

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

29 NOVEMBER 2020

CHURCH SERVICES

Christ Church	Parish Communion at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reading & Prayers	Jane Tyrrell
Musicians	Oliver Macfarlane, Stuart Whatton

MUSIC

Opening Music	<i>Nun komm, der heiden Heiland, BWV 659</i> (Bach)
Hymns	A&M 30 (tune <i>Cross of Jesus</i>) A&M 41 (tune <i>Helmsley</i>)
Anthem	<i>Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme</i> (Bach)
Closing Music	<i>Prelude & Fugue in B flat, BWV 560</i> (Bach)

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Advent - so the theologians tell us - is about looking back as well as looking forward. It's about looking back to the first Christmas some 2000 years ago and the birth of the Christ-child. And, it's also about looking forward to that day when the same Christ will return 'to judge the living and the dead.'

That's all very true, as long as - with all this looking back and looking forward - we remember to look around us right now! As Michael Mayne (former dean of Westminster Abbey) puts it:

'We don't worship an absentee Christ who has come and gone again and may one day return, but the Christ who is present in his Spirit wherever his followers meet - the Christ encountered in people, in acts of love, in prayer, in the breaking of bread. And as for judgement we are judged *now daily* - indeed we pass judgement on ourselves - by our actions and words and relationships, all of which show whether we choose to stay shut up in our own lonely darkness or respond to the light.'
(*Responding to the Light*)

So, this Advent and Christmas - as we celebrate the 'first coming' and await the second, let us not forget the Christ who is ever present with us, right here and right now.

God bless,



READING Isaiah 64.1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

PSALM 80.1-8

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!
3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

6 You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

8 You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

GOSPEL Mark 13.24-end

Jesus said 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.

HYMNS

Come, thou long expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fear and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now your gracious kingdom bring.

By thy own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone:
by thy all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Lo, he comes with clouds descending

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:

Alleluia!

God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia!

Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

PARISH NOTICES

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update -

Following the Government's announcement that all of Surrey will move into Tier 2 from Wednesday 2 December, we can restart in-person public worship in Christ Church on Sunday 6 December and in St George's on Sunday 13 December. Christ Church will continue to open (generally speaking) for private prayer on Wednesdays, 10am-4pm, and on Sundays, 12 noon to 4pm. In both church buildings there are safety guidelines to be followed and social distancing to be maintained. Please read the instructions upon entering. Thank you.

COVID Community Champions - Central Surrey Voluntary Action (CSVA) together with Elmbridge Borough Council are looking to recruit a number of volunteer COVID Community Champions to help disseminate up-to-date COVID information within Elmbridge. Please contact CSVA if you're interested via www.centralsurreyvoluntaryaction.co.uk

Help & the Parish Office - The office will continue to work remotely. If you need support, do please let us know via the office email and telephone. For urgent enquiries contact the Rector, the Revd Darren McCallig (rector@esherparish.org.uk or 01372 461088) or a churchwarden - Helen Coulson on 07506 701454 or Sandra Argent on 07973 909152.

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - Morning Prayer continues every Wednesday, at 9am, led by our Rector, Darren, on Zoom. All are very welcome to join.

Zoom Bible Reflection & Prayer - At 9am on Tuesday mornings, there is a time of Bible reflection and prayer. All are welcome to join this informal one hour Zoom gathering. Contact the Parish Office for details.

Christmas Shoeboxes - 'Link to Hope' is a Christian charity that believes in distributing love to those in need regardless of colour, creed, background or religion. Every year they organise a shoe box appeal for those living in desperately difficult circumstances in Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine. Many thanks to those who have contributed to this year's appeal. Today (29 November) is the very last day to return your filled and wrapped shoeboxes. Please leave them in Christ Church this afternoon from 12 noon to 4pm, when the church is open for private prayer. If this is not possible for you, then please contact with the Rector ASAP.

2020 Advent Appeal - This Advent we will be raising funds for the Samaritans, a long established UK charity whose focus is to provide emotional support to anyone in distress and is struggling to cope. Their vision is that fewer people die by suicide. Every year, Samaritans volunteers spend over a million hours answering calls for help via their unique 24-hour listening service. To help please send in your donation to the Parish Office or use the Advent Appeal envelopes in our churches. Thank you.

Delivery of Christmas Light - We are producing a new Parish Christmas card designed to spread light in the darkness. We are very keen to recruit volunteers to deliver these cards to homes in Esher. Please contact Will Stevens or the Parish Office if you can help in anyway. Thank you.

Cards for Good Causes - It is still possible to support the cause of your choice by visiting its online shop at www.cardsforcharity.co.uk. You can order for delivery, to click and collect and also send online cards with a charitable donation. It is hoped that the shop itself will open from December 2 in St George's, Esher.

Christmas - With the return of in-person public worship, the line-up and content of Christmas services in both Christ Church and St George's is being finalised. However, with social distancing requirements, capacity in our buildings will be greatly reduced and so it'll be necessary to have a booking system. Details of how to book will be circulated to all those on the parish email list early next week. If you're not sure you're on that list, please contact the Office to be added.

Christingle Service - Our Parish Christingle Service will take place in Christ Church on Sunday 6 December at 10.30am.

Christingle Kits - We will be producing Christingle Kits for everyone to make their own Christingles at home. We plan to have these kits ready to pick up at Christ Church on Wednesday 2 December, 10am to 4pm, a day when the church is open for prayer.

Christingle Workshop - Come join us on Zoom for a Virtual Christingle workshop! On Friday 4 December at 6.30pm we will make our Christingles together and play some games online. Please email Dave at davewhymark@aol.com to receive the details to join the Zoom call. We look forward to seeing you!

Christmas Tree at Christ Church - We are looking for volunteers to help with setting up and decorating the Christmas Tree. Please let the Parish Office know if you can help. Thank you so much.

Parish Christmas Cards for Sale - Our cards cost £8 per pack and are sold as a mixed pack of 12 cards featuring four images of our parish and sold in aid of the Parish of Esher. Limited availability. To buy please contact the Parish Office. Many thanks to Margaret Dane and Angela Stockbridge for this fundraising initiative.

Festival of Lessons & Carols - We plan to offer our annual service this year on two consecutive days - Sunday 20 December and Monday 21 December at 6pm.

Music on the Green - Traditionally our December concert is given over to festive music with a selection of prose and poetry, both humorous and thought-provoking. This year's event will be carefully crafted to celebrate Christmas as best we can within current constraints! Although we were unable to hold a live November concert, MOTG is pleased to offer a piano recital by Tim Rumsey on its YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs6ONys0liNK3Y10JOnMu1w?view_as=subscriber). Do listen to the performance and add your comments! Donations are most welcome and can be made via our JustGiving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/MOTG>.

Stewart Henderson - Stewart can be heard presenting 'Pick Of The Week' on Radio 4 on Sunday 6 December at 6.15pm. The following week, Sunday 13 December, Stewart will also be presenting 'Something Understood' on Radio 4, at 6.05am and 11.30pm, with Carol contributing readings.

Book Club - The Club is reading 'Dare to be a Daniel', a memoir by Tony Benn. The next session is on Tuesday 8 December at 4.30pm, via Zoom. If interested, please contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 01372 479776/jandrewesher@hotmail.com.

Growing Leaders - Emly Deanery is planning a Growing Leaders course for January 2021. It's a Christian leadership development course produced by the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) to develop leaders in all areas, and at every level, of church life. Emly Deanery, in which the Parish of Esher sits, has run the course for many years. Contact the Rector if you're interested.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Yasmin Ingram, Stuart Williams, Maureen O'Brien, Viola Mason, Jo Stork, Betty Whitney, Ingeborg Vahl

RIP Anniversaries: Florence Mildred Hooper, Julian Molteno, Frank Dane, Dudley Paget-Brown, Muriel Ross, Stephen Semple, Francis Walden

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Nov/Dec		Time	Reading
Monday	30		Ezekiel 47.1-12; Ps 47; John 12.20-32
Tuesday	1	9.00-10.00am	Isaiah 43.1-13; Ps 80; Revelation 20
Wednesday	2	8.50-10.00am	Isaiah 43.14-end; Ps 7; Revelation 21.1-8
Thursday	3		Isaiah 44.1-8; Ps 42; Revelation 21.9-21
Friday	4		Isaiah 44.9-23; Ps 25; Revelation 21.22-22.5

LOOKING AHEAD

November		Time	Event
Monday	30	7.15-8.30pm	Choir catch-up, Zoom
December		Time	Event
Tuesday	1	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	2	8.50-10.00am	Morning Prayer & Zoffee!, Zoom
		10.00am-4.00pm	Christingle Kit pick-up, Christ Church
Friday	4	6.30pm	Christingle Workshop, Zoom
Sunday	6	10.30am	All Age Eucharistic & Christingle Service, Christ Church
Tuesday	8	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
		4.30pm	Book Group, Zoom
Wednesday	9	8.00am-5.00pm	Claremont Fan Court School Christmas Concert Recording, Christ Church
		8.50-10.00am	Morning Prayer & Zoffee!, Zoom
		10.00am	Fellowship Group, Zoom
Sunday	13	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church

CONTACTS

PARISH OF ESHER Website www.esherparish.org.uk Twitter www.twitter.com/esherparish Christ Church open Wednesday, 9am to 6pm	RECTOR Revd Darren McCallig Tel 01372 461088 Email rector@esherparish.org.uk Rector's day off is Monday
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