

# PARISH OF ESHER

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

*Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love*

CHRISTMAS DAY

25 DECEMBER 2024

## CHURCH SERVICES

Christmas Communion	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 9am at St George's (SG)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reading, Prayers	Bridget Williams
Musician	Oliver Macfarlane
Christmas Communion	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Jane Tyrrell
Sidespeople	Sean Seymour-Cole, Julia Forrest
Reading, Prayers	Will Stevens, Helen Coulson
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane
<b>SERVICE MUSIC</b>	
SG & CC hymns	78, 64, 66
Anthems	<i>Infant holy, Joy to the world</i>
<b>THE ADVENT WREATH PRAYER</b>	
Lord Jesus, Light of light, you have come among us. Help us who live by your light to shine as lights in your world. Glory to God in the highest. Amen.	
<b>THE COLLECT</b>	
Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.	
<b>THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER</b>	
God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. Amen.	

## Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

In his book 'Wishful Thinking' theologian Frederick Buechner compares God to a writer searching for that one elusive word which will convey his meaning and purpose.

'Word after word God tries in search of the right word ... God tried saying it in Noah, but Noah was a drinking man. God tried saying it in Abraham, but Abraham was a little too Mesopotamian with all those wives and whiskers. God tried Moses, but Moses himself was trying too hard; tried David, but David was too pretty for his own good. Toward the end of his rope, God tried saying it in John the Baptist with his locusts and honey and hellfire preaching, and you get the feeling that John might almost have worked except that he lacked something small but crucial like a sense of the ridiculous or a balanced diet. So God tried once more. Jesus as the mot juste of God ... in this life, death, life, God finally manages to say what God is and what human is.'

It's a beautiful reminder that at Christmas God gives us his word – both his Word made flesh in Jesus, and also his word that nothing can separate us from his love. Christmas is a promise that in Jesus of Nazareth we see not only what God is like but also what a truly-alive human being is like. And Christmas is a pledge that through the Spirit of Christ at work in us we too are empowered to give our lives away in love, just like Jesus did.

Happy Christmas!



## READING Titus 3.4-7

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## GOSPEL Luke 2.1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,

praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## PARISH NOTICES

**Peace and Joy at Christmas** - As we come to the end of another year, we want to thank you for all your support, prayers, help and encouragement in 2024. We know that many in our community are facing dark and difficult times right now, but we pray that wherever you are the peace and joy of Christmas will be with you. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.' (John 1.5).

**Advent Appeal 2024** - Eikon is a Surrey-based charity helping children with mental health and wellbeing needs. Each year the organisation works with countless young people enabling them to feel safe, heard and supported. This year's Parish Advent Appeal will support Eikon's vital work. For details about Eikon go to: [www.eikon.org.uk](http://www.eikon.org.uk). Please donate what you can via envelopes, online or by card. Do Gift Aid if you can.

**Sunday 29 December** - There is just one Holy Communion service in Christ Church.

**Sunday School** - Sunday School wishes you a very merry Christmas and peaceful New Year. We will welcome our wonderful children back on Sunday 5 January.

**Youth Group** - Our first get-together in 2025 will be on Sunday 5 January, 4.30-6pm.

**Fellowship Group** - The group will next meet in Christ Church on Wednesday 8 January at 10.30am. All are welcome.

**'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee!** - Many thanks to Tom and Sally Radford for keeping this Zoom service going over the last twelve months. We will resume again on Thursday 9 January. Please contact the Parish Office for the sign-in details.

**Book Group** - On Monday 27 January we'll discuss Bernhard Schlink's hailed novel *The Reader*. For details contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 07968 765188.

**Thank you** - Thank you for our shared ministry together over the last year, with particular gratitude to the pastoral team, the choir, organists, bellringers, flower arrangers, MOTG organisers and caterers, gardeners, coffee and rota teams for all their hospitality, organisation, help and overall dedication. With thanks again, it is very much appreciated.

**Leave** - The Rector will be away from Thursday 26 December to Wednesday 1 January inclusive.

**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.

**Parish Giving** - Donate today via cash, the card machine in Christ Church or online by scanning the QR code on the little pewcards.

**Parish Communications** - Every Friday we send out Sunday's pewsheet and order of service. To receive the email please complete an Electoral Roll form or a contact form.

**Music on the Green** - Join us on Wednesday 15 January, 1.15pm, to welcome in the New Year with the soothing sounds of The Orion Harp Trio and a luscious programme including works by Debussy, Ravel and Bax.

**Parish Office** - The office is now closed for the holidays. It will re-open on Monday 6 January. Should you need any assistance during that time please ring the office number as calls will be redirected to those who can help.

**Parish Winter Help & Support** - Now winter is upon us we need to look after each other. Check for telltale signs that something isn't right – curtains staying drawn, lights left on or deliveries stacking up. Family and friends should stay in touch with vulnerable and elderly people. Do contact our Pastoral Team for help and go to Surrey County Council's website: [www.surreycc.gov.uk/adults/care-and-support/contact](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/adults/care-and-support/contact)

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Michael Newbould, Gilly Barrett, Allen Palmer, Pam & Jim Green, George Raine, Katherine S, Keith Howell-Jones, John Cheetham, Sebastian, Ruramayi, Karen Harris, David Gerrard, Sienna Ravel

RIP Anniversaries: Léon & Jo Stork, Sheila Wilson, Richard Barlow, Antony Fraser, Edith May, Doreen Hinds, Sheilagh Lowry

RIP: John Patrick

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

December	Time	Reading
Christmas Day		Isaiah 62.1-5; Ps 110; Matthew 1.18-end
Thursday	26	Jeremiah 26.12-15; Ps 13; Acts 6
Friday	27	Exodus 33.12-end; Ps 21; 1 John 2.1-11

## LOOKING AHEAD

December	Time	Event
Christmas Day	9am	Christmas Communion, St George's Church
	10.30am	Christmas Communion, Christ Church
Thursday	26	All day Boxing Day Bank Holiday
Sunday	29	10.30am Parish Communion, Christ Church
January	Time	Event
Wednesday	1	All day New Year's Day Bank Holiday
Sunday	5	9am Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am Parish Communion, Christ Church
		4.30pm Youth Group, Christ Church
Wednesday	8	10.30pm Fellowship Group, Christ Church
		7pm Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	9	9.30am Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday	12	9am Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am Parish Communion, Christ Church

## CONTACTS

<b>PARISH OF ESHER</b> Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS <b>what3words location</b> ///frosted.forum.firms St George's Church, West End Lane, Esher, KT10 8LF <b>what3words location</b> ///sugars.hulk.chip <b>Website</b> www.esherparish.org.uk <b>Facebook</b> www.facebook.com/EsherParish <b>YouTube</b> www.youtube.com/esherparish <b>Instagram</b> www.instagram.com/esherparish/	<b>RECTOR</b> Revd Darren McCallig 01372 461088 rector@esherparish.org.uk Rector's day off is Monday	<b>HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIESTS</b> Revd Jonathan Andrew 07968 765188 Ven David Gerrard
	<b>CHURCHWARDENS</b> Helen Coulson 07506 701454 Jane Tyrrell 07971 698299	<b>CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES WORKER</b> Kathryn Chapman youth@esherparish.org.uk

**Parish Office** Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS **Tel** 01372 462282 **Email** office@esherparish.org.uk

**Parish Administrator** Melanie Williams **Office Hours** 9am to 3.15pm, Monday to Wednesday & Friday

**Live Streaming** Please be aware that all services held at Christ Church are live streamed via our YouTube channel.

Please submit information and notices for inclusion in the Sunday pewsheet by 10am on the preceding Tuesday. Thank you.