

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

27 DECEMBER 2020

CHURCH SERVICES & MUSIC

St George's	Parish Communion at 9.00am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reading & Prayers	Bridget Williams
Musician	Stuart Whatton
Christ Church	Parish Communion at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Sandra Argent
Sides	Helen Coulson, Dave Whymark
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reader	Stewart Henderson
Prayers	Jennifer Meade
Musicians	Stuart Whatton
Opening Voluntary	<i>Berceuse (Vieme)</i>
Anthem	<i>Coventry Carol</i> (Eng trad, arr. Shaw)
Closing Voluntary	<i>Sonata in C minor (Félix López)</i>

COLLECT

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth
the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home
in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Today's Gospel reading brings us back to Christmas Eve and the visit of the shepherds to see 'the child lying in the manger.' (Luke 2.16). That the writer of Luke's Gospel chose shepherds as the first callers on the Christ-child has long intrigued biblical scholars. Some see the choice as reflecting Luke's concern for the poor, and indeed it is true that many shepherds were hired hands, considered to be at the bottom of the social scale (though these particular shepherds appear to be the owners of their sheep). Other scholars suggest that they are meant to represent Israel's rulers (as in Ezekiel 34) coming to pay homage to the true King; while others see echoes here of another Bethlehem shepherd, namely David (1 Samuel 16.11).

Perhaps, though, the shepherds simply represent us ordinary folk? As theologian Aaron Klink put it, 'God came unexpectedly, at night, to those who were simply going about their daily occupations. The shepherds had not withdrawn from the world to seek holiness; they were simply going about their task and God appeared. Too often we look for God in the beautiful, in the times and places we set out to seek God. It is also important to remember that God seeks us.' ('Feasting on the Word').

God bless



READING Isaiah 61.10-62.3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the

GOSPEL Luke 2.15-21

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. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

HYMNS

See him lying on a bed of straw

See him lying on a bed of straw,
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore -
the Prince of glory is his name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord of love again:
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of glory when he came!*

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the Saviour of the world!

Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
sing that Bethl'em's little baby can
be the salvation to the soul.

Mine are riches, from your poverty;
from your innocence, eternity;
mine, forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.

What child is this?

What child is this, who, laid to rest
on Mary's lap is sleeping -
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste, to bring him praise,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Come, have no fear, God's Son is here,
his love all loves exceeding:
nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you:
hail, hail the Saviour comes,
the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
all tongues and peoples own him,
the King of kings salvation brings,
let every heart enthrone him.
Raise, raise your song on high,
while Mary sings a lullaby:
joy, joy for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Joy to the world

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, and wonders of his love.

PARISH COVID INFORMATION

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update -

Even though we are now in Tier Four (since 20 December), in-person public worship can continue - we will keep the situation under review. Christ Church will continue to open (generally speaking) for private prayer on Wednesdays, 10am-4pm (but not Wednesday 30 December). In both church buildings there are safety guidelines to be followed and social distancing to be maintained. Please read the instructions upon entering. Thank you.

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. or fullorgan@cantab.net. 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 Holy Trinity Claygate, and Faith in Later Life

COVID Community Champions - Central Surrey Voluntary Action (CSVA) together with Elmbridge Borough Council are looking to recruit a number of volunteer COVID Community Champions to help disseminate up-to-date COVID information within Elmbridge. Please contact CSVA if you're interested via www.centralsurreyvoluntaryaction.co.uk

ST GEORGE'S SERVICE NOTES

Welcome! It's great to be back together for Sunday worship. A few things to remember:

- Please take the Order of Service and the Pewsheets with you.
- Individuals, households and support bubbles are asked not to 'mingle with others' before, during, or after the service.
- Sadly, congregational singing is still not permitted.
- Face coverings/masks are now required by law in places of worship. 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.
- 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).'
- If you prefer to make an act of 'Spiritual Communion' please use the prayer in the Order of Service, on page 10.
- Sadly, we are asked to not stay inside after the service. But, chatting outside in small groups is encouraged!
- 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 for coming.

PARISH COVID INFORMATION

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update -

Even though we are now in Tier Four (since 20 December), in-person public worship in Christ Church and St George's West End can continue. Christ Church will continue to open (generally speaking) for private prayer on Wednesdays, 10am-4pm (but not Wednesday 30 December). In both church buildings there are safety guidelines to be followed and social distancing to be maintained. Please read the instructions upon entering. Thank you.

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CHRIST CHURCH SERVICE NOTES

Welcome! It's great to be back together for Sunday worship. A few things to remember:

- Please take the Order of Service and the Pewsheets with you.
- Please ensure the sidespeople have your details for 'Track & Trace' purposes.
- Individuals, households and support bubbles are asked not to 'mingle with others' before, during, or after the service.
- Sadly, congregational singing is still not permitted - the Choir will raise their beautiful voices on our behalf.
- The toilet (at the back of the church) is open, but please use only if necessary.
- Our service will be live-streamed on our Parish Facebook page. The camera is angled so that only the priest and those speaking from the lectern can be seen.
- Face coverings/masks are required by law. 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.
- 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' use the prayer in the Order of Service.
- Sadly, we cannot offer coffee and we're asked to not stay inside after the service.
- 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

Peace and Joy at Christmas - As we come to the end of this most extraordinary year, I want - as your Rector, along with the Wardens and the PCC - to thank you for all your support, prayers, help and encouragement in 2020. 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 has not overcome it.' (John 1.5).

Esher Shines - We'd like to share a simple idea to spread some Christmas light and love this year: let's all display a star in our windows until the New Year. It could be something that you already have or you could have a go at making one - a paper star, a painted star, a glittery star - the only limit is your imagination! You'll also notice two of our lovely holly trees have been designated star trees! One by the car park and the other by the lychgate. You can hang a star on the trees as a symbol of hope for all to see. So let's all join in, if we can, and make Esher shine!

Christmas Post - Do please check the A-Z pigeonholes at the back of Christ Church! There may be some Christmas cards there for you!

Thank you - A big thank you for our shared ministry together over the last year. A very special big thank you to the pastoral team, the choir, organists, bellringers, gardeners, flower arrangers, coffee and rota teams for all their help, organization, hospitality and overall dedication during 2020. It is all so very much appreciated. Thank you.

Delivery of Christmas Light - A real big thank you to everyone who has delivered our Parish Christmas leaflet. Thanks to Will for organising it so well. We might still have a few roads that need to be done. It might be good to still deliver them as all our services are online anyway. Please contact Will Stevens if you can help. Thank you.

Zoom Bible Reflection & Prayer - We will be returning in the New Year, on Tuesday 5 January at 9am.

Zoom Morning Prayer - The next gathering will be on Wednesday 6 January at 9am.

Parish Office - The office will be taking an extended Christmas break from Christmas Eve to Monday 11 January inclusive. Melanie will return on Tuesday 12 January.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Yasmin Ingram, Stuart Williams, Maureen O'Brien, Viola Mason, Jo Stork, Betty Whitney, Ingeborg Vahl, Jaeseok Yang

RIP Anniversaries: Edith May, Doreen Hinds, Janet Bedford, Kenneth Brookes, Ellen Garratt

RIP: Jeremy St John, Léon Stork

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Dec/Jan		Time	Reading
Monday	28		Baruch 4.21-27; Ps 36; Matthew 18.1-10
Tuesday	29		Exodus 33.12-end; Ps 21; 1 John 2.1-11
Wednesday	30		Isaiah 59.1-15a; Ps 113; John 1.19-28
Thursday	31		Isaiah 59.15b-end; Ps 102; John 1.29-34
Friday	1		Genesis 17.1-13; Ps 103; Romans 2.17-end

LOOKING AHEAD

December		Time	Event
Sunday	27	9.00am	Holy Communion, St George's
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	28	All day	Boxing Day bank holiday
January		Time	Event
Friday	1	All day	New Year's Day bank holiday
Sunday	3	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	4		No choir practice (rehearsals resume Jan 11)
Sunday	10	9.00am	Holy Communion, St George's
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	11	7.15pm	Choir practice
Tuesday	12	All day	Parish Office re-opens
Wednesday	13	10.00am	Fellowship Group, Zoom

CONTACTS

PARISH OF ESHER Website www.esherparish.org.uk Twitter www.twitter.com/esherparish Christ Church open Wednesday, 9am to 6pm	RECTOR Revd Darren McCallig Tel 01372 461088 Email rector@esherparish.org.uk Rector's day off is Monday
PARISH OFFICE Christ Church, Church Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 8QS Tel 01372 462282 Email office@esherparish.org.uk	