

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

PALM SUNDAY

28 MARCH 2021

CHURCH SERVICES

Christ Church	Parish Communion at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Preacher	Ven David Gerrard
Reader & Prayers	Ven David Gerrard and Revd Darren McCallig
Musicians	Brian Elliott, Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane

MUSIC

Opening Music	<i>Chorale Prelude 'Ach Gott verlass mich nicht'</i> (Reger)
Hymns	A&M 159 (v1-3,5), 161 (omit v3)
Post Sermon	<i>Nocturne, Op. 55 no. 1</i> (Chopin)
Communion Music	<i>Come unto Him, all ye that labour</i> (Mauder)
Closing Music	<i>Dialogue - 4th Gloria couplet from Messe pour les Paroisses</i> (Couperin)

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself
in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross
for our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

To fully appreciate the significance of the events of the first Palm Sunday, the Biblical scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan (in their book 'The Last Week') ask us to imagine two processions entering Jerusalem in the run-up to the Passover festival. One procession is led by Pilate bringing troops from Caesarea Maritima to reinforce the Jerusalem garrison for what was often a politically volatile time. Passover was, after all, the Jewish celebration of freedom from Egyptian oppression at a time when many sought freedom from Roman rule. The parallels were clear and so a strong signal had to be sent to the locals - behave or else!

The other procession into Jerusalem comes from the opposite direction, from the Mount of Olives, and consists of Jesus and his followers. The contrast is clear: Pilate on a warhorse, Jesus on a donkey. Pilate's, a triumphal entry designed to strike fear in the hearts of all who saw it; Jesus's procession with a radically different agenda - the Kingdom of God. And two thousand years later, that's still essentially our choice: *Pax Romana* or *Pax Christi* - 'peace' through violence, domination and ruthless power, or the true peace of justice, mercy and love. May God give us the grace to choose wisely.

God bless,



READING Isaiah 50.4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens - wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

PSALM 118.1-2, 19-end

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures for ever!
2 Let Israel say, 'His steadfast love endures for ever.'
19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.
20 This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.
21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.
24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
25 Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

27 The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.
28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.
29 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

PALM GOSPEL John 12.12-16

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord - the King of Israel!' Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: 'Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!' His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

THE PASSION Mark 15.1-39

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called

Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!' In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

HYMNS

All glory, laud and honour

*All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the King and blessèd one:

The company of angels
are praising thee on high,
and mortal men and all things
created make reply:

The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went:
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present:

Thou didst accept their praises,
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King:

*All glory, laud, and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

Ride on, ride on in majesty

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry:
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh:
the Father on his sapphire throne
awaits his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

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 our capacity will be greatly reduced and so it'll be necessary to have a booking system. Please contact the Parish Office to book your place.

'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>

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).

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

Easter Services - Today's Palm Sunday service is online only, as will be the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.

These can be accessed via the Parish website. Emails with the orders of service, pewsheets and web links will be sent out to everyone on our distribution list. Please get in touch with Melanie in the Parish Office if you would like to receive these emails.

Palm Crosses - Christ Church will be open this afternoon, from 1-5pm, for those who would like to drop in and collect one of the Palm Crosses that were blessed at today's Palm Sunday service.

Easter Card - We are distributing an Easter Card to all households in the Parish. If you are willing to help to put cards through some letterboxes in the week 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.

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/lent-appeal-2021>

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. Please contact Dave Whymark at davewhymark@aol.com. Thank you!

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/>

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

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

PARISH NOTICES

Marie Curie Day of Reflection - The Church of England partnered with Marie Curie on Tuesday 23 March 2021 to mark the first anniversary of the first lockdown in the UK with a national day of reflection to reflect on our collective loss due to Covid-19, support those who have been bereaved, and hope for a brighter future. Bellringers were invited by the Church of England to participate in this day by marking the end of the one minute silent reflection at 12 noon by tolling a bell at 12.01pm. We would like to thank Jennifer Meade, our wonderful Tower Captain, for ringing at Christ Church to mark the end of the one minute silence in the Parish of Esher.

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 Duo Kottos on guitar and cello. Donations are always very welcome at www.justgiving.com/campaign/MOTG

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.

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

Darren's Paper Anniversary Card - Thank you to everyone who contributed messages to the card. They were delighted with it. To quote Darren and Annilese...

It was the most wonderful surprise to receive the 'Paper Anniversary Thank You Card' - a real boost after such an extraordinary year. Please pass on sincere thanks - from both myself and Annilese - to everyone who contributed. It really means a lot to both of us and makes us feel so welcomed and supported. 'Go raibh míle maith agaibh' - a thousand thank yous to everyone.

Darren & Annilese.

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 around the building. Who knows we might be able to encircle the church with beautiful expressions of faith, hope and love!

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 jandrewesher@hotmail.com.

InSpire - If you want to subscribe to our Parish newsletter, InSpire, please see go to <http://www.esherparish.org.uk/?q=latestnews>

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, Jennie Seller

RIP Anniversaries: David Quelch, Janet James, Muriel Baumann, Eileen Martineau, Irene Thompson, Brenda Gillham

RIP: Betty Whitney, Christopher Creagh-Brown

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

March/April		Time	Reading
Monday	29		Lamentations 1.1-12a; Ps 41; Luke 22.1-23
Tuesday	30	9.00-10.00am	Lamentations 3.1-18; Ps 27; Luke 22.39-53
Wednesday	31	9.00-10.00am	Jeremiah 11.18-20; Ps 102; Luke 22.54-end
Thursday	1		Leviticus 16.2-24; Ps 42; Luke 23.1-25
Friday	2		Genesis 22.1-18; Ps 69; Hebrews 10.1-10

LOOKING AHEAD

March		Time	Event
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
Monday	29	7.15pm	Choir practice, Zoom
Tuesday	30	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	31	9.00-10.00am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
April		Time	Event
Thursday	1	All day	Parish Office closed
		6.00pm	Online Communion Service for Maundy Thursday, Parish YouTube channel
Friday	2	2.00pm	Online Service for Good Friday, Parish YouTube channel
Easter Sunday		10.30am	Parish Communion Service for Easter Sunday, Christ Church

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
PARISH OFFICE Christ Church, Church Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 8QS Tel 01372 462282 Email office@esherparish.org.uk	