

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

11 MAY 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	Sue Langley, Juliet Philip
Musician	Theo Tang
Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Jane Tyrrell
Sidespeople	Julia Forrest, Ivy Tang
Reading, Prayers	Jane Anderson, Will Stevens
Refreshments	Helen Griffin, Fiona Owen
Musicians	Oliver Macfarlane, Theo Tang

SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Andante religioso from Sonata no. 4</i> (Mendelssohn)
SG hymns	327(omit v3), 203, 221(omit v3)
CC hymns	327, 203, 194
SG / CC settings	Addington / Coulson
Communion anthem	<i>Come ye faithful</i> (Thatcher)
Closing music	<i>Prelude and Fugue in A minor,</i> <i>BWV 559</i> (Bach)

THE COLLECT

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ
to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us
to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Today's extraordinary reading from the Acts of the Apostles is a stunning example of God's power to bring new hope, and new life, to those in despair. The text also gives us an insight into an early Christian community where a woman – who's also a widow – is described as a 'disciple'. Scholars tell us that this is, in fact, the only use in the New Testament of the feminine form (*mathētria* v.36) of the Greek word for disciple (*mathētēs*). And what a remarkable woman Tabitha was.

Although confined to the margins by her culture's attitude towards her gender and her widowhood she, nevertheless, devoted herself to making a difference to those in need. Her raising from the dead can, therefore, be read as a sign of how such lives of costly compassion are central to the new reality of God's reign.

Theologian Joseph S. Harvard comments: 'Have you ever met Tabitha? I have known her in every church I have ever served. She has no wealth or power except her deep and abiding commitment to give expression to God's compassion for those in need. She is tenacious about practicing her faith by serving others ... Tabitha is still alive in almost every church I know.'
(Feasting on the Word)

God bless



READING Acts 9.36-end

In Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

GOSPEL John 10.22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

Other Lectionary Texts

Psalms 23 page 531 (OT)

Revelation 7.9-end page 270 (NT)

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

PARISH NOTICES

Bell Sunday - The Central Council of Church Bellringers has designated Sunday 18 May as Bell Sunday. The date is chosen as it's the Sunday nearest to the Feast of St Dunstan (19 May). The tenth century bishop is the patron saint of bellringers due to his experimentation in the early forging of bells. Here in Esher we will give thanks for the skill and commitment of our own wonderful bellringing team with special prayers at the 10.30am service.

Sunday School - In our session, we'll create some Good Shepherd craft to demonstrate how Jesus looks after and protects us.

Ascension Day - This major Christian festival falls on Thursday 29 May. It's the day when we reflect on Jesus's physical departure from the earth, not with sadness but with joy as he carries our humanity into the 'heavenly places' and promises his continuing and even more powerful presence with us through the coming of the Holy Spirit. Join us for a special Choral Eucharist at 8pm in Christ Church.

Esher May Fair - On Saturday 17 May teas and entertainment will be available in Christ Church, 2-4pm. If you can help on the day or supply cakes do sign up, contact the Parish Office, Will Stevens or the churchwardens.

Music on the Green - For our lunchtime concert on Wednesday 21 May, 1.15pm, the Old Coulsdon Jazz Band will be treating us to some much-loved swing classics from Glenn Miller and the American big band era. Light lunch will be served from 12.30pm - everyone is welcome to attend.

Youth Group - For our May meeting, we enjoyed exploring the meaning and practice of forgiveness, both of ourselves and others. Our next gathering is Friday 6 June, 5.30-7pm.

Fellowship Group - The next meeting in Christ Church will be on Wednesday 11 June, 10.30am.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025 - The Parish of Esher's annual APCM will be held in Christ Church on Sunday 18 May after the 10.30am service. Everyone can attend and those on the electoral roll are able to vote.

Annual Report - The Parish's Annual Report & Accounts for 2024 has been emailed to everyone registered to receive Parish emails, including those on the Electoral Roll. Printed reference copies are available in both churches.

Vacancies on the Parochial Church Council - There are a few vacancies on the Parish of Esher PCC - new members are welcome. Two new Churchwardens will also be elected this year. If interested, there are nomination forms at the back of both churches.

Electoral Roll - The new Roll has been prepared ahead of the APCM and can be inspected in both churches or from the Parish Office.

Confirmation - A Deanery Confirmation Service will be held at St Peter's Hersham on Sunday 22 June at 5pm. Please speak to the Rector or to Kath if you're interested in being confirmed. The preparation sessions in Christ Church will run for four consecutive Sundays (excluding 18 May) commencing on Sunday 11 May at 12-12.45pm.

Gibbons-Fest - Marking the 400th anniversary of the death of the Tudor composer Orlando Gibbons, Old St George's will be hosting a mini-festival in early June including a Choral Evensong on Saturday 7 June. Watch this space!

Book Group - Our next meeting on Monday 30 June, 4pm, will discuss *James*, by Percival Everett, which creatively builds on the character of the slave Jim in Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*. Contact Revd Jonathan Andrew. - 01372 464380 / jandrewesh@ gmail.com

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - Morning Prayer continues each Thursday at 9.30am. To join please contact 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

RIP Anniversaries: Edward Haliday, Martin Collis, Roger Davies, Margaret Notley, Jimmy McKay, David Fermont, Jenny Gerrard, Madeline Bamber, Elizabeth Allen, Darlene Rennie

RIP: Vanessa Meckiffe

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

	May	Time	Reading
	Monday	12	Deuteronomy 9.1-21, Ps 44, Ephesians 4.1-16
	Tuesday	13	Deuteronomy 9.23-10.5; Ps 48, Ephesians 4.17-end
	Wednesday	14	1 Samuel 2.27-35, Ps 16, Acts 2.37-end
	Thursday	15	Deuteronomy 11.8-end, Ps 118, Ephesians 5.15-end
	Friday	16	Deuteronomy 12.1-14, Ps 33, Ephesians 6.1-9

LOOKING AHEAD

	May	Time	Event
	Sunday	11	9am Holy Communion, St George's Church
			10.30am Parish Communion, Christ Church
			Midday Confirmation Preparation, Christ Church
	Monday	12	7.15pm Choir practice, Christ Church
	Wednesday	14	7pm Bellringing practice, Christ Church
	Friday	16	All day Parish Office closed
	Saturday	17	Midday Esher May Fair, Esher Green
	Sunday	18	9am Holy Communion, St George's Church
			10.30am Parish Communion, Christ Church
			Midday Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Christ Church
	Monday	19	7.15pm Choir practice, Christ Church
	Wednesday	21	1.15pm Music on the Green lunchtime concert: Old Coulsdon Jazz Band, Christ Church
			7pm Bellringing practice, 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.		