

# PARISH OF ESHER

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

*Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8 DECEMBER 2024

## CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Communion	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 9am at St George's (SG)
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Reading, Prayers	Joan Trower, Peter Bedford
Musician	Oliver Macfarlane
Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Churchwarden	Jane Tyrrell
Sidespeople	Julia Forest, Joanna Rand
Reading, Prayers	Jill Woolgar, Jane Tyrrell
Refreshments	Helen Griffin, Bob Lonnon
Musicians	Oliver Macfarlane, Stuart Whatton
<b>SERVICE MUSIC</b>	
Opening music	<i>Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, Op. 67 no. 29 (Reger)</i>
SG & SG hymns	45, 39, 41
SG & CC setting	Addington
Anthem	<i>Zion hört die Wächter singen (Bach)</i>
Closing music	<i>Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottessohn, BWV 601 (Bach)</i>
<b>THE ADVENT WREATH PRAYER</b>	
Lord Jesus, light of the world, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people in trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmas and show all the world God's love. <b>Amen.</b>	
<b>THE COLLECT</b>	
Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. <b>Amen.</b>	
<b>THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER</b>	
Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <b>Amen.</b>	

## Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Advent, like Lent, is a time of preparation. In Lent we accompany Jesus into the wilderness for forty days; in Advent we accompany John the Baptist into the wilderness for four weeks. The goal, essentially, is the same: to prepare ourselves to celebrate the great feasts of Easter and Christmas respectively.

Kathy Galloway, the Church of Scotland minister and former leader of the Iona Community, writes of Advent as a time to 'prepare for new life, for the birth of Christ within us, to clear the way so that we have more courageous self-examination, more open hearts, more receptive spirits, more loving kindness towards ourselves and others.' In short, Advent is a time to 'walk the road of love.' Galloway goes on:

'The first necessity for our walking the way of love is that we should be on our feet. "Rise from the dust, undo the chains that bind you", says Isaiah ... To stand up very often means to stand out, and to stand up for the way of love is not, it seems, a very acceptable stance at the moment. Nevertheless, by grace it is both our calling and our charism, our gift, our freedom. Let us encourage and support one another to embrace our calling and our freedom this Advent.' (Getting Personal)

God bless,



## **READING Malachi 3.1-4**

Thus says the Lord God:

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

## **GOSPEL Luke 3.1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

## **ADDITIONAL LECTIONARY TEXT**

### **READING Philippians 1.3-11**

My brothers and sisters:

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

## PARISH NOTICES

**Advent Appeal 2024** - Eikon is a Surrey-based charity helping children with mental health and wellbeing needs. Each year the organisation works with countless young people enabling them to feel safe, heard and supported. This year's Parish Advent Appeal will support Eikon's vital work. For details about Eikon go to: [www.eikon.org.uk](http://www.eikon.org.uk). Please donate what you can via envelopes, online or by card. Do Gift Aid if you can.

**Sunday School** - This week we'll be making Christmas decorations (including musical angels!) to take home and also decorate the lovely tree at the back of Christ Church!

**Christmas Crazy Crafts** - We look forward to welcoming you at our Christmas Crazy Crafts day this Saturday 10am-1pm at the Lower Green Community Centre. Entry is completely free and kids get a goodie bag and lots of festive fun.

**Youth Group** - Our final 2024 get-together was a fabulous mix of pizza, decoration making and a challenge to make something using paper chains that wasn't just a long chain! Have a look at the back of Christ Church for what they made! Youth Group returns in the New Year on January 5.

**Book Group** - The group will meet at Christ Church for its traditional Christmas literary tea party at 4pm on Monday 16 December. The first meeting of 2025 will be on Monday 27 January at 4pm when we will discuss Bernhard Schlink's acclaimed novel *The Reader*. For details contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 07968 765188.

**Parish Christmas Lunch** - We all look forward to our lunch at West End Village Hall. Huge thanks to Kath and Teresa for their enthusiasm and all the organisation involved. Thank you to everyone who has booked and in doing so supported this new initiative.

**Music on the Green** - Our last free event of 2024 will be our annual Come & Sing Carols on Wednesday 18 December, 1.15pm, when festive fayre will be served from 12.30pm.

**Festival of Lessons & Carols** - This year this service will be on Sunday 22 December in Christ Church at the usual time of 6pm.

**Crib Services** - This year we return to our traditional two 'sittings' of this ever popular child-friendly service on Christmas Eve. The service at St George's will be at 2pm with the Christ Church service at 4pm. A great opportunity for little ones to come dressed as their favourite character from the nativity story (wise man, shepherd, angel, etc.).

**Christmas Leaflet** - We still have some leaflet bundles to deliver to homes across Esher. Please contact Will Stevens or the Parish Office if you can help with any roads.

**Poppy Appeal 2024** - We are very pleased to report the Parish raised a total of £412.76 for the Royal British Legion from the collecting tins (£133.76) and our collections (£279 incl. GA) on Remembrance Sunday. The RBL has sent grateful thanks to us all for the donation.

**Fellowship Group** - The group will next meet in Christ Church on Wednesday 8 January at 10.30am. All are welcome.

**Holy Communion** - The sacrament is distributed by 'simultaneous administration' – the priest touches the communion wafer in to the wine surface before giving it to the communicant.

**Parish Giving** - Donate today via cash, the card machine in Christ Church or online by scanning the QR code on the little pewcards.

**Parish Communications** - Every Friday we send an email with Sunday's pewsheets and order of service. Those on the Parish Electoral Roll automatically get the email. If you'd like to receive please complete an Electoral Roll form or a contact form in either church

## 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

RIP Anniversaries: Charles Watson, Cicely Martin, Ron Williams, Elizabeth England, John Bosten, Mary Henry, Leonard Guest, John Lancaster-Smith, Dolly Nightingale, Jeremy St John, Kathleen Moreton

RIP: Elizabeth Arnold, Joan Halward, Katy Louise Wake, John Patrick

Banns of Marriage: Thomas Geoffrey Scrace & Neha Dipak Visavadia

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

December	Time	Reading
Monday 9		Isaiah 45.14-end; Ps 44; 1 Thessalonians 1
Tuesday 10		Isaiah 46; Ps 56; 1 Thessalonians 2.1-12
Wednesday 11		Isaiah 47; Ps 62; 1 Thessalonians 2.13-end
Thursday 12	9.30-10.30am	Isaiah 48.1-11; Ps 54; 1 Thessalonians 3
Friday 13		Isaiah 48.12-end; Ps 86; 1 Thessalonians 4.1-12

## LOOKING AHEAD

December	Time	Event
Saturday 7	10am	Christmas Crazy Crafts, Lower Green Community Centre
Sunday 8	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
	12.15pm	Interment of Katy Louise Wake, Christ Church
	1pm	Parish Christmas Lunch, West End Village Hall
Monday 9	7.15pm	Choir practice
Wednesday 10	7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday 11	All day	Parish Office closed
	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday 15	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday 16	4pm	Book Group Tea Party, Christ Church
	7.15pm	Choir practice

## CONTACTS

<b>PARISH OF ESHER</b> 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 <a href="http://www.esherparish.org.uk">www.esherparish.org.uk</a> Facebook <a href="http://www.facebook.com/EsherParish">www.facebook.com/EsherParish</a> YouTube <a href="http://www.youtube.com/esherparish">www.youtube.com/esherparish</a> Instagram <a href="http://www.instagram.com/esherparish/">www.instagram.com/esherparish/</a>	<b>RECTOR</b> Revd Darren McCallig 01372 461088 <a href="mailto:rector@esherparish.org.uk">rector@esherparish.org.uk</a> Rector's day off is Monday	<b>HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIESTS</b> Revd Jonathan Andrew 07968 765188 Ven David Gerrard
	<b>CHURCHWARDENS</b> Helen Coulson 07506 701454 Jane Tyrrell 07971 698299	<b>CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES WORKER</b> Kathryn Chapman <a href="mailto:youth@esherparish.org.uk">youth@esherparish.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Office</b> Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS <b>Tel</b> 01372 462282 <b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:office@esherparish.org.uk">office@esherparish.org.uk</a> <b>Parish Administrator</b> Melanie Williams <b>Office Hours</b> 9am to 3.15pm, Monday to Wednesday & Friday		
<b>Live Streaming</b> 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.		