

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 NEXT BEFORE LENT

14 FEBRUARY 2021

CHURCH SERVICES

Christ Church	Parish Communion at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reader & Prayers	Joan Howell-Jones
Musicians	Catherine Powell, Stuart Whatton

MUSIC

Opening Music	<i>Touch her soft lips and part,</i> from 'Henry V' (Walton)
Hymns	<i>Caro mio ben</i> (Giordani)
Communion Music	HON 541, A&M 752
Closing Music	<i>Scherzetto, from 'Richard III'</i> (Walton)

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

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.

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 not just about Jesus - it is also about us! If the transfigured Christ can be seen as an image of the God-filled humanity we were created to be, then it is nothing less than a glimpse of our future destiny. One day all of creation will be transfigured. Saint Paul puts the amazing truth like this: '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 ...' (2 Corinthians 3.18).

The Trappist monk, writer and mystic Thomas Merton described this reality in equally arresting terms. He wrote in his journal: 'In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I was theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness ... If only everybody could realize this! There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.'
(Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander)

God bless,



READING 2 Kings 2.1-12

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.' Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.' Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching

and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

PSALM 50.1-6

- 1 The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
- 3 Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.
- 4 He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:
- 5 'Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!'
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge. *Selah*

GOSPEL Mark 9.2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

HYMNS

What a friend we have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,

O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?

Jesus only is our refuge,
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?

Take it to the Lord in prayer!

In his arms he'll take and shield thee,
thou wilt find a solace there.

O love that wilt not let me go

O love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;

I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

O joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

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.

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>

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.

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. This year's service - which will be online only - will be available to view on the Parish YouTube channel from 8am on Wednesday morning. The Rector has recorded a short video on how you might prepare ash at home for the imposition of ashes. You can find that message here: <https://youtu.be/K20k0aYFYDU>

Lent Celebration - On Tuesday 16 February at 6pm on Zoom the Parish of Esher will be hosting a Lent celebration for children and families. There will be games, a reflection on Lent and a pancake flipping competition! If you would like to join please email davewhymark@aol.com and you will be sent the link. Don't worry if you aren't able to make pancakes come and join anyway!

Parish Giving - Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity to the Parish of Esher. 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.

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 on YouTube and then join a youth Zoom call at 6.30pm for a catch-up and games, 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 contact Dave at davewhymark@aol.com

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.

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. On Wednesday 17 February the pianist Eri Yamamoto will give a solo recital of two famous Beethoven sonatas and works by Chopin. It will be live to watch on our MOTG YouTube channel. Online JustGiving donations are welcome at www.justgiving.com/campaign/MOTG

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!

'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.

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: Sheila Hayne, Eric Williams

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	15		Jeremiah 1; Ps 44; John 3.1-21
Tuesday	16	9.00-10.00am	Jeremiah 2.1-13; Ps 48; John 3.22-end
Wednesday	17	9.00-10.00am	Daniel 9.3-6, 17-19; Ps 38; 1 Timothy 6.6-19
Thursday	18		Jeremiah 2.14-32; Ps 77; John 4.1-26
Friday	19		Jeremiah 3.6-22; Ps 3; John 4.27-42

LOOKING AHEAD

February		Time	Event
Sunday	14	10.30am	Live streamed Parish Communion, Christ Church
		6.00pm	Live streamed Youth Worship Service, YouTube
		6.30pm	Youth Group Meeting, Zoom
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
		8.00am	Online Ash Wednesday Communion Service, Parish YouTube channel
Friday	19	All day	Roofing work, Christ Church
Sunday	21	10.30am	Live streamed Parish Communion, Christ Church
		6.00pm	Live streamed Youth Worship Service, YouTube
		6.30pm	Youth Group Meeting, Zoom

CONTACTS

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