

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

CHRISTMAS EVE

24 DECEMBER 2017

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.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this
present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

TODAY'S SERVICES

9.00am	Sung Communion at St George's led by David and Stefan	
Reading & Prayers	Gerard Harper	
Chalice	Ann Willig	
10.30am	Parish Communion at Christ Church led by Nate and Stefan	
Churchwarden	Will Stevens	
Sides	Denise Howells, Caroline McDade	
Reading	Helen Coulson	
Prayers	Colin Martin	
Chalice	Denise Howells	
3.00pm	Crib Service at St George's led by Nate	
4.00pm	Crib Service at Christ Church led by Dave Whymark	
11.30pm	Christmas Mass at Christ Church led by Nate and Stefan	
Churchwarden	John Sandison	
Sides	Volunteers required	
Reading	Jan Sayer	
Prayers	Helen Coulson	
Chalice	Geoff Walker	
MUSIC		
Hymns	9.00am	395, 526, 295
	10.30am	395, 526, 295, 552
Carols	11.30pm	377, 400, 253, 444, 357
Organists	Keith Howell-Jones, Stuart Whatton, Nicholas Dibb-Fuller	

READING 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.' But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following

the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

PSALM 89.1-8

1 I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, for ever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

2 I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

3 You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:

4 "I will establish your descendants for ever, and build your throne for all generations." ' *Selah*

5 Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.

6 For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord? Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord,

7 a God feared in the council of the holy ones, great and awesome above all that are around him?

8 O Lord God of hosts, who is as mighty as you, O Lord? Your faithfulness surrounds you.

GOSPEL Luke 1.26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

PARISH NOTICES

Happy Christmas - May David, Nate and I wish you a very happy Christmas and a blessed new year. Thank you for another wonderful year together, sharing our lives and working together to create God's community here in Esher and West End.

Festival of Lessons & Carols - Our thanks to Stuart Whatton, Keith Howell-Jones, the choir and the readers for their hard work and dedication.

Christmas Eve Crib Services - This afternoon may we invite all children and their parents/carers to our Crib services - 3pm at St George's, West End and 4pm at Christ Church. Feel free to come as angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, donkeys, wise men and women etc, as we recount and celebrate the Christmas story together.

Advent Appeal 2017 - This year we are raising money for the Children's Society, a charity specializing in providing direct, intense support to the most vulnerable 10-18 year olds across the country. Donation envelopes for the Children's Society are in your pew and will be collected through Advent. Please place envelopes in the collection bag or pass to a Churchwarden or sidesperson. If you have last year's collection boxes at home please bring them in so they can be added to this year's appeal. Thank you.

Noah's Ark - Noah's Ark has docked for the year and will set sail again on Sunday 14 January. Thank you to all our leaders and supporters this year.

Toddler's Praise - Toddler's Praise starts again on Tuesday 16 January at 10.30am. Thank you to Jan Sayer and her team this past year.

Services on Sunday 31 December - Please note both the 8am and 9am (since it is the fifth Sunday) will not run. The 10.30am service will run as a Parish Communion service as usual.

Car Parking at Christ Church - The car park barrier will be upgraded in January 2018. All barrier passes currently in circulation will no longer operate beyond this date. Passes will not be replaced unless you are involved in active programmes at Christ Church. This is in an attempt to restrict parking to those who need it most. If you are in absolute need of a replacement pass in January 2018 please email me at sargent@mcguirewoods.com.

Youth Alpha - We are pleased to share with you that we plan to run our first Youth Alpha Course early next year led by Dave and Nate. It will take place at Esher Church School on Sunday evenings. Date to be confirmed. Open to Year 7 and above. Any questions or to register your interest please email Dave or Nate at davewhymark@aol.com and nate.esherparish@gmail.com.

Parish Office - The office is closed until 29 December and also 1 to 4 January inclusive.

Please stay for coffee or tea after the service.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Mike Simpson

RIP Anniversaries: Antony Fraser, Edith May, Janet Bedford, Kenneth Brookes

RIP: Kathleen Moreton

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 join Nate and Stefan in daily prayer at Christ Church.

December		Time	Reading
Christmas Day			Isaiah 62.1-5; Ps 110; Matthew 1.18-end
Tuesday	26		Jeremiah 26.12-15; Ps 13; Acts 6
Wednesday	27		Exodus 33.12-end; Ps 21; 1 John 2.1-11
Thursday	28		Baruch 4.21-27; Ps 36; Matthew 18.1-10
Friday	29		Jonah 1; Ps 19; Colossians 1.1-14

LOOKING AHEAD

December		Time	Event
Sunday	24	9.00am	Sung Communion, St George's, West End
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church, Esher
		3.00pm	Crib Service, St George's, West End
		4.00pm	Crib Service, Christ Church, Esher
		6.00pm	West End Carol Service, St George's, West End
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass, Christ Church, Esher
Christmas Day		9.00am	Christmas Communion, St George's, West End
		10.30am	Christmas Communion, Christ Church, Esher
Tuesday	26	All day	Bank Holiday
Wednesday	27	All day	Parish Office closed 27-28 December inclusive
January		Time	Event
Monday	1	All day	Bank Holiday
Tuesday	2	All day	Parish Office closed 2-4 January inclusive
Tuesday	16	10.30am	Toddlers' Praise
Wednesday	17	12.30pm	Music on the Green lunchtime concert: Eos Trio (clarinet, violin & piano)
		8.00pm	Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting

CONTACTS

RECTOR Revd Dr Stefan Collier Tel 01372 462611 Email rector.esher@gmail.com Rector's 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
CURATE Revd Nate Kurz Tel 020 8398 6746 Email nate.esherparish@gmail.com Curate's day off is Friday	PARISH OFFICE Christ Church, Church Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 8QS Tel 01372 462282 Email office@esherparish.org.uk Office Open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 10am to 12am

All main events at Christ Church unless stated otherwise