

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

21 MARCH 2021

CHURCH SERVICES

Christ Church	Parish Communion at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reader & Prayers	Jan Sayer
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane, Anne Parfitt

MUSIC

Opening Music	<i>Tierce en taille, from Messe pour les Paroisses (Couperin)</i>
Hymns	A&M 620, 702
Post Sermon	<i>Improvisation, no. 5 from Huit pièces brèves pour piano (Fauré)</i>
Communion Music	<i>Alone, alone, my Jesus came alone; What made you leave your heaven for me? (Parfitt)</i>
Closing Music	<i>Fugue in E minor, BWV 533 (J S Bach)</i>

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least
of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Today's Gospel reading (John 12.20-33) contains one of the favourite texts of the great anti-apartheid campaigner and Anglican prophet of our times, Archbishop Desmond Tutu. In sermon after sermon he quotes Jesus' declaration in verse 32, 'And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' These words, says Tutu, underline the extravagant, if not outrageous, love of God. They also provide something of a manifesto for those of us who follow the crucified and risen Lord. As the former Archbishop of Cape Town put it in a sermon delivered in the Chapel of King's College, London, in 2004: 'When Jesus spoke of being lifted up on the cross he said "I, if I be lifted up will draw..." - he didn't say "I will draw some" - he said "I, if I be lifted up will draw ALL - draw all to me to hold them", all of us drawn into the divine embrace that excludes no-one - black, yellow, white, rich, poor, educated, uneducated, male, female, young, old, gay, lesbian, so-called straight - yes it IS radical. All, all, ALL belong...".

Where, I wonder, can we see – in our church and in our world – signs of the fulfilment of Jesus' promise? And where might we, by the grace of God, join in?

God bless,



READING Jeremiah 31.31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

PSALM 119.9-16

9 How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

10 With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments.

11 I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

12 Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes

13 With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.

14 I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.

15 I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways.

16 I will delight in your statutes. I will not forget your word.

GOSPEL John 12.20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - "Father, save me from this hour"?

No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.'

Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.'

Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

HYMNS

Dear Christ, uplifted from the earth

Dear Christ, uplifted from the earth,
your arms stretched out above
through every culture, every birth,
to draw an answering love.

Still east and west your love extends
and always, near and far,
you call and claim us as your friends
and love us as we are.

Where age and gender, class and race,
divide us to our shame,
you see a person and a face,
a neighbour with a name.

May we, accepted as we are,
yet called in grace to grow,
reach out to others, near and far,
your healing love to show.

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

COMMUNION SONGS

Alone, Alone

Alone, alone, my Jesus came alone,
Dark spun the world, far from his glorious throne;
Light pierced the gloom - so beautiful he, his
goodness shone like gold;
Strange gleams the light, rejected by his own.

For me, for me, my Jesus came for me,
His grace - my peace, my sin - his Calvary;
He cried my tears, he hurt with my pain, my
tempting his despair;
"My Lord! My God!" - his scars by faith I see.

For you, for you, my Jesus died for you;
Pierced for your sins, he poured his soul out too;
"Forgive them, Lord!" the Son of God cried
when they hung him on that cross;
"Behold! The Lamb!" Just look - will this you do?

On high, on high, my Jesus lives on high!
I'm fallen deep, yet his - I know not why;
He chose me, sought me endlessly 'til a rebel
child he found;
Hold fast my heart! He's with me 'til I die.

What Made You Leave Your Heaven?

What made you leave your heaven for me?
Why were you hung for your child to be?

What love reached out so far and wide
To bring me in from the dark outside?

What name did you give me before time began?
Why for me, my God, were you made man?
Why darkness hide what he endured
When your holy wrath on your Son was poured?

Why in my place were you willing to die?
And be nailed to a cross 'til your breath expire?
Why pay my price with your body torn
As, forsaken there, you wept alone?

O why is it hard to love you as I should?
Do I try enough to be like you, Lord?
So, dear Shepherd, help me while we're apart
To look up to Jesus, the hope of my heart.

PARISH COVID INFORMATION

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update -

We are very happy to announce that Christ Church will re-open for in-person public worship for the Easter Day service at 10.30am on Sunday 4 April. With social distancing requirements the capacity will be greatly reduced and so it'll be necessary to have a booking system. Details of how to book will be sent to those on the parish email list next week. If you're not sure you're on that list, please contact the Office to be added. In the meantime, services will continue to be on-line only (except for funerals).

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).

'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>

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

Lent Appeal - A lot of children have now been doing their school work at home, many of them with limited or no access to technology - eg. siblings and parents are sharing one laptop. Our Lent Appeal aims 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+). If you do, 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. For further information please see the Lent Appeal notice on our website at: <http://www.esherparish.org.uk/?q=content/ent-appeal-2021>

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

Zoom Bible Reflection & Prayer - All are welcome to join this informal Zoom gathering at 9am on Tuesday mornings. Contact the Parish Office for details.

Easter Egg Hunt - Attention families! We are very excited to announce the first ever Parish of Esher Easter Egg Hunt! On Easter weekend, Saturday 3, Sunday 4 and Monday 5 April, 2-4pm each day, come and join us in the grounds of Christ Church on a hunt for some delicious eggs. As well as scrummy chocolate eggs, each child will be given a free colouring booklet on the Easter message. We would love to see as many of you as possible, so mark it in your diaries now. If Easter egg hunting isn't for you, you can still help with replenishing the eggs each afternoon. If you can help, please let Dave Whymark know at davewhymark@aol.com. Thank you!

The Art of Lent - You can still join the last session on Thursday, March 25, when we'll explore the theme of Seeing. The session, led by Darren, will begin at 6pm and will last 40 minutes. Please contact the Parish Office for the Zoom sign-in details.

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.

Ecclesiastical Home Insurance 2021 Offer - For every new home insurance policy taken out with Ecclesiastical Insurance they will donate £130 to the Parish of Esher through their Trust130 promotion. For details go to: <https://www.ecclesiastical.com/individuals/home-insurance/trust130/>

PARISH NOTICE

Music on the Green - This month's concert offering is available for online viewing on our MOTG YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs60Nys0liNK3Y10JOnMu1w>). Our performers were Duo Inspiro, a violin and cello duo, with a beautiful programme of Beethoven, Handel and Glière. Our next concert will feature the Diphonon Duo on viola and accordion. Donations are welcome at: www.justgiving.com/campaign/MOTG

Book Group - The next Zoom meeting will be at 6pm on Tuesday 6 April when we will discuss 'Black Dogs' by Ian McEwan. The Times Literary Supplement's review describes this book as 'compassionate, without resorting to sentimentality, clever without ever losing its honesty, an undisguised novel of ideas which is also McEwan's most human work'. If intrigued, contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 01372 479776 or jandrewsher@hotmail.com.

Youth Group - Every Sunday at 6pm the Parish of Esher and St. Mary's East Molesey lead a Youth Worship service. Watch it 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

Compline - During Lent, the Royal School of Church Music is holding online Compline Night Prayer services every Wednesday at 8pm - all are welcome to tune in. Every service will be live on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/rscmcentre.

Mary Teague & Betty Whitney - Sadly, two stalwarts of our Parish community have passed away. We remember Mary and Betty and their families in our prayers.

Easter Card - We would like to distribute an Easter Card to all households in the Parish. If you are willing to help to put cards through some letterboxes in the fortnight prior to Easter, please contact Will Stevens by phone during weekends or evenings on 07505 904089 or 020 8390 6169 or by emailing at wjtstevens@gmail.com.

Mothers' Union Lady Day Eucharist Service - This year's annual service will go ahead in Guildford Cathedral, albeit live streamed with no congregation, on Thursday 25 March. The link for watching the service is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIVhQx2Pcrs>. Young families are welcome - the MU (<https://www.mothersunion.org>) is very supportive of parents and family life.

Today is Census Day! - The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. By taking part, you can help to inform decisions on services that shape your community, such as schools, doctors' surgeries and bike lanes. Because these things matter to all of us, everyone needs to complete the census. Do not worry - your information is protected by law. That means government officials dealing with payments or services you receive cannot see it. It's easy to take part, but if you need a little extra help, there are a wide range of support services. There's language support and accessible guidance and lots of helpful documents on the census website. You can also get help from census staff in the contact centre over the phone, in a web chat or on social media. To complete your census please go to <https://census.gov.uk> or call the helpline on 0800 141 2021.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Yasmin Ingram, Stuart Williams, Maureen O'Brien, Viola Mason, Jaeseok Yang, Headley Williams, Betty Walker, Geoff Walker, Elizabeth Arnold, Sue Lynn, Shireen Sahni

RIP Anniversaries: Geoffrey Venables, Daisy Slade, Hazel Hunter, Keith Duffy

RIP: Betty Whitney, Janette Mary Williams, Christopher Creagh-Brown

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

March		Time	Reading
Monday	22		Jeremiah 21.1-10; Ps 73; John 11.28-44
Tuesday	23	9.00-10.00am	Jeremiah 22.1-5,13-19; Ps 35; John 11.45-end
Wednesday	24	9.00-10.00am	Jeremiah 22.20-23.8; Ps 55; John 12.1-11
Thursday	25		1 Samuel 2.1-10; Ps 111; Romans 5.12-end
Friday	26		Jeremiah 24; Ps 22; John 12.20-36a

LOOKING AHEAD

March		Time	Event
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	7.15pm	Choir practice, Zoom
Tuesday	23	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
		2.00pm	Funeral of Betty Whitney, St George's, West End
Wednesday	24	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
		10.15am	Funeral of Christopher Creagh-Brown, Christ Church
Thursday	25	All day	Parish Office closed
		6.00-6.40pm	'The Art of Lent' Course, Zoom
Sunday	28	10.30am	Live streamed Parish Communion Service for Palm Sunday, Christ Church
		6.00pm	Live streamed Youth Worship Service, YouTube
		6.30pm	Youth Group Meeting, Zoom

CONTACTS

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