

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

2 MAY 2021

CHURCH SERVICES

Christ Church	All Age Eucharist at 10.30am led by Revd Jonathan Andrew
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Churchwarden	Sandra Argent
Sidespeople	Alison Bownes
Reader & Prayers	Esher Church School pupils
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane

MUSIC

Opening Music	<i>Adagio from BWV 564</i> (Bach)
Music & Hymns	A&M 601, 617, 818
Anthem	<i>Prière à Notre-Dame</i> (Boëllmann) <i>Mfurahini Haleluya</i> (Tanzanian trad, arr. John Bell)
Closing Music	<i>Allegro in B flat</i> (Mendelssohn)

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way,
the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus says 'Abide in me as I abide in you' (John 15.4). But just what does this 'abiding' involve? For theologian Ben Quash - in his book *Abiding* - it's a teaching which is absolutely central to the Christian life, albeit in a subtle and paradoxical manner.

On the one hand, Quash argues, the concept of 'abiding' speaks of the centrality of order, consistency and continuity in the Christian tradition - of God's commitment to us and ours to our communities. Yet, on the other hand, the kind of 'abiding' that Jesus calls his followers to is also one of relinquishment, openness and change - living a life out of one's own control so as to 'abide' in him. As Quash writes:

For some the knowledge of the special sort of home God offers needs to be discovered in having no permanent resting place in the world, and for some the discovery of God's infinitely new and transforming horizons is best achieved by staying still .. some people need to stay where God puts them, even when they feel like moving, and some people must move when God requires them to, even if they feel like staying.

Such careful and prayerful discernment is at the very heart of the Christian spiritual life.

God bless,



READING Acts 8.26-end

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

PSALM 22.25-end

25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live for ever!
27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
28 For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.
29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.
30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,
31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

GOSPEL John 15.1-8

Jesus said, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

HYMNS

Blessed assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine:
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood:

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love:

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest -
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love:

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Come, sing the praise of Jesus

Come sing the praise of Jesus,
sing his love with hearts aflame,
sing his wondrous birth of Mary
when to save the world he came;
tell the life he lived for others
and his mighty deeds proclaim,
for Jesus Christ is King.

*Praise and glory be to Jesus,
praise and glory be to Jesus,
praise and glory be to Jesus,
for Jesus Christ is King!*

There's joy for all who serve him,
more than human tongue can say;
there is pardon for the sinner,
and the night is turned to day;
there is healing for our sorrows,
there is music all the way,
for Jesus Christ is King.

To Jesus be the glory,
the dominion and the praise;
he is Lord of all creation,
he is guide of all our ways,
and the world shall be his empire
in the fullness of the days,
for Jesus Christ is King.

To God be the glory

To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear his voice!*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory,
Great things he hath done.*

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God!
The vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
Great things he hath taught us, great things
he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

PARISH COVID INFORMATION

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update -

We are very happy to have Christ Church open again for in-person public worship for our Eastertide services. It is hoped that public worship will continue, and that services will recommence at St George's, West End in May. Please contact the Parish Office nearer the time for further information. Christ Church will also open for private prayer on Wednesdays, 10am to 4pm.

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. Many thanks.

Daily Hope Helpline 0800 804 8044 -

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line 24 hours a day. A Church of England initiative (in partnership with Holy Trinity Claygate, and Faith in Later Life).

Call to the Nation - The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell, invite us to pray each day at 6pm to remember those who have died from COVID-19. For more details go to: [tps://www.churchofengland.org/resources/call-prayer-nation](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/call-prayer-nation)

'Time to Pray' App – This app presents everything you need, with variations for the day of the week and the season of the Church's year. To download the app go to <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>

CHRIST CHURCH SERVICE NOTES

Welcome! It's great to be back together for Sunday worship. A few things to remember:

- Please take the Order of Service and the Pewsheets with you.
- Please ensure the sidespeople have your details for 'Track & Trace' purposes.
- Individuals, households and support bubbles are asked not to 'mingle with others' before, during, or after the service.
- Sadly, congregational singing is still not permitted - Choir members will raise their beautiful voices on our behalf.
- The toilet (at the back of the church) is open, but please use only if necessary.
- The service will be live streamed on the Parish YouTube channel.
- Face coverings/masks are required by law. Exemptions are: those leading worship; children under 11; those unable to put on/wear a face mask because of a physical or mental illness or disability; those for whom wearing a mask will cause severe distress; and anyone assisting someone who relies on lip reading to communicate.
- Communion will be in one kind only (consecrated bread) with the priest wearing a face covering for distribution. Please come 'up' the centre aisle and use the hand sanitiser before receiving. Please return to your seat 'down' the side aisles.
- To make an act of 'Spiritual Communion' use the prayer in the Order of Service.
- Sadly, we cannot offer coffee and we're asked to not stay inside after the service.
- Just as you used the hand sanitiser on the way in, please use it again on the way out.

It's wonderful to have you here - thank you!

PARISH NOTICES

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

I pray that God will comfort Her Majesty and the Royal Family. May His Royal Highness rest in peace and rise in glory.

Books of Condolence - If you wish to send a condolence message to the Royal Family, there are online books on the Royal Family's website at www.royal.uk and also on the Church of England website at www.churchofengland.org.

The Revd Canon Christopher Scott - Very sadly Christopher Scott passed away recently. Christopher was our Rector from 1987 to 1998 before moving to Bude where he stayed following his retirement. We hold Christopher, Linda and their children in our prayers. The funeral took place on Friday 30 April and was live-streamed. To watch please contact the Parish Office for details.

'Zoom' Bible Reflection & Prayer - All are welcome to join this informal Zoom gathering at 9am on Tuesday mornings. Contact the Parish Office for details.

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - Morning Prayer continues on Wednesdays at 9am.

Heart Stones - Here's an idea: paint a stone or pebble with something close to your heart. It could be words of hope and encouragement. It could be something or someone who helped you. It could be a prayer offered for those in need. Then, whilst out, drop by Christ Church and add your 'Heart Stone' to the growing line around the building. Who knows we might encircle the church with beautiful expressions of faith, hope and love!

Book Group - The next Zoom meeting will be at 5pm on Tuesday 4 May. To join contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 01372 479776 or jandrewesher@hotmail.com.

APCM - Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 23 May, after the morning service in Christ Church.

Leave - The Rector, Darren, will be on leave until Tuesday 4 May. Contact details for the other clergy, as well as parish officers, can be found on the parish website.

Parish Electoral Roll - This will be revised from 18 April to 2 May inclusive. If you'd like to be added to the Electoral Roll application forms may be obtained from the Parish Office and must be returned by Sunday 2 May.

If you are on the Electoral Roll but have changed your name or address in the past three years, please advise the Parish Office.

Parish Giving - Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity to the Parish of Esher. If you're in a position to do so, please consider supporting our mission and ministry.

You can donate today or via JustGiving at <https://www.justgiving.com/esherparish>.

Or to donate to our Parish bank account, please contact the Parish Office or Parish Treasurer for details and Gift Aid forms.

Lent Appeal Update - Many thanks to all who have contributed to this year's Lent Appeal. We have raised £3340, which will go a long way towards supporting students in our local schools who lack IT facilities. Thank you again for your generosity.

Music on the Green - We hope this month's concert, on Wednesday 19 May at 1.15pm, will be our very first live one of 2021 featuring the Fibonacci String Quartet. To watch the April concert, featuring Duo Kottos, the UK's premier guitar and cello duo, go to our 'MOTG Esher' YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs60Nys0liNK3Y10JOnMu1w>) Donations welcome at www.justgiving.com/campaign/MOTG.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Yasmin Ingram, Stuart Williams, Maureen O'Brien, Viola Mason, Jaeseok Yang, Headley Williams, Betty Walker, Geoff Walker, Elizabeth Arnold, Sue Lynn, Shireen Sahni, Stewart Henderson, The Revd Graham Shaw

RIP Anniversaries: Mary Bedford, Edna Chambers, Alastair Ward, Ronald Durrant

RIP: His Royal Highness Prince Philip The Duke of Edinburgh,
Revd Canon Christopher Scott, David Moore, Jennie Seller

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

	May	Time	Reading
	Monday	3	Deuteronomy 16.1-20; Ps 145; 1 Peter 1.1-12
	Tuesday	4	9.00-10.00am Deuteronomy 17.8-end; Ps 19; 1 Peter 1.13-end
	Wednesday	5	9.00-10.00am Deuteronomy 18.9-end; Ps 30; 1 Peter 2.1-10
	Thursday	6	Deuteronomy 19; Ps 57; 1 Peter 2.11-end
	Friday	7	Deuteronomy 21.22-22.8; Ps 138; 1 Peter 3.1-12

LOOKING AHEAD

	May	Time	Event
Sunday	2	10.30am	All Age Eucharist, Christ Church
		6.00pm	Live streamed Youth Worship Service, YouTube
		6.30pm	Youth Group Meeting, Zoom
Monday	3	All day	Early May Bank Holiday
Tuesday	4	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
		5.00pm	Book Group, Zoom
Wednesday	5	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
		10.00am-4.00pm	Christ Church open for private prayer
Thursday	6	All day	Parish Office closed
Sunday	9	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		6.00pm	Live streamed Youth Worship Service, YouTube
		6.30pm	Youth Group Meeting, Zoom
Monday	10	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday	11	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom

CONTACTS

PARISH OF ESHER Website www.esherparish.org.uk Facebook www.facebook.com/EsherParish SoundCloud soundcloud.com/esherparish	RECTOR Revd Darren McCallig Tel 01372 461088 Email rector@esherparish.org.uk Rector's day off is Monday
PARISH OFFICE Christ Church, Church Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 8QS Tel 01372 462282 Email office@esherparish.org.uk	