

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

PALM SUNDAY

13 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	Mair Molteno, Juliet Philip
Musician	Stuart Whatton, Robert Cunningham
Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Helen Coulson
Sidespeople	Michael Banks, Sean Seymour-Cole
Reading, Prayers	Jane Anderson, Tom & Sally Radford
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane, Robert Cunningham
Refreshments	Debbie Banks, Sue Dunne

SERVICE MUSIC

SG & CC hymns	159 (v1-5), 161, 147 (omit v4&6)
SG & CC setting	Addington
Communion music	<i>O Welt, ich muss dich lassen,</i> <i>Op. 122/11 (Brahms)</i>
Anthem	<i>Drop, drop, slow tears (Wibberley)</i>
Closing music	<i>Allegro maestoso e vivace, from</i> <i>Sonata no. 2 (Mendelssohn)</i>

THE COLLECT

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.

THE 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,

In their book 'The Last Week' biblical scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan ask us to imagine two processions entering Jerusalem on the first 'Palm Sunday'. 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. Pilate's procession is all about Roman imperial power – war horses, chariots, soldiers and polished armour.

The other procession into Jerusalem comes from the opposite direction, from the Mount of Olives. It consists of an unarmed man riding on a donkey. He's surrounded, not by heavily armed troops barking orders, but by ordinary people singing psalms of praise. It's quite a contrast! As theologian H. Stephen Shoemaker puts it:

'We have a clash of kingdoms: Caesar or Christ. Caesar's kingdom is based on domination and ruthless power, the kind of kingship Jesus refused when tempted in the wilderness. The Kingdom of God Jesus preached is based on justice, mercy, and the love of God. So we have our choice: *Pax Christi* or *Pax Romana*. Our challenge is to show the gospel of the kingdom has political implications but transcends our everyday political loyalties.' (Feasting on the Word)

God bless



READING Isaiah 50.4-9a

The servant of the Lord said:
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?

PALM GOSPEL Luke 19.28-40

Jesus went on ahead, going up to
Jerusalem. When he had come near
Bethphage and Bethany, at the place
called the Mount of Olives, he sent two
of the disciples saying, 'Go into the village
ahead of you, and as you enter it you will
find tied there a colt that has never been
ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone
asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just
say this: "The Lord needs it." ' So those
who were sent departed and found it as
he had told them. As they were untying
the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are
you untying the colt?' They said, 'The Lord
needs it.' Then they brought it to Jesus;
and after throwing their cloaks on the colt,
they set Jesus on it. As he rode along,
people kept spreading their cloaks on the
road. As he was now approaching the
path down from the Mount of Olives, the
whole multitude of the disciples began to
praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all
the deeds of power that they had seen,
saying, 'Blessed is the king who comes in
the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!' Some
of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him,
'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' He
answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent,
the stones would shout out.'

PASSION READING Luke 23.1-49

The assembly of the elders of the people rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, 'We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.' Then Pilate asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' He answered, 'You say so.' Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, 'I find no basis for an accusation against this man.' But they were insistent and said, 'He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.'

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man

guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.'

Then they all shouted out together, 'Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!' (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.). Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, 'Crucify, crucify him!' A third time he said to them, 'Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.' But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.' And when all the crowds who

had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Other Lectionary Texts

Psalms 118.1-2, 19-end page 594 (OT)

Psalms 31.9-18 page 536 (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 we'll be starting to make some Rainbow Prayer banners that will be on display in Christ Church at Easter.

Easter Egg Hunt - On Easter Sunday after the 10.30am service at Christ Church, we'll be putting on an Easter Egg Hunt for the children in the church grounds. Bring your basket or watch the children having some fun looking for some very special Easter eggs!

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.



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

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.

Fellowship Group - The next meeting will be in Christ Church at 10.30am on Wednesday 7 May. We welcome all to pray, to reflect on their faith and to put the world to rights!

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
 RIP Anniversaries: Gerald Garratt, Kathleen Portch, Andrew Suszynski, Norman Walker

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

	April	Time	Reading
Monday	14		Lamentations 1.1-12a; Psalm 41; Luke 22.1-23
Tuesday	15		Lamentations 3.1-18; Psalm 27; Luke 22.24-53
Wednesday	16		Jeremiah 11.18-20; Psalm 102; Luke 22.54-end
Thursday	17	9.30-10.30am	Leviticus 16.2-24; Psalm 42; Luke 23.1-25
Friday	18		Genesis 22.1-18; Psalm 69; Hebrews 10.1-10

LOOKING AHEAD

	April	Time	Event
Sunday	13	9am	Palm Sunday Service, St George's Church
		10.30am	Palm Sunday Service, Christ Church
Monday	14		No choir practice
Tuesday	15	1pm	Music in the Tower I, Christ Church
		8pm	Music in the Tower II, Christ Church
Wednesday	16	1pm	Music in the Tower III, Christ Church
		8pm	Music in the Tower IV, Christ Church
Thursday	17	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
		7pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
		8pm	Maundy Thursday Service, Christ Church
Friday	18	All day	Parish Office closed (18 -27 April incl.)
		2pm	Good Friday Service, Christ Church
Easter Sunday		9am	Easter Day Service, St George's Church
		10.30am	Easter Day Service, Christ Church
		11.30am	Easter Egg Hunt, 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.		