

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

26 JANUARY 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	Jackie Andrew, Bridget Williams
Musicians	Oliver Macfarlane
Eucharist & Holy Baptism (live streamed)	Led by Revd Darren McCallig at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Helen Coulson
Sidespeople	Sean Seymour-Cole, Karen Sarkissian
Reading	Jessica Yeandle
Refreshments	Sandra Argent, Sia Marshall
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane, Robert Cunningham
SERVICE MUSIC	
Opening music	<i>Chorale Prelude 'Morgenglanz der Ewigkeit' (Reger)</i>
SG / CC hymns	327, 358, 652
SG / CC setting	Addington / Coulson
Anthem	<i>O nata lux (Tallis)</i>
Closing music	<i>Larghetto in D minor (Charles Wesley)</i>
THE COLLECT	
God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord. Amen.	
THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER	
Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illuminated by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.	

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

In today's Epistle (1 Corinthians 12.12-31a) Paul introduces his celebrated analogy of the Church as a human body. As scholars have noted, the comparison of community life to the physical body was often used in ancient texts as a reminder to those of low social and/or political status of their subservient place in society. Paul radically subverts this by using the metaphor to argue instead for equality, mutuality and diversity – each limb and function is equally essential to the health and flourishing of the whole. The implications of this extraordinary reversal of hierarchical norms are far-reaching. As theologian Lee C. Barrett notes:

'The church should not just tolerate a plurality of capacities and experiences but should actively cultivate a spirit-breathed synergy. The radical interdependence that Paul portrays requires radical diversity of gifts, all necessary for the common good. The differences in gifts should not become the foundation for hurtful comparisons. In fact, in Paul's trope society, a "natural" scheme of values is turned upside down. The apparently lower-status members play an indispensable role in the community ... those persons who would be the most disdained according to ordinary social standards should actually be treated with the most respect in the Christian community.' (Feasting on the Word)

God bless



READING 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and

individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

GOSPEL Luke 4.14-30

Jesus filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." '

And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

PARISH NOTICES

Candlemas Service - This year we will mark Candlemas with a Choral Eucharist in Old St George's Church, Esher on Sunday 2 February at 6pm. This liturgical feast recalls the day on which Jesus was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, and in our celebration we offer ourselves for cleansing. We celebrate the joy of Jesus' coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion. All are welcome to this reflective, atmospheric service.

First Aid Training - Polly Jordan has kindly arranged a morning of free First Aid training with NHS colleagues on Saturday 1 February, 9.30-11.30am at Christ Church. The session will cover Basic Life Support (BLS), choking management/anaphylaxis and experience with an automated external defibrillator (AED) like the Christ Church one. It is open to everyone. If interested contact the Parish Office or Polly on pollyjordan08@gmail.com

Book Group - On Monday 27 January we'll discuss Bernhard Schlink's novel *The Reader*.

Sunday School - To celebrate Jesus being the fulfilment of Jewish Old Testament scripture, we'll make paper scrolls with the passage Jesus read out in the synagogue at the beginning of his ministry in Nazareth.

Music on the Green - A nearly 80-strong audience enjoyed the delightful combination of flute, viola and harp on 15 January, with around £200 profit made for parish funds. Huge thanks goes to the whole MOTG team. The next concert is on Wednesday 19 February.

Other Lectionary Texts - The Revised Common Lectionary typically specifies four scripture readings for Sunday morning services, two are printed in the pewsheet. The other texts are given in the box, along with the page numbers in the Bibles available from the sidespeople.

Other Lectionary Texts

Psalms 19 page 528 (OT)

Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10 page 467 (NT)

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

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, Katie Clark

RIP Anniversaries: Michael Teague, Marjorie Giles, Julia Snelling, Margaret Cullington, Barbara Baker, Elsie Schwarz, Suzanne Armstrong-Kelsey, Audrey Phillips, Peter Butler, Alexander Grey, June Williams

RIP: Elizabeth Garsten, Philip Brewster, David Deme, Mark Deme

Baptism: Emilia Mary Hancock

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

January		Time	Reading
Monday	27		Hosea 2.18-end of 3; Psalm 108; 1 Corinthians 9.15-end
Tuesday	28		Hosea 4.1-16; Psalm 36; 1 Corinthians 10.1-13
Wednesday	29		Hosea 5.1-7; Psalm 46; 1 Corinthians 10.14-11.1
Thursday	30	9.30-10.30am	Hosea 5.8-6.6; Psalm 47; 1 Corinthians 11.2-16
Friday	31		Hosea 6.7-7.2; Psalm 65; 1 Corinthians 11.17-end

LOOKING AHEAD

January		Time	Event
Saturday	25	2pm	Wedding Blessing of Jack Morrissey & Daisy Love, St George's Church
Sunday	26	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Eucharist & Holy Baptism, Christ Church
Monday	27	4pm	Book Group, Christ Church
		7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	29	7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	30	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Friday	31	5-6.30pm	Youth Group, Christ Church
February		Time	Event
Saturday	1	9-11.30am	First Aid Training, 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 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 pewsheets by 10am on the preceding Tuesday. Thank you.