

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

29 DECEMBER 2024

CHURCH SERVICE

Parish Communion	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Churchwarden	Helen Coulson, Jane Tyrrell
Sidespeople	Joanna Rand, Karen Sarkissian
Reading, Prayers	Alison Bownes, David Stark
Refreshments	Jennifer Meade
Musicians	Oliver Macfarlane

SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Chorale Prelude 'In dulci jubilo', BWV 68 (Bach)</i>
CC hymns	59, 88, 70
CC setting	Addington or Coulson
Communion music	<i>Love came down at Christmas (R O Morris)</i>
Closing music	<i>La Nativité du Seigneur: Toccata from Dieu parmi nous (Messiaen)</i>

THE 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.

THE 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,

The Sunday after Christmas is traditionally known in many places as the Feast of the Holy Family, with one of the purposes of the observance being the depiction of the Holy Family, with one of the purposes of the observance being the depiction of Mary, Joseph and Jesus as the model for all Christian families. However, today's Gospel reading (Luke 2.41-52) presents a less than idyllic and harmonious picture of family life. As theologian William J. Danaher puts it, 'we meet the young Jesus acting impetuously, seemingly oblivious to the impact his actions have on others.' However, as Danaher also notes, one of the deeper meanings of this biblical passage is that 'God can be found even in difficult familial circumstances' and 'God's wisdom is available to the young as well as to the old' and so we must be prepared 'for God to surprise us with unexpected revelations given by unusual messengers.'

'That the incarnation took this shape in the life of the holy family gives hope for families of all kinds and conditions on this day. The model of living that the holy family offers is not, as is sometimes depicted in romantic paintings and portraits, that of a family perfectly ordered and without division or differences. Rather, it is of a family that lives into messy moments with the confidence that God in Christ Jesus has entered and redeems them from within.' (Feasting on the Word)

God bless



READING 1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

GOSPEL Luke 2.41-52

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

PARISH NOTICES

New Year Message - As we move into 2025, we'd like to share with you this prayer of blessing from the Church of England's resources for the beginning of a New Year: *Jesus, Lord of time, hold us in your eternity. Jesus, image of God, travel with us the life of faith. Jesus, friend of sinners, heal the brokenness of our world. Jesus, lord of tomorrow, draw us into your future. Amen.*

May the year bring gifts of new possibility, much-needed refreshment and bright hope.

Sunday School - We look forward to a creative return on Sunday 5 January! See Kath if you can help, even for one Sunday per term! We can't run without our much-appreciated volunteers as our cohort of wonderful children grows. Thank you.

Youth Group - The next get-together will be in Christ Church on Sunday 5 January, 4.30-6pm, when we will be looking to the year ahead with intention setting and self-care exploration.

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.

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. Free concert with lunch served from 12.30pm.

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.

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 with winter 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

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: Janet Bedford, Kenneth Brookes, Ellen Garratt, Joseph Finnis, Ingeborg Vahl, Susan Scott, Phyllis Crabbe, Francis Krejsa

RIP: John Patrick

Banns of Marriage: Ralph Gill & Madeleine Bayley

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Dec/Jan	Time	Reading
Monday 30		Isaiah 59.1-15a; Ps 113; John 1.19-28
Tuesday 31		Isaiah 59.15b-end; Ps 102; John 1.29-34
Wednesday 1		Genesis 17.1-13; Ps 103; Romans 2.17-end
Thursday 2		Isaiah 60.1-12; Ps 18.1-30; John 1.35-42
Friday 3		Isaiah 60.13-end; Ps 127; John 1.43-end

LOOKING AHEAD

December	Time	Event
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

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