

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

ASH WEDNESDAY

17 FEBRUARY 2021

CHURCH SERVICES

Christ Church	Parish Communion at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reader	Helen Coulson
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Helen Coulson

MUSIC

Opening Music	<i>Durch Adams Fall ist ganz verderbt</i> (Buxtehude)
Hymns	A&M 121, 128i (v 1,3,4)
Post Sermon	<i>Oswald's Prayer</i> (Donald Hunt)
Communion Music	<i>Agnus Dei, from the B Minor Mass</i> (Bach)
Closing Music	<i>Finale</i> (Ignace Leybach)

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Holy God,
our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God,
you have given your only Son
to be for us both a sacrifice for sin
and also an example of godly life:
give us grace
that we may always most thankfully receive
these his inestimable gifts,
and also daily endeavour
to follow the blessed steps
of his most holy life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

On Sunday 17 March 2013, Pope Francis celebrated his first public mass after his election as Bishop of Rome the previous Wednesday. The Gospel reading that morning - the account of the woman accused of adultery - is also our reading this evening. Francis took the opportunity to speak about what he considers to be 'the Lord's strongest message' - Mercy.

But accepting that mercy can be very difficult: both for those who consider themselves blameless, but also for those who consider themselves to be irredeemable. In this connection, Francis related a dialogue he had with a man who, on being given this explanation of mercy, answered: 'Oh, Father, if you knew my life you wouldn't talk to me like that! I have done some terrible things!'

Undaunted, however, Francis replied, 'Even better! Go to Jesus: he likes to hear about these things! He forgets, he has a special knack for forgetting. He forgets, he kisses you, he embraces you, and he says: "Nor do I condemn you; go, and sin no more." ... The Lord never tires of forgiving: never! It is we who tire of asking him for forgiveness. We need to ask for the grace not to get tired of asking for forgiveness, because he never gets tired of forgiving.' (The Name of God is Mercy)

God bless,



READING Isaiah 58.1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. 'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the

noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

GOSPEL John 8.1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

HYMNS

Forty days and forty nights

Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled:

Sunbeams scorching all the day;
chilly dewdrops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Shall not we thy sorrows share
and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
glad with thee to suffer pain?

And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
thou, his vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine;
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

Jesu, lover of my soul

Jesu, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high:
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
more than all in thee I find;
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am,
thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound,
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art:
freely let me take of thee,
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

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.

'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>

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).

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. The link is here: <https://youtu.be/K20k0aYFYDU>

Lent Appeal - Children are doing their school work at home, many with limited or no access to technology - eg. siblings and parents are sharing one laptop. Our Lent Appeal will aim to provide computer aid for local families in need. We would like to not only raise money to buy laptops but also ask if you have any unwanted Macs or PCs under 10 years old (Windows 7+) please get in touch with the Parish Office. We can give them to a local charity with the expertise to wipe data and reset to factory settings before giving them to local schools.

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.

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.

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

Music on the Green - On Wednesday 17 February at 1.15pm 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 donations, via JustGiving, are very 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 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 with along with us and then join a Zoom call at 6.30pm for a catch-up and games. If you would like to receive the details for the Worship service video and the Zoom call contact Dave at davewhymark@aol.com

Book Group - The group will next meet on Tuesday 2 March on Zoom and will be discussing 'My name is Leon' by Kit de Waal. The group would love to welcome new members. Contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 01372 479776/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: 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
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 68; John 4.27-42
Saturday	20		Jeremiah 4.1-18; Ps 3; John 4.43-end
Sunday	21		Exodus 34.1-10; Ps 77; Romans 10.8b-13

LOOKING AHEAD

February		Time	Event
Wednesday	17	8.00am	Online Ash Wednesday Communion Service
		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
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
Monday	22	All day	Roofing work, Christ Church
		7.15pm	Choir practice, Zoom
Tuesday	23	All day	Roofing work, Christ Church
		9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom

CONTACTS

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