

# PARISH OF ESHER

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

*Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love*

BIBLE SUNDAY

29 OCTOBER 2023

## CHURCH SERVICES

Parish Communion	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Karen Sarkissian, Sean Cole, Debbie Banks, Michael Banks
Reading, Prayers	Brian Elliott, Peter Bedford
Refreshments	Sue Dunne, Janie McCulloch
Musicians	Oliver Macfarlane, Stuart Whatton

## SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	Berceuse (Vieme)
CC hymns	387, 381, 384
CC setting	Coulson
Anthem	<i>Be thou my vision</i> (Chilcott)
Closing music	<i>Prelude &amp; Fugue in A minor, BWV 559</i> (Bach)

## THE COLLECT

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written  
for our learning: help us so to hear them,  
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that,  
through patience, and the comfort of your holy  
word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast  
the hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of all grace,  
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry  
with the bread of his life  
and the word of his kingdom:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness  
sustain us by your true and living bread;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Today – Bible Sunday – is a good opportunity to explore how we read and interpret scripture. In his book 'Being Christian' Rowan Williams explores this characteristically Christian activity and warns against jumping to hasty conclusions or simplistic assertions. He writes:

'One of the great tragedies and errors of the way people have understood the Bible has been the assumption that what people did in the Old Testament must have been right "because it's in the Bible". It has justified violence, enslavement, abuse and suppression of women, murderous prejudice against gay people; it has justified all manner of things we now cannot but as Christians regard as evil.' We must remember, he says, that the Bible contains human responses to the Divine and 'it isn't always simple to hear [what God is saying] because of what human beings are like ... things can go very wrong as well as very wonderfully.' But, if that's the case, how do we discern good interpretations from bad ones? The answer, says Williams, is to put Christ at the centre.

'As Christians read the Bible, the story converges on Jesus ... it is by looking at the story of Jesus, the luminous centre, that we discover how to read the rest of it. Jesus, living, dying, raised from the dead, breathing his Spirit on his Church – it is in his light that you read the rest of the Bible.'

God bless,



## READING Colossians 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ\* dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*\* Other ancient authorities read 'word of God' or 'word of the Lord'.*

## GOSPEL Matthew 24.30-35

Jesus said to his disciples:

The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

## TODAY'S OTHER LECTIONARY TEXTS

### Nehemiah 8.1-4a, 8-12

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose;

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.' So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved. 'And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

### Psalms 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.



**Parish of Esher services**

**Sunday 5 November, 4pm**

# **All Souls Service**

**Christ Church  
Esher**

**A time to remember those whom we love but see no longer. An invitation to pause, pray and light a candle in their memory. A thoughtful and gentle service of words and music, open to all.**

**Parish of Esher - Christ Church, Esher with St George's Church, West End  
Tel: 01372 462282 Email: [office@esherparish.org.uk](mailto:office@esherparish.org.uk) Website: [www.esherparish.org.uk](http://www.esherparish.org.uk)**

## PARISH NOTICES

**Cherish, Nourish, Flourish** - Please take a copy of the 'Cherish, Nourish, Flourish' leaflet home with you to read. It outlines some of the amazing things that have been happening in the parish in the past year, as well as some of the plans we have for the future. If you can give a new, or increase an existing financial gift to the parish, thank you. If at this moment you cannot, thank you for considering it. If you can give more time through volunteering in particular ways, thank you. Response forms can be found on the parish website and in both churches. Every contribution is needed, gratefully received and truly valued.

**Exploring the Bible** - The Parish Advent Study discussion evenings this year will complete our whistle-stop tour of the Bible. Over three Tuesday evenings starting on 28 November, at 8pm, we'll explore St Paul's letters, St Luke's second instalment (the Acts of the Apostles) and the most mysterious and misunderstood book of all, Revelation. More details to follow, but do please reserve the dates now!

**'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee!** - Morning Prayer is now every Thursday morning at 9am. Contact the Parish Office for the Zoom details.

**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.

**Fellowship Group** - The next meeting will be in Christ Church on Wednesday 1 November, 11am. All are very welcome to join.

**Music on the Green** - Next month's fixture will be on Wednesday 15 November when the Heliconia Duo (flute and guitar) will treat us to a varied programme of music from Hungary via Italy to Latin America. Light lunch from 12.30pm, music from 1.15pm.

**Remembrance Sunday** - There'll be two services on Sunday 12 November. A 9am Service of Holy Communion in St George's Church, West End and a Remembrance Sunday Service in Christ Church immediately after the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Esher Green at 10.50am.

**Act of Remembrance** - To close the roads around Esher Green volunteer stewards are needed. Contact the office if you can help.

**Sunday School** - We'll continue to make poppy decorations and wreaths for the War Memorial on Sunday 12 November.

**Early Birds Vacancy** - Esher Church School is recruiting a Playworker for their Breakfast Club. The role includes facilitating activities for the children and making breakfast. Hours are 7.35-8.35am for at least a minimum of two days per week. For more details, please contact [office@esherchurchschool.org.uk](mailto:office@esherchurchschool.org.uk)

### Prayer points

Our wonderful parish school, Esher Church School, has given us the following 'prayer points' to focus our prayers for them.

*Pray for the new children joining ECS over the Autumn months for the transitions to go smoothly and they settle easily.*

*Pray that the staff team relaxed and enjoyed some quality time with family over the half term week.*

*Pray for the school community as they juggle, open days, parents evenings, Christmas events over the next few months.*

*Pray for good health for the school community as they approach the winter months.*

**Girls aged 4-18** - Through adventure, challenge, friendship and fun Girlguiding empowers girls to find their voice, inspiring them to discover the best in themselves and to make a positive difference in their community. There are spaces in Brownies, Guides and Rangers in Claygate. To register your daughter, please go to: [www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/)

## PARISH NOTICES

**Name Badge Sundays** - We pride ourselves that we are a friendly and welcoming church community, but many of us find remembering names can be a challenge. So, this Sunday we'll be holding our second Name Badge Sunday. We'll all be given name badges to make things a little easier. It won't be compulsory, but we hope you'll join in.

**Book Group** - The next meeting will be on Monday 30 October at the new earlier time of 4pm. We'll be discussing Salley Vickers' novel *The Cleaner of Chartres*, described in *The Observer* as 'a rich weave of loss and redemption spiked by Ms Vickers' irrepressible wit'. If you'd like to join us, just turn up or contact Revd Jonathan Andrew – 01372 464380 / jandrewesher@gmail.com.

**Parish Communications** - For those that are unaware we send out a weekly email on Fridays with the Sunday order of service and pewsheets. This is now sent out using our new parish software, ChurchSuite. Those on the Parish Electoral Roll automatically get the email. If you would like to receive please complete an Electoral Roll form or enter your details on the forms in either church. We also issue a quarterly Parish e-newsletter, called InSpire. The Harvest edition has recently been published. To subscribe click on the Inspire link on the Parish website page [www.esherparish.org.uk/?q=latestnews](http://www.esherparish.org.uk/?q=latestnews)

**Our Parish Administrator** - Melanie has let us know that she celebrates her tenth anniversary as our behind the scenes one-stop office. In 2013 Melanie started a two week handover on Monday 14 October and commenced normal hours working solo from Monday 28 October. It was not a good time in the liturgical year to start working for a local parish! More like a baptism of fire! It is now easier and indeed enjoyable with the help of very many church friends.

**All Souls' Service** - We will mark All Souls' Day on Sunday 5 November this year. It's a day traditionally set apart as a time to remember those whom we love but see no longer. And so, at Christ Church, there will be a service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed on Sunday afternoon at 4pm. It'll be a quiet, thoughtful and gentle service with carefully chosen words and music. There will also be an opportunity to pray for those who have passed away, naming them as we do, and lighting a candle in their memory. If you would like to have your loved ones remembered, please add their names to the lists in either church.

**Our Church Cat** - Patch is now looked after by Sandra Argent, a previous churchwarden. Sadly Patch is unwell and needs ongoing treatment. It would be nice to raise a little money towards the expensive vet bills. If you're happy to help poor Patch please use the card machine or scan the QR code.



**Youth Group** - Due to the All Souls' Service on Sunday 5 November the venue will be the Adult Education Centre across from church. For updates email [youth@esherparish.org.uk](mailto:youth@esherparish.org.uk)

**Accommodation** - A single person, linked to the parish and known to the Rector, is looking to rent an annexe or similar space with private entrance for occasional use (happy to pay ongoing rent). Speak to Darren if you can help.

**Christmas Crazy Crafts** - Our Christmas Crazy Crafts will be taking place at the Lower Green Community Centre (Farm Road, Esher KT10 8AU) from 10am on Saturday 2 December! For some festive family fun do save the date!

**Parish Christmas Lunch** - Please save the date – Sunday 3 December at the Bear in Esher. More details and booking information to follow in the next few weeks.

Parish of Esher services

**Sunday 12 November, 10.50am**

# **Service of Remembrance**

**Esher War Memorial  
& Christ Church, Esher**

**The service will start with a short Act  
of Remembrance at the War Memorial  
on Esher Green followed by the main  
service in Christ Church.**

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## PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Elizabeth Arnold, Betty Walker, Michael Newbould, Malcolm Sayer, Gilly Barrett, Allen Palmer, Katherine S, Keith Howell-Jones, Gill Barnett, George Raine, Sebastian, Stuart Williams, Pam & Jim Green, David Gerrard, Armand Sarkissian  
 RIP Anniversaries: Patrick Townend, Sheelagh Daley, Zak Gillard, Peter Knight, Richard Lindow, Susan Coulson, Irene Codd, Reeve Lynn, June Steeden, Richard Gregory  
 RIP: Norma Bowles, Thomas Connor, Lauren Addison, John Parker, Joyce Bromfield

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Oct/Nov		Time	Reading
Monday	30		Ecclesiasticus 39.1-11, Ps 1, John 17.1-5
Tuesday	31		Ecclesiasticus 39.13-end, Ps 5, John 17.6-9
Wednesday	1		Isaiah 35, Psalm 15, Luke 9.18-27
Thursday	2	9am-10am	Ecclesiasticus 43.1-12, Psalm 15, John 18.1-11
Friday	3		Ecclesiasticus 43.13-end, Psalm 19, John 18.12-27

## LOOKING AHEAD

October		Time	Event
Sunday	29	2am	Greenwich Mean Time starts (clocks go back)
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	30	4pm	Book Group, Christ Church
		7.15pm	Choir practice
November		Time	Event
Wednesday	1	11am	Fellowship Group, Christ Church
		7.45pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	2	All day	Parish Office closed
		9am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday	5	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	All Age Eucharist, Christ Church
		4pm	All Souls' Service, Christ Church
Monday	6	7.15pm	Choir practice
Tuesday	7	11am	Memorial Service for Lauren Addison, Christ Church

## CONTACTS

<b>PARISH OF ESHER</b> Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS St George's Church, West End Lane, Esher, KT10 8LF Tel 01372 462282 Email <a href="mailto:office@esherparish.org.uk">office@esherparish.org.uk</a> Website <a href="http://www.esherparish.org.uk">www.esherparish.org.uk</a> Facebook <a href="http://www.facebook.com/EsherParish">www.facebook.com/EsherParish</a> YouTube <a href="http://www.youtube.com/esherparish">www.youtube.com/esherparish</a> Instagram <a href="http://www.instagram.com/esherparish/">www.instagram.com/esherparish/</a>	<b>RECTOR</b> Revd Darren McCallig Tel 01372 461088 Email <a href="mailto:rector@esherparish.org.uk">rector@esherparish.org.uk</a> Rector's day off is Monday	<b>HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIESTS</b> Revd Jonathan Andrew & Ven David Gerrard
	<b>CHURCHWARDENS</b> Helen Coulson & Jane Tyrrell	<b>CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES WORKER</b> Kathryn Chapman <a href="mailto:youth@esherparish.org.uk">youth@esherparish.org.uk</a>
<b>PARISH ADMINISTRATOR</b> Melanie Williams <b>OFFICE HOURS</b> 9am to 3.15pm, Monday to Wednesday & Friday Please submit information and notices for inclusion in the Sunday pewsheet by midday on the preceding Wednesday. Thank you.		