

# PARISH OF ESHER

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

*Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love*

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

19 NOVEMBER 2023

## CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Communion	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 9am at St George's Church (SG)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reading, Prayers	Joan Trower, Peter Bedford
Musician	Barbara Wadley
Eucharist & Holy Baptism Service	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Jane Tyrrell
Sidespeople	Julia Forrest, Angela Sweet
Reading	Christine Steeds
Refreshments	Sue Dunne, Janie McCulloch
Musicians	Oliver Macfarlane, Stuart Whatton
<b>SERVICE MUSIC</b>	
Opening music	<i>Variation no. 3 from Concert Variations</i> (Bonnet)
SG & CC hymns	362, 787, 477
SG, CC settings	Addington, Coulson
Anthem	<i>O thou, the central orb</i> (Wood)
Closing music	<i>Dialogue for trumpets &amp; lariat,</i> <i>from the Parishes Mass</i> (Couperin)

## THE COLLECT

Heavenly Lord,  
you long for the world's salvation:  
stir us from apathy,  
restrain us from excess  
and revive in us new hope  
that all creation will one day be healed  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious Lord,  
in this holy sacrament  
you give substance to our hope:  
bring us at the last  
to that fullness of life for which we long;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

## Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Today's Gospel reading and its 'Parable of the Talents' is often understood as a call to utilise our God-given abilities and skills – our talents – to the full. Indeed, scholars tell us that the word 'talent', which was a unit of money in the ancient world, came into the English language from this very passage, and on account of this interpretation.

And while – as with all of Jesus's parables – there is a good deal more to be said (and I'll try to say some of it in today's sermon) it is true that there is something almost blasphemous about 'burying' the gifts God has given us. The key, I suppose, is to remember that 'all is grace' – an insight that the great contemporary novelist Marilynne Robinson articulated most beautifully in her novel 'Gilead'.

'Theologians talk about a prevenient grace that precedes grace itself and allows us to accept it. I think there must also be a prevenient courage that allows us to be brave – that is, to acknowledge that there is more beauty than our eyes can bear, that precious things have been put into our hands and to do nothing to honor them is to do great harm. And therefore, this courage allows us, as the old men said, to make ourselves useful. It allows us to be generous, which is another way of saying exactly the same thing.'

God bless,



## **READING 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11**

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 25.14-30**

Jesus said to his disciples, 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug

a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

## TODAY'S OTHER LECTIONARY TEXTS

### Zephaniah 1.7, 12-end

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

### Psalms 90.1-12

1 Lord, you have been our dwelling-place in all generations.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

3 You turn us back to dust, and say, 'Turn back, you mortals.'

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

7 For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

8 You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

9 For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh.

10 The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

11 Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due to you.

12 So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

## PARISH NOTICES

**Cherish, Nourish, Flourish** - Please take a copy of the 'Cherish, Nourish, Flourish' leaflet home with you to read. It outlines some of the amazing things that have been happening in the parish in the past year, as well as some of the plans we have for the future. If you can give a new, or increase an existing financial gift to the parish, thank you. If at this moment you cannot, thank you for considering it. If you can give more time through volunteering in particular ways, thank you. Response forms can be found on the parish website and in both churches. Every contribution is needed, gratefully received and truly valued.

**Sunday School** - Today we'll be following the Gospel reading and celebrating each of the children's talents, plus we'll be making something special to remind them not to keep their talents hidden!

### Prayer points

Our wonderful parish school, Esher Church School, has given us the following 'prayer points' to focus our prayers for them.

*Pray for the new children joining ECS over the Autumn months for the transitions to go smoothly and they settle easily.*

*Pray for the school community as they juggle, open days, parents evenings, Christmas events over the next few months.*

*Pray for good health for the school community as they approach the winter months.*

**Youth Group** - At our last session we discussed our inner critic and the children were given practical ways to manage its impact. See or email Kath for more details on what we did ([youth@esherparish.org.uk](mailto:youth@esherparish.org.uk)). Next session will be Sunday 11 December 4.30-6pm with a festive theme.

**Girls aged 4-18** - Claygate Girlguiding has spaces. Register via [www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/)

**Darren** - The Rector's Adoption Leave will run from Tuesday 21 November to Tuesday 19 November 2024. For parish enquiries please contact the Churchwardens or the Parish Office.

**Holy Communion** - The sacrament is distributed by 'simultaneous administration' – the priest touches the communion wafer in to the wine surface before giving it to the communicant.

**Fellowship Group** - The next meeting will be in the upstairs room in Christ Church at 11am on Wednesday 6 December. All are welcome.

**Exploring the Bible** - Our Advent Study discussion evenings this year will complete our whistle-stop tour of the Bible. Over three Tuesday evenings starting at 8pm on 28 November, we'll explore St Paul's letters, the Acts of the Apostles and the Book of Revelation. For details, see the enclosed flyer.

**'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee!** - The Thursday Morning Prayer online gathering will take a break during the Rector's adoption leave.

**Book Group** - The next meeting, in Christ Church, will be on Monday 27 November at 4pm when we'll discuss William Golding's masterwork *The Spire*. If you'd like to join us, just turn up or contact Revd Jonathan Andrew – 01372 464380 / [jandrewesher@gmail.com](mailto:jandrewesher@gmail.com)

**Parish Giving** - Donate today via cash, the card machine in Christ Church or online by scanning the QR code on the little cards in Christ Church and that will soon be in St George's.

**Parish Communications** - Every Friday we send an email with Sunday's pewsheet and order of service. Those on the Parish Electoral Roll automatically get the email. If you'd like to receive please complete an Electoral Roll form or a contact form in either church.

**Christmas Leaflet** - We'll soon be needing volunteers to deliver to Esher homes. Please contact Will Stevens or the Parish Office if you can help. All help is gratefully received.

Parish of Esher youth  
and the Lower Green community

Saturday 2 December, 10am-1pm

# Christmas CRAZY CRAFTS

Lower Green Community Centre  
Farm Road, Esher



We warmly invite you to our second Christmas community crafting extravaganza!

Come anytime 10am-1pm to the Lower Green Community Centre (Recreation Ground, KT10 8AU) and make a myriad of lovely Christmas decorations, gifts and greetings cards. Entry is free! Children to be given a goodie bag, lunch and the chance to decorate yummy biscuits. Please supervise your children at all times.



Parish of Esher - Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End

Tel: 01372 462282 Email: [office@esherparish.org.uk](mailto:office@esherparish.org.uk) Website: [www.esherparish.org.uk](http://www.esherparish.org.uk)

## PARISH NOTICES

**Christmas Shoeboxes** - 'Link to Hope' is a Christian charity that organises a shoe box appeal for those living in difficult circumstances in Ukraine Romania, Bulgaria, and Moldova. To help, please fill a shoe box with gifts and useful items for a family or an elderly person. Please bring completed boxes to church on Sunday 19 November to be blessed and sent on their way. (There are empty boxes at the back of Christ Church if anyone would like to collect on Saturday.)

**Christmas Tree Lighting Up** - Let's launch the season of good cheer in Esher by lighting up the Christmas Tree in Christ Church at 5.30pm on Friday 1 December. The choir will be singing carols in our warm, candle lit church whilst mince pies and mulled wine is served. All welcome to this festive community event.

**Christmas Crazy Crafts** - Our Christmas Crazy Crafts will be taking place at the Lower Green Community Centre (Farm Road, Esher KT10 8AU) from 10am on Saturday 2 December! Children will be given lunch and the cafe will be open. For festive family fun save the date!

**Christingle Service** - This service will be on Sunday 3 December, 10.30am, in Christ Church.

**Parish Christmas Lunch** - We're delighted to be hosting our annual Christmas lunch at The Bear in Esher on Sunday 3 December at 1pm. Places are £39.50 each (drinks extra). Booking information and menu is available in both Christ Church and St Georges. Bookings must be made by Sunday 19 November. Please contact Kath Chapman to book.

**Real Advent Calendar** - This calendar, by the Meaningful Chocolate Company, is the UK's only fairtrade advent calendar and supports charitable causes. It comes with a free 24 page Christmas story-activity book and can be purchased for £4.50. They will be available to buy in both churches from this Sunday.

**Music on the Green** - Last Wednesday's concert, featuring the Heliconia Duo (flute and guitar), offered a sprightly and uplifting programme to conclude our regular season. We welcomed an audience of approaching 90 and raised over £250 for parish funds.

**Come & Sing Carols** - Our last free lunchtime event of 2023 will be our annual Come & Sing Carols on Wednesday 20 December, 1.15pm, when festive fayre will be served.

**Weekly Organ Meditations** - In St Mark's Church in Whiteley Village, our very own Barbara Wadley will be giving organ recitals every Thursday, 12-12.30pm. She'll be taking you on an organ journey playing a different composer and genre each week. Let yourself be inspired by Renaissance, Baroque, Romantic music which will feature everything in-between Albinoni/Bach/Beethoven to Widor/Whitlock/Zipoli. No refreshments served, retiring collection for the historic Norman & Beard Organ at St. Mark's. The series can be found listed on the UK recitals website: All Listings - Organ Recitals

**The Children's Society** - Contact Ann Willig about the box opening. (aewillig@gmail.com)

**Our Church Cat** - Patch is now looked after by Sandra Argent, a previous churchwarden. Sadly Patch is unwell and needs expensive ongoing treatment. To donate please use the card machine or scan the QR code.



**Christ Church Barrier** - Due to an accident the barrier has been out of action for some time. A claim has been submitted to our insurers and we are working with a specialist security company. Unfortunately the old barrier was obsolete so the parts have been difficult to source. We've been told the last part has been found so we are now waiting for the repair work to be scheduled.



Parish of Esher events

# Christmas Tree Lighting Up

Christ Church, Esher  
Friday 1 December  
5.30pm

**Let's launch the season of good cheer in  
Esher by lighting up the Christmas Tree!**

The choir will be in full voice, singing some favourite carols in our warm, candle lit church whilst mince pies and mulled wine is served. We hope you and your family can join us for this festive and community occasion. All welcome.

Parish of Esher - Christ Church, Esher with St George's Church, West End  
Tel: 01372 462282 Email: [office@esherparish.org.uk](mailto:office@esherparish.org.uk) Website: [www.esherparish.org.uk](http://www.esherparish.org.uk)

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Those who are ill:** Elizabeth Arnold, Betty Walker, Michael Newbould, Malcolm Sayer, Gilly Barrett, Allen Palmer, Katherine S, Keith Howell-Jones, Gill Barnett, George Raine, Sebastian, Stuart Williams, Pam & Jim Green, David Gerrard, Armand Sarkissian, Hugh Miller

**RIP Anniversaries:** Brian Stapley, Peggy Fermont, William Ward, Harry Henry, Denis King, Arthur Franklyn, Pauline Franklyn

**RIP:** Lauren Addison, John Parker, Joyce Bromfield, Barbara Woolgar, Tsveta Dunne, Phyllis Swaine, Ronald Swaine, June Freeman, Patricia Legat, Barbara Welham, Joy Jenner

**Baptism:** Cecilia Charlotte Burks

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

November		Time	Reading
Monday	20		Isaiah 9.8-10.4, Ps 47, Matthew 7.1-12
Tuesday	21		Isaiah 10.5-19, Ps 52, Matthew 7.13-end
Wednesday	22		Isaiah 10.20-32, Psalm 56, Matthew 8.1-13
Thursday	23		Isaiah 10.33-11.9, Psalm 62, Matthew 8.14-22
Friday	24		Isaiah 11.10-end of 12, Psalm 63, Matthew 8.23-end

## LOOKING AHEAD

November		Time	Event
Sunday	19	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Eucharist & Holy Baptism Service, Christ Church
		12.30pm	Interment of Phyllis Swaine & Ronald Swaine
Monday	20	7.15pm	Choir practice
Wednesday	22	7.45pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	23	All day	Parish Office closed
Sunday	26	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	27	7.15pm	Choir practice
Wednesday	29	7.45pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	30	All day	Parish Office closed

## CONTACTS

<b>PARISH OF ESHER</b> Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS St George's Church, West End Lane, Esher, KT10 8LF Tel 01372 462282 Email office@esherparish.org.uk Website www.esherparish.org.uk Facebook www.facebook.com/EsherParish YouTube www.youtube.com/esherparish Instagram www.instagram.com/esherparish/	<b>RECTOR</b> Revd Darren McCallig On Adoption Leave until 20/11/24. For parish enquiries contact the Churchwardens or the Parish Office.	<b>HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIESTS</b> Revd Jonathan Andrew & Ven David Gerrard
	<b>CHURCHWARDENS</b> Helen Coulson & Jane Tyrrell	<b>CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES WORKER</b> Kathryn Chapman youth@esherparish.org.uk
<b>PARISH ADMINISTRATOR</b> Melanie Williams <b>OFFICE HOURS</b> 9am to 3.15pm, Monday to Wednesday & Friday		
Please submit information and notices for inclusion in the Sunday pewsheet by midday on the preceding Wednesday. Thank you.		