

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

16 FEBRUARY 2025

CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Communion	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 9am at St George's West End (SG)
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Reading, Prayers	Mair Molteno, Bridget Williams
Musicians	Stuart Whatton
Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Julia Forrest, Stewart Henderson
Reading, Prayers	Stewart Henderson, Jan Sayer
Refreshments	Bob Lonnon, Jennifer Meade
Musicians	Stuart Whatton

SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Chorale Prelude 'Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir'</i> (Pachelbel)
SG / CC hymns	754 (omit v3), 569, 761 / 754, 569, 761
SG / CC settings	Addington / Coulson
Communion anthem	<i>Ave verum</i> (Elgar)
Closing music	<i>Prelude & Fugue in G major, BWV 557</i> (Bach)

THE COLLECT

Eternal God,
whose Son went among the crowds
and brought healing with his touch:
help us to show his love,
in your Church as we gather together,
and by our lives as they are transformed
into the image of Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful Father,
who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life,
that those who come to him should never hunger:
draw us to the Lord in faith and love,
that we may eat and drink with him
at his table in the kingdom,
where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

The Beatitudes – the Lukan version of which we will hear in today's Gospel reading – are amongst the most recognisable of Jesus's teachings. Our familiarity with them can, however, blunt their impact. As with many well-worn phrases – whether liturgical or everyday – they can perhaps trip off the tongue without us fully appreciating their power and meaning. One way of refreshing our engagement can be to read the words in a different translation, or even in a paraphrase. In this respect, Eugene Peterson's rendering of the Beatitudes in 'The Message' can offer fresh and arresting perspectives. Here's how he restates the 'woes' in verses 24 to 26:

*It's trouble ahead if you think you have it made.
What you have is all you'll ever get.*

And it's trouble ahead if you're satisfied with yourself.

Your self will not satisfy you for long.

And it's trouble ahead if you think life's all fun and games.

There's suffering to be met, and you're going to meet it.

There's trouble ahead when you live only for the approval of others, saying what flatters them, doing what indulges them. Popularity contests are not truth contests – look how many scoundrel preachers were approved by your ancestors! Your task is to be true, not popular.

God bless



READING 1 Corinthians 15.12-20

If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ – whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

GOSPEL Luke 6.17-26

Jesus came down the mountain with his twelve apostles and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.'

Other Lectionary Texts

Jeremiah 17.5-10 page 746 (OT)

Psalms 1 page 519 (OT)

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

PARISH NOTICES

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!

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.

Sunday School - This week we'll be making a very special Beatitudes craft to gift to the Lower Green Community Beehive Cafe!

Book Group - At our next meeting at 4pm on Monday 24 February we'll discuss *Hillbilly Elegy*, US Vice President JD Vance's memoir of impoverished white working-class life and the loss of the American Dream. Contact Revd Jonathan Andrew for more information – 07968 765188 / jandrewesher@gmail.com.

ECS Prayer Book - On Sunday 2 March, at the 10.30am All Age Service, we will celebrate the publication of the Esher Church School Prayer Book. All children had the opportunity to write a prayer or reflection for the new volume, with chapters for each year group and artwork from some of the fantastic artists in school. Copies will be available to buy.

Youth Group - The next session will be in Christ Church on Friday 7 March, 5.30-7pm.

Church Development Plan - Your PCC will be shortly preparing a new Church Development Plan, outlining our objectives for the next three years, and would love your input in deciding where the focus should be. Please fill in one of the anonymous forms at the back of the church and return it by Wednesday 19 February to the box provided.

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.

Music on the Green - On Wednesday, February 19, our concert will be a trumpet recital by Sam Balchin (who played at our 2024 carol service). Sam will present an eclectic programme of baroque, jazz and contemporary repertoire from America, Romania and Germany.

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

Fellowship Group - The next meeting will be in Christ Church at 10.30am on Wednesday 5 March. Everyone is welcome to join.

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

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

St George's Garden - We're working to create a white section in the garden. Donations of surplus garden plants or new ones would be appreciated. Please contact Andrea Lindow so we can arrange to collect/dig out plants.

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: Eric Williams, Patricia Peake Sexton, Christopher Creagh-Brown, Christine Eccles, Joyce Meek, Margot Williams

RIP: Pamela Gilbertson, David Rolfe, Philip Brewster

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

February		Time	Reading
Monday	17		Ecclesiastes 1; Psalm 44; John 17.1-5
Tuesday	18		Ecclesiastes 2; Psalm 48; John 17.6-19
Wednesday	19		Ecclesiastes 3.1-15; Psalm 119.57-80; John 17.20-end
Thursday	20	9.30-10.30am	Ecclesiastes 3.16-end of 4; Psalm 57; John 18.1-11
Friday	21		Ecclesiastes 5; Psalm 51; John 18.12-27

LOOKING AHEAD

February		Time	Event
Sunday	16	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		12.15pm	Interment of John Philip Brewster, Christ Church
Monday	17	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	19	All day	Parish Office closed
		1.15pm	Music on the Green lunchtime concert: Sam Balchin, trumpet & Owen Lee, piano
		7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	20	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday	23	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Eucharist & Holy Baptism, Christ Church
		12.15pm	Interment of Elizabeth Arnold, Christ Church
Monday	24	4pm	Book Group, Christ Church
		7.15pm	Choir practice, 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 pewsheet by 10am on the preceding Tuesday. Thank you.