC's preparation of a new Church Development Plan. It is hoped that the document will be finalised in time for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 18 May.

Lent Appeal 2025 - This year our Lent Appeal will raise funds for the Princess Alice Hospice – our local hospice caring for patients and families through illness and bereavement for as long as needed. We are delighted to welcome their Chaplain, Steve Nolan, to both services today. Please use the appeal envelopes, pay by card or via this QR code and remember to add your details so we can claim Gift Aid to enhance your donation.



Thanksgiving & Celebration Service & Supper on Sunday 4 May at 6pm -

We are holding a special service of thanksgiving and celebration for all our wonderful volunteers, who work so hard to keep our two churches running. After the service we hope you will join us for supper in Christ Church, provided free as a token of our thanks for all you do. Please could you complete the form, found at the back of the church, and return to Jane, Helen, Andrea, Bridget or the Parish Office. Alternatively, please email the Parish Office with the appropriate information.

Lower Green Community Centre - They are in much need of some specific items for their Foodbank. Please see the list on the foodbank boxes at the back of both churches. Thank you so much.

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, Armand Sarkissian.

RIP Anniversaries: Peter Robinson, Daisy Slade, Edna Worsfold, Robert Morath, Hazel Hunter, Keith Duffy, David Quelch, Peter Wood, Janet James

RIP: David Rolfe, Sandra Brown

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

March		Time	Reading
Monday	24		Jeremiah 11.1-17; Psalm 5; John 7.37-52
Tuesday	25		1 Samuel 2.1-10; Psalm 113; Romans 5.12-end
Wednesday	26		Jeremiah 13.1-11; Psalm 38; John 8.12-30
Thursday	27	9.30-10.30am	Jeremiah 14; Psalm 56; John 8.31-47
Friday	28		Jeremiah 15.10-end; Psalm 22; John 8.48-end

LOOKING AHEAD

March		Time	Event
Sunday	23	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		Midday	Lent Group, Christ Church
		12.15pm	Interment of Sandra Brown, Christ Church
Monday	24	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	26	10.05am	Esher High School Wedding Lesson, Christ Church
		7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	27	9.30am	Parish Office closed
			Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday	30	9am	Mothering Sunday Service, St George's Church
		10.30am	Mothering Sunday Service, Christ Church
		Midday	Lent Group, Christ Church
Monday	31	All day	Parish Office closed
		4pm	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 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 pewsheets by 10am on the preceding Tuesday. Thank you.