

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

19 SEPTEMBER 2021

CHURCH SERVICES

St George's	Holy Communion at 9.00am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reading & Prayers	Peter Bedford
Musician	Keith Howell-Jones
Christ Church	Parish Communion & Holy Baptism Service at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Sandra Argent, Wendy Tanqueray
Reading	David Stark
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane, Rowan Marshall
Refreshments	Sandra Argent

MUSIC

Opening Music	<i>Andante tranquillo from Sonata no. 3 (Mendelssohn)</i>
Hymns	445, 297, 341
Anthem	<i>Oculi omnium (Wood)</i>
Closing Music	<i>Prelude in C, BWV 553 (Bach)</i>

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

O almighty God, whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist: give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love of riches that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Today we remember Saint Matthew whose feast day, which falls on 21 September, we have transferred to the nearest Sunday. As this morning's Gospel reading reminds us, Matthew was a tax collector, an occupation which was despised by most Jews as an act of collaboration with the occupying Romans. What's more, those who did the job paid upfront for the right to collect the taxes due in a certain area, later recouping their initial outlay by raking in the cash from the locals. Any profit was their own, making the system wide open to abuse. Commenting on this, priest and author John Pridmore, muses on how the addition of such a maligned figure to the inner circle of Jesus's followers would have gone down with the others:

'It could not have been easy for Peter and the other fishermen to have accepted Matthew as a fellow-disciple, especially if Matthew had been the tax-officer they previously had had to deal with professionally. But Peter had to accept Matthew. The hardened fisherman, with no time to sit down, must embrace as his brother the flabby taxman who, until Jesus came his way, rarely stirred from his cushions. The fastidious civil-servant must fall in step with the one who still whiffs of fish. It takes all sorts to make a church.'

(The Word is Very Near You)

God bless,



READING 2 Corinthians 4.1-6

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

PSALM 119.65-72

65 You have dealt well with your servant, O Lord, according to your word.

66 Teach me good judgement and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.

67 Before I was humbled I went astray, but now I keep your word.

68 You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.

69 The arrogant smear me with lies, but with my whole heart I keep your precepts.

70 Their hearts are fat and gross, but I delight in your law.

71 It is good for me that I was humbled, so that I might learn your statutes.

72 The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

GOSPEL Matthew 9.9-13

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

PARISH COVID INFORMATION

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update

We are very happy to have Christ Church and Saint George's West End open again for in-person public worship. Christ Church will also open for private prayer most Wednesdays, 10am to 4pm.

Communion

In line with Church of England guidance those who wish to make an act of Spiritual Communion can use this prayer.

*Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.*

Amen. after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

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 is now manned however if you do need any help please make contact via the office email and telephone initially. For all urgent enquiries contact the Rector, the Revd Darren McCallig (01372 461088 or rector@esherparish.org.uk) or a churchwarden - Helen Coulson on 07506 701454 or Jane Tyrrell on 07971 698299. Many thanks.

ST GEORGE'S SERVICE NOTES

Welcome! It's great to be together for Sunday worship.

A few things to remember:

- Please take the Pewsheets with you.
- We ask, please, that you continue to wear a face covering, bearing in mind that masks primarily provide protection to others. Exemptions are: those leading worship; children under 11; those unable to put on/wear a face mask because of a physical or mental illness or disability; those for whom wearing a mask will cause severe distress; and anyone assisting someone who relies on lip reading to communicate.
- We are delighted to be able to sing again as a congregation.
- Communion will be in one kind only (consecrated bread) with the priest wearing a face covering for distribution. Please stay in your seats and the priest will come to you. Before receiving the bread each person should apply hand sanitiser from their own personal bottle (we have some available if you have forgotten to bring yours).
- To make an act of 'Spiritual Communion' please use the prayer opposite.
- Coffee will not be served in St George's for the time being, but we do hope you will join us after the service in the West End Sports & Social Club so we can chat and socialise as we have always done.
- Just as we asked you to use the hand sanitiser on the way in, please use it again on the way out.

It's wonderful to have you here - thank you for coming.

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CHRIST CHURCH SERVICE NOTES

Welcome! It's great to be together for Sunday worship.

A few things to remember:

- Please take the Pewsheets with you.
- Apart from the designated socially-distanced zone, please feel free to sit in any pew. Please also feel free to sit with friends if you wish.
- We will continue to keep a list of those in attendance. Please be assured that this information is held securely.
- We ask, please, that you continue to wear a face covering, bearing in mind that masks primarily provide protection to others. Exemptions are: those leading worship; children under 11; those unable to put on/wear a face mask because of a physical or mental illness or disability; those for whom wearing a mask will cause severe distress; and anyone assisting someone who relies on lip reading to communicate.
- We are delighted to be able to sing again as a congregation.
- The toilet (at the back of the church) is open, but please use only if necessary.
- The service will be live streamed on the Parish YouTube channel.
- Communion will be in one kind only (consecrated bread) with the priest wearing a face covering for distribution. Please come 'up' the centre aisle and use the hand sanitiser before receiving. Please return to your seat 'down' the side aisles.
- To make an act of 'Spiritual Communion' please use the prayer opposite.
- Refreshments will be served afterwards. This will be outside, weather permitting.
- Just as you used the hand sanitiser on the way in, please use it again on the way out.

It's wonderful to have you here - thank you!

PARISH NOTICES

Afghan Refugees - The Home Office has asked the Church of England to help in the search for accommodation for Afghans who are seeking asylum in this country. Most of these people worked for the UK government which is the primary reason for their needing to flee. To help please contact the Diocese Asylum Seeker Adviser, The Revd Diane Peters, at diane.peters@cofeguildford.org.uk

Fellowship - We are pleased to announce the Fellowship Group is meeting in Christ Church on Wednesday 22 September at 10am. Contact the Parish Office if interested.

Music on the Green - At Wednesday's concert we welcomed the Diphonon Duo - Michael Iskas on viola and Iñigo Mikeleiz-Berrade on accordion. The concert can be watched back on our 'Music on the Green Esher' YouTube channel.

Music on the Green - To mark Beethoven's recent 250th anniversary we are staging two concerts by piano duo, Tessa Uys and Ben Schoeman, on Sunday 10 October. Please see posters and website for details.

A Tribute to Kid Jenson - A concert in aid of Parkinson's research at the Cadogan Hall on Monday 11 October. Featuring a star line up including Jools Holland and Kid Jenson who was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2015. For information and tickets go to the Cadogan Hall website - <https://cadoganhall.com/whats-on/a-tribute-to-kid-jensen-with-jools-holland/>.

Book Group - During our next meeting, on Tuesday 21 September at 4.30pm in Christ Church we will discuss 'The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra' by Vaseem Khan - set in modern-day Mumbai it's described as enchanting and delightful!

'Zoom' Bible Reflection & Prayer - The group is taking a break in September. It will start up again on Tuesday 5 October at 9am.

A Welcome Weekend Thank You - Thank you to Stuart for organising a varied and enjoyable music programme and to all the musicians who played for us. Thank you to our bellringers and flower arrangers - your hard work was much appreciated. The church was beautiful and had a lovely atmosphere. We are very grateful to Melanie who worked tirelessly in the weeks beforehand preparing the resources needed to publicise the event and attract people into our church. Special thanks to Will and his team who tramped our streets delivering the leaflets. A big thank you must go to all our wonderful volunteers, without whom this weekend would just not have been possible. The many hours spent baking the delicious cakes, setting up for the event, serving refreshments, washing up and clearing up at the end - thank you to all of you who helped make this weekend such a great success. Jane & Helen

Archbishop Justin Welby - The Archbishop is visiting the Guildford Diocese this month. He will be leading a 'Big Questions Event' at 5.30pm on Saturday 25 September at Esher High School. For free tickets go to: www.cofeguildford.org.uk/JustinWelby. Please let the Parish Office know if you're going as it may be possible to share cars.

Bellringing - We are seeking new ringers to join our happy team. Open to all ages - you only need to be able to lift your arms above your head, climb the 56 steps up to the tower and count to 8 (we have 8 bells!). This is the best workout ever, giving your back a good stretch and it uses your mind too. No musicality required - smiling is obligatory! Please contact the Parish Office if interested.

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - Morning Prayer continues at 9am every Wednesday. Please ask the Parish Office for details.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Yasmin Ingram, Stuart Williams, Maureen O'Brien, Jaeseok Yang, Betty Walker, Geoff Walker, Elizabeth Arnold, Sue Lynn, Hugh Miller, Stewart Henderson, Graham Woolgar

RIP Anniversaries: John Mitchell, Margaret Williams, Dorothy McGuire, Eileen Lock, Janet Thirtle, Peter Meade, Cynthia Collis

RIP: Viola Mason

Baptism: Cove Willow Martin

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

September		Time	Reading
Monday	20		Wisdom 11.21-12.2; Ps 44; Mark 12.28-34
Tuesday	21		1 Kings 19.15-end; Ps 49; 2 Timothy 3.14-end
Wednesday	22	9.00-10.00am	Wisdom 13.1-9; Ps 119.57-80; Mark 13.1-3
Thursday	23		Wisdom 16.15-17.1; Ps 57; Mark 13.14-23
Friday	24		Wisdom 18.6-9; Ps 51; Mark 13.24-31

LOOKING AHEAD

September		Time	Event
Sunday	19	9.00am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion & Baptism, Christ Church
Monday	20	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	22	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
		10.00am-4.00pm	Christ Church open
		10.00am	Fellowship Group, Christ Church
		7.45pm-8.30pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	23	All day	Parish Office closed
Sunday	26	9.00am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	27	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	29	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
		10.00am-4.00pm	Christ Church open
		7.45pm-8.30pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church

CONTACTS

PARISH OF ESHER Website www.esherparish.org.uk Facebook www.facebook.com/EsherParish SoundCloud soundcloud.com/esherparish	RECTOR Rev'd Darren McCallig Tel 01372 461088 Email rector@esherparish.org.uk Rector's day off is Monday
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