

# 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*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

16 DECEMBER 2018

## WELCOME TO OUR SERVICES

If you are new to the parish or worshipping with us for the first time please introduce yourselves to a member of the clergy or one of our churchwardens or sidespeople. This sheet gives some words that will be needed in the services and notices about the life of the church communities. Please do take it home.

## TODAY'S SERVICES

<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Sung Communion</b> at St George's led by David and Judith Roberts
Reading & Prayers	Stephen Lee
Chalice	Sue Lynn
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b> at Christ Church led by Judith Roberts
Churchwarden	John Sandison
Sides	Debbie Banks, Michael Banks, Wendy Tanqueray
Reading	Stuart Whatton
Prayers	Jennifer Meade
Chalice	Martin Fuller, Will Stevens

## MUSIC

<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Sung Communion</b>
Hymns	394, 85, 318 (v1,2,3,7)
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
Hymns	30, 85, 394, 318
Anthem	<i>Little Lamb, who made thee?</i> (Martin Setchell)
Musicians	Keith Howell-Jones, Stuart Whatton

## THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## READING Zephaniah 3.14-end

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

## **PSALM 146.4-end**

4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

5 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

6 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith for ever;

7 who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;

8 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

9 The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

10 The Lord will reign for ever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

## **GOSPEL Luke 3.7-18**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

## PARISH NOTICES

**Thank you** - To Rev. Judith Roberts for visiting us today and leading our services. It was a joy to worship with you.

**2018 Advent Appeal** - This year we are raising money for the Children's Society, a charity specialising in providing direct support to the most vulnerable 10-18 year olds. Please give generously to this worthwhile cause by using an appeal envelope in the pews. Thank you.

**#FollowTheStar this Christmas** - Christmas brings up so many expectations, emotions and memories. We have one nativity story but we all seem to have very different Christmases. The Church of England's Christmas campaign #FollowTheStar invites you to join the Christmas journey. Sign-up to emails at <https://www.churchofengland.org/followthestar>.

**Music on the Green Come & Sing Carols** - Please come and enjoy festive food with your favourite carols at Christ Church on Wednesday 19 December at 12.30pm.

**Mince Pies needed!** - Our annual Festival of Lessons & Carols is at 6pm on Sunday 23 December - a great occasion to prepare for the good news of Christmas. We shall be serving mince pies and mulled wine after the service. Everyone is very welcome. If you can help with providing mince pies please sign-up on the sheet. Many thanks.

**Sunday 23 December** - Please note the usual 9am and 10.30am services at St George's and Christ Church will take place with the Festival of Lessons & Carols at 6pm at Christ Church.

**Christmas Eve Crib Services** - May we invite all children to come dressed as angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, donkeys, wise men and women - if they wish too!

**Posada Dolls** - To make room at home for Mary and Joseph for one night during Advent do sign-up in Christ Church. Pass the Posada dolls to the next person on the list. Thank you.

**Christmas Post** - Do check the A-Z pigeonholes at the back of Christ Church for your post!

**Interregnum** - The next key milestone in the interregnum process is the Vision Day, which will be held on Saturday 12 January 2019, and will be led by Rev. Danny Wignall from the Diocese. The purpose of the Vision Day is to discern God's future direction for the parish. The Parish Profile and Statement of Needs will then be written expounding on the vision and hopefully inspiring the right person to come and lead our churches forward. All being well, we will advertise for a new rector in the spring. Do please pray for the Vision Day, and all those involved.

**Ever wondered if you could help** - Yes, you can, either by being a sidesperson, a reader, an intercessor or a chalice assistant. And you would be very welcome too. If you are interested please do speak to a churchwarden or sign-up. To be a chalice assistant you will need to be trained and we will be arranging a short training course in the new year for all those who wish to volunteer. It would be great to involve more people in our services at Christ Church and St George's so please do think about how you can help.

**Parish Christmas Lunch** - Many thanks to Peggy Howell-Jones for arranging the lunch and for organising the fundraising raffle for the Parish. Very enjoyable.

*Please stay for coffee or tea after the service.*

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Those who are ill:** Naomi Shaw, Tara Duffy, Jackie Hinton, Shirley Marshall, Yasmin Ingram, Betty Walker, Margaret Williams, Beverley Eastwood-Taylor, Lindsay Handcock, Margaret Miller

**RIP Anniversaries:** Ron Williams, Elizabeth England, Mary Henry, Leonard Guest, John Lancaster-Smith, Dorothy 'Dolly' Nightingale, Nelson McMahan, Eric Bridger, Julia James, Christine Paget-Brown, Doris Bowyer, Frances Kidd

**RIP:** Stephen Semple, Mark Redman, Ian Armstrong

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

*Taken from the Church of England Lectionary – readings for Morning Prayer are given below. All are welcome to use Christ Church for daily prayer.*

December		Time	Reading
Monday	17		Isaiah 49.14-25; Ps 40; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11
Tuesday	18		Isaiah 50; Ps 70; 1 Thessalonians 5.12-end
Wednesday	19		Isaiah 51.1-8; Ps 146; 2 Thessalonians 1
Thursday	20		Isaiah 51.9-16; Ps 46; 2 Thessalonians 2
Friday	21		Isaiah 51.17-end; Ps 121; 2 Thessalonians 3

## LOOKING AHEAD

December		Time	Event
Sunday	16	5.30pm	Voyagers, Esher Church School
Monday	17	6.00pm	Christ Church Choir Carol Singing, Arbrook House Care Home
Wednesday	19	9.00am	Esher Church School Christmas Services, Christ Church
		12.30pm	Music on the Green lunchtime event: Come & Sing Carols
		3.00pm	Christ Church Choir Carol Singing, Moore Place Care Home
Thursday	20	11.45am	Esher High School Christmas Service, Esher High School
Sunday	23	9.00am	Sung Communion, St George's
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		6.00pm	Festival of Lessons & Carols, Christ Church

## CONTACTS

<b>RECTOR</b> Vacancy	<b>PARISH OF ESHER</b> <b>Website</b> <a href="http://www.esherparish.org.uk">www.esherparish.org.uk</a> <b>Twitter</b> <a href="http://www.twitter.com/esherparish">www.twitter.com/esherparish</a> <b>Christ Church Open</b> Every day, 9am to 3pm
<b>PARISH OFFICE</b> Christ Church, Church Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 8QS <b>Tel</b> 01372 462282 <b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:office@esherparish.org.uk">office@esherparish.org.uk</a> <b>Office Open</b> Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 10-12am	

***All main events at Christ Church unless stated otherwise***