

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

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

7 FEBRUARY 2021

CHURCH SERVICES

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Christ Church | Parish Communion at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig |
| Preacher | Revd Darren McCallig |
| Reader & Prayers | Esher Church School pupils |
| Musicians | The Doolan and Jordan families, Stuart Whatton |

MUSIC

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Opening Music | <i>Lied, no. 17 from 24 Pièces en style libre (Vieme)</i> |
| Hymns | 808 |
| Communion Music | <i>Berceuse and Petit Canon (Benjamin Godard)</i> |
| Closing Music | <i>Gigue, from Suite III in C (Zipoli)</i> |

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our creator,
by your gift the tree of life was set
at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life
at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your
table on earth be transformed by the glory
of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

The opening words of the Fourth Gospel, which we will hear again this morning, are amongst the best known in all of Scripture. They speak of Jesus Christ as 'the Word made flesh' who 'lived among us.' As well as alluding to Hebrew Bible ideas of the 'Word of God' as that which creates (Genesis) and brings life, healing and hope (Isaiah 55), there's also an echo of philosophical understandings of the 'Word' as a kind of principle of rationality at the heart of all reality. It's as if the author is drawing on all available concepts to seek to express the significance of Jesus. However, as Biblical scholar Tom Wright points out, this is also a passage about us. He explains:

"To anyone who did accept him" (verse 12) - that means anyone at all, then and now. You don't have to be born into a particular family or part of the world. God wants people from everywhere to be born in a new way, born into the family which he began through Jesus and which has since spread through the world ... the great drama of God and the world, of Jesus and Israel, of the Word who reveals the glory of the unseen God - this great drama is a play in search of actors, and there are parts for everyone, you and me included.' (John for Everyone)

God bless,



READING Colossians 1.15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers - all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

PSALM 104.26-end

26 There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

27 These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

28 when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

29 When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

30 When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

31 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works -

32 who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.

33 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

34 May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

35 Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

GOSPEL John 1.1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

HYMN

This little light of mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

The light that shines is the light of love,
lights the darkness from above.

It shines on me and it shines on you,
and shows what the power of love can do.

I'm gonna shine my light both far and near,
I'm gonna shine my light both bright and clear.

Where there's a dark corner in this land
I'm gonna let my little light shine.

On Monday he gave me the gift of love,
Tuesday, peace came from above.

On Wednesday he told me to have more faith,
on Thursday he gave me a little more grace.

Friday, he told me just to watch and pray,
Saturday, he told me just what to say.

On Sunday he gave me the power divine,
to let my little light shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

PARISH COVID INFORMATION

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update -

In light of rapidly escalating rates of COVID, Bishop Andrew - on receipt of a request from the Rector and the PCC - has given permission for our Sunday services to move online until mid-February. Funeral services will continue to be held in-person, subject to Government restrictions and guidelines. Although we cannot be together in our church buildings, we can remain united in prayer and service.

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).

'Time to Pray' App - The 'Time to Pray' app presents everything you need for Prayer during the day and at night, with variations according to the day of the week and the season of the Church's year. The app is compatible with both smartphones and tablets. To download the app go to <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps/time-to-pray>

Call to the Nation - The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell, have issued a call in an open letter to the nation, to pause, to reflect, to remember the more than 100,000 people across the UK who have died from COVID-19. The Archbishops write: "100,000 isn't just an abstract figure. Each number is a person: someone we loved and someone who loved us. We also believe that each of these people was known to God and cherished by God." Everyone is invited to reflect on the "enormity of this pandemic" and to pray. The Archbishops amongst many things give thanks for NHS and social care staff, whom they describe as "a blessing and lifeline for our nation"; for clergy, other frontline workers and "so many good neighbours". They give thanks for the development of vaccines and reiterate a call to everyone to take the vaccine when it is offered. They also urge people to support each other both by following the guidelines to limit the spread of the virus and in practical ways, reaching out in care and kindness. They conclude: "Most of all, we have hope because God raised Jesus from the dead. This is the Christian hope that we will be celebrating at Easter. "We live in the hope that we will share in his resurrection. Death doesn't have the last word. In God's kingdom, every tear will be wiped away."

For details and for the full letter please go to <https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/news-and-statements/coronavirus-archbishops-invite-nation-pause-pray-and-remember>

The Archbishop's letter invites everyone to join in pausing and praying each day at 6pm from February 1. Do please go to: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/call-prayer-nation>

PARISH NOTICES

Ash Wednesday - Wednesday 17 February is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Service details will be announced shortly.

Giving - Thank you for your ongoing generosity to Esher Parish. Like most parishes there's been pressure on our income recently, so if you're in a position to do so, please consider if you can support our mission and ministry. Donations can be made 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.

Fellowship Group - Our next meeting will be at 10am on Wednesday 17 February on Zoom. All are welcome. If you're interested please contact the Parish Office.

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - Morning Prayer continues on Wednesdays at 9am, led by Darren, on Zoom. All are welcome.

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

Youth Group - Every Sunday at 6pm the Parish of Esher and St. Mary's East Molesey lead a Youth Worship service. Watch along with us and then join a youth Zoom call at 6.30pm for games and a catch-up, or watch the service in your own time. If you would like to receive the details for the Worship service video and the Zoom call please contact Dave at davewhymark@aol.com

Christ Church Roofing work - This work will take place on February 19-24. It is being done to address damage and water ingress to the roof area above the Rector's seat. It will likely mean materials, scaffolding and tools will occupy some of the car park for the duration.

Heart Stones - Here's an idea for these days in lockdown: paint a stone or pebble with something close to your heart. It could be words of hope and encouragement. It could be someone or something which helped you through these difficult times. It could be a painted prayer offered for those in need. Then, when you're out on your daily exercise, drop by Christ Church and add your 'Heart Stone' to the growing line snaking around the building. Who knows, if we all join in, we might be able to encircle the church with beautiful expressions of faith, hope and love!

Music on the Green - Last month's concert featured the guitarist Alex Hart with a programme of Scarlatti, Rodrigo and Barrios - still viewable on our Parish Facebook page. Our next concert on Wednesday 17 February will be an online piano recital by Eri Yamamoto, performing two famous Beethoven sonatas and works by Chopin.

Book Group - The group will next meet on Tuesday 2 March on Zoom and we'll be discussing 'My name is Leon' by Kit de Waal. In the book, it's 1981, a year of riots, royal weddings and 'The Dukes of Hazzard' on TV. Trying to find a place in it all is nine-year-old Leon. He and his little brother Jake have gone to live with Maureen. She feeds and looks after them and claims everything will be OK, but will they ever see their mother again? Who are the couple who secretly visit Jake? Between the street violence and the street parties, Leon must find a way to reunite his family... If you're intrigued, why not join us? The group would be delighted to welcome new members. Contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 01372 479776 or jandrewesher@hotmail.com.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Yasmin Ingram, Stuart Williams, Maureen O'Brien, Viola Mason, Jaeseok Yang, Headley Williams, Geoff Walker, Christopher Creagh-Brown

RIP Anniversaries: Jean Tesh, Alan Williams, Richard Loughrey, Phyllis Riley, Laurence Green, Leonard Schwarz

RIP: Ingeborg Vahl, Mary Teague, Irene May Redfern, Betty Whitney, Edward Buckley, Jeanette Williams, Audrey Phillips

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

| February | | Time | Reading |
|-----------|----|--------------|--|
| Monday | 8 | | Ecclesiastes 7.1-14; Ps 30; John 19.1-16 |
| Tuesday | 9 | 9.00-10.00am | Ecclesiastes 7.15-end; Ps 36; John 19.17-30 |
| Wednesday | 10 | 9.00-10.00am | Ecclesiastes 8; Ps 34; John 19.31-end |
| Thursday | 11 | | Ecclesiastes 9; Ps 37; John 20.1-10 |
| Friday | 12 | | Ecclesiastes 11.9-end of 12; Ps 42; John 20.19-end |

LOOKING AHEAD

| February | | Time | Event |
|-----------|----|--------------|--|
| Sunday | 7 | 10.30am | Live streamed Parish Communion, Christ Church |
| Monday | 8 | 10.15am | Funeral of Ingeborg Vahl, Christ Church |
| | | 7.15pm | Choir practice, Zoom |
| Tuesday | 9 | 9.00-10.00am | Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom |
| Wednesday | 10 | 9.00-10.00am | Morning Prayer, Zoom |
| Sunday | 14 | 10.30am | Live streamed Parish Communion, Christ Church |
| Monday | 15 | 7.15pm | Choir practice, Zoom |
| Tuesday | 16 | 9.00-10.00am | Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom |
| Wednesday | 17 | 9.00-10.00am | Morning Prayer, Zoom |
| | | 10.00am | Fellowship Group, Zoom |
| | | 1.15pm | Music on the Green lunchtime concert (online only): Eri Yamamoto, piano |
| | | 2.00pm | Funeral of Irene May Redfern, Randalls Park Crematorium |
| | | TBC | Ash Wednesday Communion Service |

CONTACTS

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| 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 | |