

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

6 APRIL 2025

CHURCH SERVICES	
Holy Communion	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 9am at St George's West End (SG)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Reading, Prayers	Stephen Lee
Musician	Theo Tang
Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Helen Coulson
Sidespeople	Ian Royce, Ivy Tang
Reading, Prayers	Miranda Fuller, Martin Fuller
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane, Theo Tang
Refreshments	Helen Griffin, Bob Lonnon
SERVICE MUSIC	
Opening music	<i>Chorale Prelude 'Morgenglanz der Ewigkeit', Op. 79b (Reger)</i>
SG hymns	813 (v1-6), 787, 631
CC hymns	813 (v1-6), 787, 707 (v1,7-11)
SG & CC setting	Addington
Anthem	<i>O God, you search me and you know me (Farrell)</i>
Closing music	<i>Paeon (Philip Moore)</i>
THE COLLECT	
Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.	
THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER	
Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. Amen.	

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Today's Gospel reading – where Mary of Bethany anoints Jesus' feet with expensive perfume before wiping them with her hair, only to be upbraided by Judas for wasting money – is, according to biblical scholar Tom Wright, one of those scenes which positively shouts at the reader, 'Where are you in this picture?'

'Are you with the shameless Mary, worshipping Jesus with everything she's got, risking the wrath of her sister who's doing all the hard work, the anger of the men who perhaps don't quite trust their own feelings when a woman lets her hair down in public, and the scorn of the person who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing? Or are you with the cautious, prudent, reliable Judas (as he must have seemed to most of them), looking after the meagre resources of a group without steady or settled income, anxious to provide for their needs and still have something left to give to the poor? ... Or are you back in the kitchen with Martha? If so, how do you feel about both Mary and Judas? And how do you feel about Jesus and what he said?'

(John for Everyone)

Plenty of questions to ponder as we approach Holy Week and Easter!

God bless



READING Isaiah 43.16-21

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

GOSPEL John 12.1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.). Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

Other Lectionary Texts

Psalm 126 page 601 (OT)

Philippians 3.4b-14 page 212 (NT)

The page numbers are given for Bibles that are available from the sidespeople.

PARISH NOTICES

Music in the Tower 2025 - This year's artist is the guitarist Nathaniel Rosales-Merkies. Nathaniel will bring to life his instrument's fire and finesse, weaving a resonant journey of rhythm and raw emotion. This journey will include the iconic Chaconne from Bach's Partita in D minor, as well as colourful Spanish and Latin American repertoire. There are four sittings – on Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 April, at 1pm and 8pm. The admission price is £15 each, with light refreshments. Seats are limited to 20 per performance. Please reserve a place on the sign-up sheets in either church or via the Parish Office!

Sunday School - This week, Sunday School will be kindly led by Michelle as Kath is away. The children will be hearing about Mary anointing Jesus's feet with nard oil and thinking about the value of their Godly gifts.

Crazy Crafts - Easter Crazy Crafts returns to Lower Green Community Centre on Saturday 5 April, 10am to 1pm. Come anytime for family fun and some fabulous free Easter crafting.

Lower Green Community Centre - They're in need of specific items for their Foodbank. Please see the list on the foodbank boxes at the back of both churches. Thank you so much.

New Electoral Roll - Under Church of England rules a parish's Electoral Roll must be completely renewed – basically begun again from scratch – every six years and 2025 is that year. Everyone must re-apply with new applications welcome. There are forms in both churches and an online form is available via this QR code. The closing date for the new roll is Sunday 27 April.



Confirmation - A Deanery Confirmation Service will be held at St Peter's Hershaw on Sunday 22 June at 5pm. Please speak to the Rector or to Kath if you're interested in being confirmed. The preparation sessions will begin in May.

Lent Appeal 2025 - This year our Lent Appeal will raise funds for the Princess Alice Hospice – our local hospice caring for patients and families through illness and bereavement for as long as needed. Please use the appeal envelopes, pay by card or via this QR code and remember to Gift Aid to enhance your donation.



Lent Group - We're exploring Rowan Williams' book *'Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer'* and will discuss the final chapter on Sunday, 12-12.45pm.

Book Group - We'll next gather on 28 April, 4pm, to discuss *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt, which raises important questions on the 'rewiring' of children and young people's brains through excess screen time. For more details contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 07968 765188 / jandrewesher@gmail.com.

Easter Leaflet - Thank you to all our posties. It's a brilliant effort and great to have them posted through letterboxes before Easter.

West End - The St George's gardening team wish to thank all those who have so generously donated plants for our new 'white' flower bed. It is a work in progress, but we are delighted with what we have already achieved, and hope that you will come and enjoy this peaceful garden, which we have created for the benefit of you all. Thank you.

Thanksgiving & Celebration Service and Supper on Sunday 4 May at 6pm - We are holding a special service for all our wonderful volunteers, who work so hard to keep our two churches running. After the service we hope you will join us for supper in Christ Church, provided free as a token of our thanks for all you do. Please complete the form, found at the back of the church, and return to Jane, Helen, Andrea, Bridget or the Parish Office. Alternatively, email the appropriate information to the Parish Office.

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, Katie Clark, Armand Sarkissian, Vanessa Meckiffe, Jennifer Meade

RIP Anniversaries: Donald Leeper, Peter Gilmore, Ken Hapgood, Elizabeth Warburg, John Bradish, Ann Boreham, Peter van Tol, Margaret Williams, Michael O'Brien, Dawn Danclar-Doodly

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

	April	Time	Reading
Monday	7		Jeremiah 21.1-10; Psalm 73; John 11.28-44
Tuesday	8		Jeremiah 22.1-5, 13-19; Psalm 35; John 11.45-end
Wednesday	9		Jeremiah 22.20-23.8; Psalm 55; John 12.1-11
Thursday	10	9.30-10.30am	Jeremiah 23.9-32; Psalm 40; John 12.12-19
Friday	11		Jeremiah 24; Psalm 22; John 12.20-36a

LOOKING AHEAD

	April	Time	Event
Saturday	5	10am-1pm	Easter Crazy Crafts, Lower Green Community Centre
		10am	Surrey Bellringing Association Training, Christ Church
Sunday	6	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		Midday	Lent Group, Christ Church
Monday	7	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday	8	10.30am	Organ exam, Christ Church
Wednesday	9	7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	10	All day	Parish Office closed
		9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday	13	9am	Palm Sunday Service, St George's Church
		10.30am	Palm Sunday Service, 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 PRIEST Revd Jonathan Andrew 07968 765188
	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 9.30am to 3.45pm, 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.		