

# PARISH OF ESHER

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

*Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love*

CHRISTMAS DAY

25 DECEMBER 2023

## CHURCH SERVICES

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Christmas Communion | Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 9am at St George's Church (SG) |
| Preacher            | Revd Jonathan Andrew  |
| Reading, Prayers    | Peter Bedford   |
| Musician            | Oliver Macfarlane   |
| Christmas Communion | Led by Revd William Allberry at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC) |
| Preacher            | Revd William Allberry   |
| Churchwarden        | Jane Tyrrell  |
| Sidespeople         | Will Stevens, Martin Fuller                                   |
| Reading, Prayers    | Brian Elliott, Jane Tyrrell                                   |
| Musicians           | Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane                             |

## SERVICE MUSIC

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Opening music    | <i>Der Tag ist so freudenreich, BWV 605</i> (Bach)                    |
| SG hymns         | 78 (v.1,2,6,7), 82 (omit v.4), 66                                     |
| CC hymns         | 78 (v.1,2,3,6,7), 82 (omit v.4), 66                                   |
| SG & CC settings | Addington, Coulson  |
| Communion music  | <i>Infant holy, Joy to the world</i>                                  |
| Closing music    | <i>Fugato &amp; Presto Finale from Variations sur un Noël</i> (Dupré) |

## THE ADVENT WREATH PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Light of light,  
you have come among us.  
Help us who live by your light  
to shine as lights in your world.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
**Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.  
**Amen.**

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord.  
**Amen.**

## A Prayer for Christmas

This simple, beautiful, even childlike Christmas prayer, written by Robert Louis Stevenson, helps us to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. It encourages us to share in the joy of Christmas, to focus on kindness, happiness, gratefulness and forgiveness.

*Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

God sent his son Jesus to be the light of the world, to shine through the darkness. In Jesus' own words – "I came that they may have life and have it in abundance." May this gift of life, love and peace prevail and may each one of us shine brightly in our lives, caring for others, caring for God's creation, caring for our world.

A very warm welcome to our visitors and all our regulars over this Christmas period. We wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas.

## READING Titus 3.4-7

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## GOSPEL Luke 2.1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,

praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## ADDITIONAL LECTIONARY TEXT

### Isaiah 62.6-end

Thus says the Lord: Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.' They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.'

## PARISH NOTICES

**Peace and Joy at Christmas** - As we come to the end of another year, we want to thank you for all your support, prayers, help and encouragement in 2023. We know that many in our community are facing dark and difficult times right now, but we pray that wherever you are the peace and joy of Christmas will be with you. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.' (John 1.5).

**Advent Appeal 2023** - The Archbishops of Canterbury and Jerusalem, Justin Welby and Hosam Naoum, support a joint appeal for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. This supports the Anglican ministries in Gaza, Palestine and Israel, via donations to the 'Friends of the Holy Land Appeal'. Our Advent Appeal supports this cause. Donate via envelopes, online or by card.

**Sunday 31 December** - There will be just one Holy Communion service in Christ Church.

**Sunday School** - Sunday School wishes you a very merry Christmas and peaceful New Year, returning on Sunday 7 January. We look forward to welcoming our wonderful children back in 2024! Thank you.

**Youth Group** - The next get-together will be in Christ Church on Sunday 7 January, 4.30-6pm, when we'll learn about intuition, a lovely way to tap into our spirituality and listen to what God is telling us.

**Parish Giving** - Donate today via cash, the card machine in Christ Church or online by scanning the QR code on the little cards in Christ Church and that will soon be in St George's.

**Parish Communications** - Every Friday we send an email with Sunday's pewsheet and order of service. To receive please complete an Electoral Roll form or a contact form.

**Christ Church Barrier** - The new barrier is having a few issues. We'll leave it up for now.

**Thank you** - Thank you for our shared ministry together over the last year, with particular gratitude to the pastoral team, the choir, organists, bellringers, flower arrangers, MOTG organisers and caterers, gardeners, coffee and rota teams for all their hospitality, organisation, help and overall dedication. With thanks again, it is very much appreciated.

**Darren** - The Rector's Adoption Leave will continue until Tuesday 20 November 2024. For parish enquiries please contact the Churchwardens or the Parish Office.

**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.

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

**Jane's Granddaughter** - On December 31 little Alba will be baptised in Christ Church. Everyone is invited to celebrate with cake.

**Parish Office** - The office is closed for the holidays. It will re-open on Tuesday 9 January. Should you need any help please contact the churchwardens. All office phone calls and emails will be redirected to them.

**Fellowship Group** - The next meeting will be on Wednesday 10 January at 11am.

**Book Group** - On Monday 22 January we'll discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. If you'd like to join us, just turn up or contact Revd Jonathan Andrew – 01372 464380 / jandrewesher@gmail.com

**Parish Winter Help & Support** - Now that winter is upon us we all need to look out for each other. Family and friends should keep in contact with vulnerable and elderly people. Do contact our Pastoral Team for help and go to Surrey County Council's website: [www.surreycc.gov.uk/adults/care-and-support/contact](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/adults/care-and-support/contact)

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

**RIP Anniversaries:** Jo Stork, Antony Fraser, Edith May, Doreen Hinds, Sheilagh Lowry, Janet Bedford, Kenneth Brookes

**RIP:** June Freeman, Patricia Legat, Barbara Welham, Joy Jenner, Hannelore Schulze, Andy Peake, John Treneman, Stuart Williams, John Bosten

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

| 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, Psalm 21, 1 John 2.1-11 |
| Thursday      | 28 | 9.30-10.30am | Baruch 4.21-27, Psalm 36, Matthew 18.1-10 |
| Friday        | 29 |              | Jonah 1, Psalm 19, Colossians 1.1-14      |

## LOOKING AHEAD

| December      |    | Time    | Event   |
|---------------|----|---------|---|
| Christmas Day |    | 9am     | Christmas Communion, St George's Church         |
|               |    | 10.30am | Christmas Communion, Christ Church              |
| Tuesday       | 26 | All day | Boxing Day Bank Holiday                         |
| Thursday      | 28 | 9.30am  | Morning Prayer, Zoom                            |
| Sunday        | 31 | 10.30am | Eucharist & Holy Baptism Service, Christ Church |
| January       |    | Time    | Event   |
| Monday        | 1  | All day | New Year's Day Bank Holiday                     |
| Wednesday     | 3  | 7.45pm  | Bellringing practice, Christ Church             |
| Thursday      | 4  | 9.30am  | Morning Prayer, Zoom                            |
| Sunday        | 7  | 9am     | Holy Communion, St George's Church              |
|               |    | 10.30am | Parish Communion, Christ Church                 |
|               |    | 4.30pm  | Youth Group, Christ Church                      |

## CONTACTS

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| <b>PARISH OF ESHER</b><br>Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS<br>St George's Church, West End Lane, Esher, KT10 8LF<br>Tel 01372 462282 Email <a href="mailto:office@esherparish.org.uk">office@esherparish.org.uk</a><br>Website <a href="http://www.esherparish.org.uk">www.esherparish.org.uk</a><br>Facebook <a href="http://www.facebook.com/EsherParish">www.facebook.com/EsherParish</a><br>YouTube <a href="http://www.youtube.com/esherparish">www.youtube.com/esherparish</a><br>Instagram <a href="http://www.instagram.com/esherparish/">www.instagram.com/esherparish/</a> | <b>RECTOR</b><br>Revd Darren McCallig<br>On Adoption Leave until 20/11/24.<br>For parish enquiries contact the Churchwardens or the Parish Office. | <b>HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIESTS</b><br>Revd Jonathan Andrew & Ven David Gerrard  |
|  | <b>CHURCHWARDENS</b><br>Helen Coulson & Jane Tyrrell   | <b>CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES WORKER</b><br>Kathryn Chapman<br><a href="mailto:youth@esherparish.org.uk">youth@esherparish.org.uk</a> |
| <b>PARISH ADMINISTRATOR</b> Melanie Williams <b>OFFICE HOURS</b> 9am to 3.15pm, Monday to Wednesday & Friday   |  |  |
| Please submit information and notices for inclusion in the Sunday pewsheet by midday on the preceding Wednesday. Thank you.  |  |  |