

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

2 FEBRUARY 2025

CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Communion	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 9am at St George's West End (SG)
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Reading, Prayers	Juliet Philip
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Robert Cunningham
All Age Eucharist (live streamed)	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Bob Lonnon, Ivy Tang
Reading, Prayers	Andy Petri, Our young people
Refreshments	Sandra Argent, Sia Marshall
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane, Theo Tang, Robert Cunningham
Feast of Candlemas Service	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 6pm at Old St George's Church
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Churchwarden	Jane Tyrrell
Sidespeople	Will Stevens, Ivy Tang
Reading, Prayers	Brian Elliott, Jane Tyrrell
Musician	Stuart Whatton, Theo Tang
MORNING SERVICE MUSIC	
Opening music	<i>Chorale Improvisation 'Freu dich sehr, O meine Seele'</i> (Karg-Elert)
SG / CC hymns	96, 765, 477 / 113 (v 1-6, 13), 494, 477
SG / CC setting	Addington / Coulson
Communion music & anthem	<i>On eagle's wings</i> (Michael Joncas) <i>I will sing with the Spirit</i> (Rutter)
Closing music	<i>Paeon</i> (Philip Moore)
EVENING SERVICE MUSIC	
Hymns	710 (omit v.4-5), 487, 42
Service music	<i>O radiant dawn</i> (James Macmillan) <i>When to the temple Mary went</i> (Eccard)
THE COLLECT	
Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God. Amen.	
THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER	
Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.	

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, commonly called Candlemas, is an observance rich in meaning. Several themes run through it: the presentation of the Christ-child; the purification of Mary; the witness of old Simeon and Anne, the old order welcoming the new; the theme of light as Simeon speaks of the one who will be the light to enlighten the nations; and the theme of judgement as the Lord comes suddenly to his Temple (with echoes of the prophet Malachi). However, as the Church of England liturgical resource 'The Promise of his Glory' notes, there is also the 'bitter-sweet' nature of this pivotal day in the Church's calendar.

'It is a feast day, and the revelation of the child Jesus in the Temple, greeted by Simeon and Anna, calls for rejoicing. Nevertheless, the prophetic words of Simeon, which speak of the falling and rising of many and the sword that will pierce, lead on to the passion and to Easter ... Coming as they do at the very end of the Christmas celebration and with Lent nearly always very close, they make Candlemas a kind of pivot in the Christian year. It is as if we say 'One last look back to Christmas, and now, turn towards the cross!'

God bless



READING Haggai 2.1-9

In the second year of King Darius, in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai, saying: Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say, Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the Lord; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendour, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.

GOSPEL John 2.13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' 'The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' 'Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Other Lectionary Texts

Psalm 132 page 603 (OT)

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

READING Hebrews 2.14-end

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

GOSPEL Luke 2.22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Other Lectionary Texts

Psalms 24.1-end page 532 (OT)

Malachi 3.1-5 page 926 (OT)

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

PARISH NOTICES

Organ & Choral Scholars - We rejoice today as we commission, during the 10.30am service, Theo and Robert as our Senior and Junior Organ Scholars respectively, as well as Natalie, Alexandra and Rowan as our Choral Scholars. We are so blessed to have these talented young musicians contributing to our worship.

First Aid Training - Many thanks to Polly Jordan, one of our Safeguarding Officers, for organising yesterday's First Aid Training. We hugely appreciated her NHS colleagues giving up their time free of charge. It was particularly helpful to get experience with an automated external defibrillator (AED) like the one at Christ Church. Thank you Polly.

Sunday School - During our All Age service in Christ Church, there's no Sunday School but we have a creche with activities for the children including Candlemas colouring!

Youth Group - Our next session is this Friday, 31 January, 5-6.30pm at Christ Church where we'll be exploring what it means to use our voices and be heard.

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. We hope it will help us understand better the roots of the Trump revolution. Contact Revd Jonathan Andrew for more information – 07968 765188 / jandrewsher@gmail.com.

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

Other Lectionary Texts - The Revised Common Lectionary typically specifies four scripture readings for Sunday morning services, two of which are printed in the pewsheet. Details of the other texts are given in the information box, along with their page numbers in the Bibles available from the sidespeople.

Candlemas Service - All are welcome to a reflective and atmospheric Choral Eucharist at Old St George's Church this evening at 6pm. Our Candlemas celebration recalls the day on which Jesus was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of him coming among us, his mother was purified, and in our celebration we offer ourselves for cleansing. We celebrate both the joy of Jesus' coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion. The collection will be given to the Churches Conservation Trust (www.visitchurches.org.uk) which takes care of Old St George's Church.

Advent Appeal - Thank you to everyone who donated to our Advent Appeal for The Eikon Charity. We raised £1550 – money that will make such a difference in helping young people to feel safe, heard and supported. It costs around £500 to provide support for a young person through 1:1 or group work so we have therefore supplied enough funding to help three young people and prevent their concerns from escalating. Thank you.

Music on the Green - Our next two lunchtime concerts will be on Wednesday 19 February and Wednesday 19 March - see our website for details. April will be given over to Music in the Tower (lunchtime and evening performances on Tuesday 15/Wednesday 16 April) and our featured artist this year will be a brilliant young guitarist, Nathaniel Rosales-Merkies.

St George's Garden - We're working to create a white section in the garden. Donations of surplus garden plants or new ones – such as snowdrops, crocuses, tulips, astilbes, camellias, hydrangeas etc – would be appreciated. Please contact Andrea Lindow so we can arrange to collect/dig out plants. It will be nice to create something special for all to enjoy.

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: Elsie Eldridge, Betty Walker, Helen Sketch, Eileen Armstrong, Jean Tesh

RIP: Elizabeth Garsten, Philip Brewster, David Deme, Mark Deme

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

February		Time	Reading
Monday	3		Malachi 1.1, 6-end; Psalm 1; John 13.1-11
Tuesday	4		Malachi 2.1-16; Psalm 5; John 13.12-20
Wednesday	5		Malachi 2.17-3.12; Psalm 119.1-32; John 13.21-30
Thursday	6	9.30-10.30am	Malachi 3.13-end of 4; Psalm 15; John 13.31-end
Friday	7		Bel and the Dragon; Psalm 19; John 14.1-14

LOOKING AHEAD

February		Time	Event
Saturday	1	9-11.30am	First Aid Training, Christ Church
Sunday	2	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	All Age Eucharist, Christ Church
		6pm	Candlemas Choral Eucharist, Old St George's Church
Monday	3	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	5	10.30am	Fellowship Group, Christ Church
		7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	6	All day	Parish Office closed
		9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday	9	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	10	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	12	7pm	Bellringing 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 9am to 3.15pm, 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.		