

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 EPIPHANY

24 JANUARY 2021

CHURCH SERVICES

Christ Church	Parish Communion at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Reader	Stuart Whatton
Prayers	Revd Darren McCallig
Musicians	Brian Elliott, Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane

MUSIC

Opening Music	<i>Adagio e mesto, from Sonata no. 1 (C P E Bach)</i>
Hymns	96, 102
Communion Music	<i>Minuetto - Vol. 1 no. 4 from En Vacances (Déodat de Séverac)</i>
Closing Music	<i>Menuet from Suite Gothique (Boëllmann)</i>

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
is the light of the world:
may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped,
and obeyed to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

In his book 'God in the Dock' the Christian apologist and author C.S. Lewis gives a thought-provoking interpretation of the 'water into wine' miracle in today's Gospel. For Lewis, this sign is an invitation to see in Jesus the very same power and activity of God which creates and sustains the world around us. He explains:

'God creates the vine and teaches it to draw up water by its roots and, with the aid of the sun, to turn water into a juice which will ferment and take on certain qualities. Thus every year, from Noah's time till ours, God turns water into wine. That, men fail to see. Either like the Pagans they refer the process to some finite spirit, Bacchus or Dionysus: or else, like the moderns, they attribute real and ultimate causality to the chemical and other material phenomena which are all that our senses can discover in it. But when Christ at Cana makes water into wine, the mask is off. The miracle has only half its effect if it only convinces us that Christ is God: it will have its full effect if whenever we see a vineyard or drink a glass of wine we remember that here works He who sat at a wedding party in Cana.'

Something to think about when you next raise a glass!

God bless,



READING Revelation 19.6-10

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure' - for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

PSALM 128

- 1 Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways.
- 2 You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.
- 3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.
- 4 Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.
- 5 The Lord bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.
- 6 May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!

GOSPEL John 2.1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

HYMNS

Brightest and best

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Jesus, come!

Jesus, come! for we invite you,
Guest and Master, Friend and Lord;
now, as once at Cana's wedding,
speak, and let us hear your word:
lead us through our need or doubting,
hope be born and joy restored.

Jesus, come! transform our pleasures,
guide us into paths unknown;
bring your gifts, command your servants,
let us trust in you alone:
though your hand may work in secret,
all shall see what you have done.

Jesus, come in new creation,
heaven brought near in power divine;
give your unexpected glory
changing water into wine:
rouse the faith of your disciples -
come, our first and greatest Sign!

Jesus, come! surprise our dullness,
make us willing to receive
more than we can yet imagine,
all the best you have to give:
let us find your hidden riches,
taste your love, believe and live!

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. The PCC will review the situation at the end of January. Although we cannot be together in our church buildings, we can remain united in prayer and service.

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.

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>

Covid Symptom Study App - The app is a not-for-profit initiative that was launched in March 2020 by health science company ZOE, with scientific analysis provided by King's College London, to support vital COVID-19 research. By using the app you're helping and contributing to advance vital research on COVID-19. To find out more go to <https://covid.joinzoe.com>.

NHS COVID-19 App - It might help to provide a reminder about why it is useful to install/use the app on your smart phone:

- it supports traditional test/trace methods
- it informs people of rising rates in their area
- it alerts people if they've been in contact with someone who has tested positive (even if they don't know them)
- it provides a 'checking in' function using QR codes displayed in venues/public areas.
- it allows people to check their symptoms, and book a test if they need one.

To find out more about the NHS COVID-19 app, go to - <https://covid19.nhs.uk/what-the-app-does.html>

COVID Community Champions - Elmbridge Borough Council, Surrey County Council and Central Surrey Voluntary Action have come together to establish community champions for Elmbridge. Community Champions support our communities by communicating clear, consistent messaging relating to COVID-19. They also provide essential feedback to ensure our messages are reaching all our communities in the best way. They use local community groups, social media, WhatsApp groups, friends and family to communicate the facts and guidelines on COVID-19 and disseminate council and Government information. If you can help, please contact CSA via www.centralsurreyvoluntaryaction.co.uk

PARISH NOTICES

Esher Church School - The search for a new Headteacher has begun. Cathy Bell is leaving ECS to take on the Headship of Dorchester Primary School in Worcester Park, a 3-form entry Primary School with Nursery. We thank her for her wonderful contribution to ECS over the last twenty years. Governors now have the important task of finding a new leader for the school. Please keep all those involved in this process in your prayers:

Gracious God, we ask for your blessing on Esher Church School and its Governing Body as they seek to appoint a new Headteacher. Give all involved your gifts of wisdom and sound judgement, and help them to discern the unique qualities each candidate brings and so find a person to take forward the school's vision of 'Christ at the Centre; Life to the Full'. Amen.

Licensing - The Revd Nate Kurz, our former curate here in Esher, will be licensed as the Vicar of St Mary's East Molesey on Wednesday 27 January at 7pm. Only those who form part of the service are able to be physically present, but all are invited to join the live stream on Facebook and YouTube. See www.smem.org.uk for details. Please keep Nate and the people of St Mary's in your prayers as together they take this next step in their pilgrimage of faith.

Book Group - The group's first meeting of 2021 will be held on Tuesday 2 February at 4.30pm via Zoom, when the discussions will focus on two titles with Vatican connections - 'Conclave' by Robert Harris, and 'Let us Dream' by Pope Francis. The group would be delighted to welcome new members. If interested, contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 01372 479776 or jandrewesher@hotmail.com.

Léon & Jo Stork - The funeral for Léon and Jo was a beautiful service and a very fitting tribute by their three children - Damien, Ben and Candy. If you would like to watch the service Melanie in the Parish Office can give you an unlisted YouTube link.

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!

Music on the Green - Our January concert on Wednesday featured the guitarist Alex Hart playing a varied programme including Scarlatti, Rodrigo and Barrios. Do watch on our Parish Facebook page and if you can please donate via our MOTG JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/MOTG>

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - This is observed the week of 18 to 25 January - the Octave of St Peter and St Paul. See ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer for more details.

Fellowship Group - Our next meeting will be at 10am on Wednesday 17 February on Zoom. If interested contact the Parish Office.

'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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Yasmin Ingram, Stuart Williams, Maureen O'Brien, Viola Mason, Jaeseok Yang, Hedley Williams. Janette Williams, Geoff Walker

RIP Anniversaries: Norah Bloore, Michael Teague, Marjorie Giles, Julia Snelling, Margaret Cullington, Barbara Baker, Elsie Schwarz

RIP: Jo Stork, Léon Stork, Jeremy St John, Ingeborg Vahl, Mary Teague, Irene May Redfern, Betty Whitney, Edward Buckley

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

January		Time	Reading
Monday	25		Ezekiel 3.22-end; Ps 66; Philippians 3.1-14
Tuesday	26	9.00-10.00am	Hosea 4.1-16; Ps 36; 1 Corinthians 10.1-13
Wednesday	27	9.00-10.00am	Hosea 5.1-7; Ps 46; 1 Corinthians 10.14-11.1
Thursday	28		Hosea 5.8-6.6; Ps 47; 1 Corinthians 11.2-16
Friday	29		Hosea 6.7-7.2; Ps 65; 1 Corinthians 11.17-end

LOOKING AHEAD

January		Time	Event
Sunday	24	10.30am	Live streamed Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	25	2.00pm	Funeral of Jeremy St John, Christ Church
		7.15pm	Choir practice, Zoom
Tuesday	26	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	27	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday	31	10.30am	Live streamed Parish Communion for Candlemas, Christ Church
February		Time	Event
Monday	1	7.15pm	Choir practice, Zoom
Tuesday	2	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	3	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday	7	10.30am	Live streamed Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	8	10.30am	Funeral of Ingeborg Vahl, Christ Church
		7.15pm	Choir practice, 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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