

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

2 MARCH 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	Stephen Lee
Musicians	Oliver Macfarlane, Robert Cunningham
All Age Eucharist (live streamed)	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Jane Tyrrell
Sidespeople	Sean Seymour-Cole, Stewart Henderson
Reading, Prayers	Kath Chapman, Our young people
Refreshments	Sue Dunne, Jennifer Meade
Musicians	Oliver Macfarlane, Robert Cunningham Annabelle Doolan

SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Consolation in E</i> (Liszt)
SG / CC hymns	602, 281, 823
SG / CC settings	Addington / Coulson
Post sermon music	'Capriol' Pavane (Anon, transc. Salzedo) A Clare Benediction (Rutter)
Closing music	<i>Presto from Concerto no. 1 in G</i> , BWV 592 (Bach/Ernst)

THE COLLECT

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness
and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world
may know his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

The Transfiguration is a mountain-top moment of transcendence as Jesus' closest disciples get a glimpse of Christ's glory as the perfect embodiment of God-filled humanity. However, the second part of this morning's Gospel reading, when Jesus and his followers descend from the spiritual heights and get on with the everyday business of teaching and healing, underlines the down-to-earth nature of true holiness.

This is a point emphasised by Timothy Radcliffe in his book 'Take the Plunge':

'Becoming holy sounds a rather ethereal business, involving meditation and introspection and complex spiritual exercises, but holy people know that it is mostly the prosaic challenge of knuckling down to stopping being mean. Rabi'a, a medieval Muslim mystic, said that the only way to become patient was to stop complaining. Thich Nhat Hahn, the Vietnamese Buddhist, said that the first step towards a new way of life was to begin smiling ... Gandhi said "If you don't find God in the next person whom you meet, then you are wasting your time."'

Mountain-top experiences of the Divine are wonderful, but one can't stay up there forever. There's work to be done down in the valley.

God bless



READING 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2

Since we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

GOSPEL Luke 9.28-43a

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since

they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.' While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

Other Lectionary Texts

Exodus 34.29-end page 87 (OT)

Psalms 99 page 581 (OT)

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

PARISH NOTICES

ECS Prayer Book - At the 10.30am All Age Service on Sunday, we will celebrate the publication of the ECS Prayer Book. Pupils had the opportunity to write a reflection or prayer, with chapters for each year group and artwork from the fantastic school artists. The All Age Service prayers will be from the ECS Prayer Book which can be bought for £12.50 in Christ Church and St George's.

Choral Evensong - Guildford Cathedral Choir, directed by the cathedral's own director of music Katherine Dienes-Williams, will sing Choral Evensong in Christ Church on Sunday 9 March, 6pm, with specially chosen repertoire for Women Composers Sunday. Considered to be one of the great riches of the Anglican tradition, Evensong combines music, scripture and prayer in a way which many experience as a little glimpse of heaven. Don't miss it!

Sunday School - As it's an All Age service, Kath will have some quiet activities for the children to do at the back of Christ Church.

Peace & Contemplation - The Wonder of Hope. Thursday 6 March, 8pm, at Christ Church. An evening of inspiring readings, beautiful music and reflective silence.

Book Group - The next meeting will be on Monday 31 March, 4pm, in Christ Church, when we will continue our varied diet by discussing Julia Kelly's historical novel *The Last Garden in England* – nicely described by one reviewer as "England, gardens, historical fiction and romance, without going into the lewd details"! Contact Revd Jonathan Andrew for more information – 07968 765188 / jandrewsher@gmail.com.

Music on the Green - Come on Wednesday 19 March to hear the Ivory Piano Duo tickle the ivories with a lively piano four-hands programme of music by Debussy, Busoni, Saint-Saëns and Ravel. Light lunch from 12.30pm, concert from 1.15pm.

Ash Wednesday - Our Ash Wednesday Choral Eucharist will be taking place in Christ Church on Wednesday 5 March at 8pm.

Lent Appeal - 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. Please use the appeal envelopes (in church from next week) or pay by card and include your details so we can claim Gift Aid and enhance your donation.

Lent Group - This year we're exploring Rowan Williams' book *'Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer'*. Very conveniently it falls into four short but stimulating chapters, which we'll discuss on Sundays 16, 23 and 30 March and 6 April from 12 to 12.45pm in Christ Church. So, grab a coffee after the service and join in! The book is available from the usual online and offline outlets as well as the publisher's website: spckpublishing.co.uk. It would be good if everyone could aim to read each week's chapter before we meet.

New Electoral Roll - Under Church of England rules a parish's Electoral Roll must be completely renewed – basically begun again from scratch – every six years and 2025 is that year. In other words, if you are on the current roll you must apply to be on the new one. And if you are not on the current roll you are very welcome to apply. Application forms are available in both churches. The final date to be added to the new roll is Sunday 27 April.

Fellowship Group - The next meeting is on Wednesday 5 March, 10.30am, in Christ Church.

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

St George's Garden - We're creating a white section in the garden. Donations of surplus or new plants would be appreciated. Please contact Andrea Lindow if you can help.

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: Isabella Austin, William Waugh, Tony Johns, Mary Roome, Ernest Griffin

RIP: Pamela Gilbertson, David Rolfe

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

March		Time	Reading
Monday	3		Jeremiah 1; Psalm 80; John 3.1-21
Tuesday	4		Jeremiah 2.1-13; Psalm 89.1-18; John 3.22-end
Wednesday	5		Daniel 9.3-6, 17-19; Psalm 38; 1 Timothy 6.6-19
Thursday	6	9.30-10.30am	Jeremiah 2.14-32; Psalm 77; John 4.1-26
Friday	7		Jeremiah 3.6-22; Psalm 88; John 4.27-42

LOOKING AHEAD

March		Time	Event
Sunday	2	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	All Age Eucharist, Christ Church
Monday	3	7.15pm	No choir practice
Wednesday	5	10.30am	Fellowship Group, Christ Church
		7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
		7pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
		8pm	Ash Wednesday Service, Christ Church
Thursday	6	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
		7pm	Peace & Contemplation, Christ Church
Friday	7	Midday	Memorial Service for David Rolfe, St George's Church
		5.30pm	Youth Group, Christ Church
Sunday	9	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		6pm	Choral Evensong, 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.		