

PARISH OF ESHER

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

SHARING THE POWER OF GOD'S LOVE IN ESHER

Reconciling - Sustaining - Guiding - Healing

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

26 JULY 2020

CHURCH SERVICE

Service	Parish Communion led by Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sides	Jane Tyrrell, Rebecca Warner
Reading	Rebecca Warner
Preacher	Revd Darren McCallig
Prayers	Bridget Williams
Musicians	Polly Jordan, Stuart Whatton, Keith Howell-Jones, Dan Hamm

MUSIC

Communion Music	<i>The Lord's Prayer</i> (Albert Hay Malotte); <i>Ave Maria</i> (Schubert)
Closing Organ Voluntary	<i>Part III of 'St Anne' Fugue in Eb, BWV 552</i> (Bach)

Virtual Anthem

O lux beata Trinitas, Op. 121 no. 5 (Mendelssohn)
Performed by Die Vokal Romantiker, Leipzig
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbzpcFhCBVA>

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory and the
flourishing of your kingdom; through
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine
and the source of life, ever giving himself
that the world may live:
may we so receive within ourselves
the power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup, we may share his
glory and be made perfect in his love;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Today's Parable of the Mustard Seed - with its striking imagery of the shrub which provides a welcome home for numerous birds of the air - is seen by many scholars as alluding to the entry of the Gentiles into the Kingdom. The text has a strong echo of verses such as Ezekiel 31.6

'All the birds of the air made their nests in its bough ... in its shade all great nations lived.' Perhaps, then, the parable is pointing us to the all-inclusive (and often inconvenient!) welcome of Christ? As Marcella Marie Holloway put it in her poem 'The Risk'.

*You take a risk when you invite the Lord
Whether to dine or talk the afternoon
Away, for always the unexpected soon
Turns up: a woman breaks her precious nard,
A sinner does the task you should assume,
A leper who is cleansed must show his proof:
Suddenly you see your very roof removed
and a cripple clutters up your living room.
There's no telling what to expect when Christ
Walks in your door. The table set for four
Must often be enlarged and decorum
Thrown to the wind. It's his voice that calls them
And it's no use to bolt and bar the door:
His kingdom knows no bounds
of roof, or wall, or floor.*

God bless,



READING 1 Kings 3.5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

PSALM 119.129-136

129 Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

130 The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

131 With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments.

132 Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom towards those who love your name.

133 Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

134 Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts.

135 Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.

136 My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.

GOSPEL Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

Jesus put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

PARISH NOTICES

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update -

In line with the latest COVID-19 guidance from the Government and the Diocese, Sunday morning public worship has now resumed with a Parish Communion at Christ Church on Sundays, at 10.30am. It is hoped services at St George's West End will also recommence in due course. Please keep an eye on our website for updates. Your churches remain open for private prayer, with Christ Church open on Wednesdays, 9am to 6pm, and St George's on Wednesdays, 2pm to 4pm, and Sundays, 2pm to 4pm. There are safety guidelines to be followed and social distancing is to be maintained. Please read the instructions upon entering. Thank you.

Help & the Parish Office - The office is working remotely due to the Coronavirus outbreak and is closed. If you need support do let us know via the parish office email and telephone. For urgent enquiries do please contact the Rector, the Revd Darren McCallig (rector@esherparish.org.uk or 01372 461088) or a churchwarden - Helen Coulson on 07506 701454 or Sandra Argent on 07973 909152. For music or 'MOTG' enquiries, contact our Director of Music, Stuart Whatton, on 07816 011621 or fullorgan@cantab.net. Many thanks.

Music on the Green - Our first virtual concert, a harmonica and piano recital by Phil Hopkins and our very own Stuart Whatton, can be found on our MOTG YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs60Nys0liNK3Y10JOnMu1w/featured?view_as=subscriber). For donations to Music on the Green, we have set up an MOTG JustGiving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/MOTG>. Many thanks for all your donations so far. If you haven't already listened to the recital, do tune in and let us know what you think.

Children's Church-Takeaway Activity Packs -

We've put together pizza boxes full of fun and faith for our youth and children to take with them wherever they go this summer. There's a blow-up beach ball, party bubbles, crayons and a colourful wrist band; as well as 'Friends and Heroes' activity sheets, a recipe for a 'Fruits of the Spirit Salad', and an inspirational guide to self-care for families. Plus, there's food for the body as well as the soul with some fresh fruit and a 'Pizza Express' voucher! We've a limited supply, so don't miss out. Email the parish office - office@esherparish.org.uk - to have one delivered to your door.

Donations - Many thanks for your ongoing generosity to the Parish of Esher. Like most churches and parishes we've seen a significant fall in our income in recent months, so if you're in a position to do so, please consider how you can support mission and ministry in this place. Donations can be made via our JustGiving page - <https://www.justgiving.com/esherparish> - and there will be a retiring collection at the door after today's service. You can also make payments directly to the parish bank account. Please contact the Parish Office or Treasurer for details, and for Gift Aid forms. Thank you!

Shop Online & Fundraise - The website [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) turns your everyday online shopping into donations for the Parish, at no cost at all to you. Just visit your favourite retailers through the link: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/pccesher/> - and then shop as normal.

Parish Fundraising via Amazon - You can also fundraise for the Parish when you shop with Amazon. Support us by always starting your shopping using the link <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1134847-0>

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Jackie Hinton, Yasmin Ingram, Stuart Williams, Maureen O'Brien, Viola Mason, Helena Miller

RIP anniversaries: Lisa Hall, May Roberts, Annie Dixon, Doreen Coslett, Joseph Bertram, James Morrison, Rebecca Szepletowski, Anthony Pennie

RIP: Sarah Tweedle

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Taken from the Church of England Lectionary – readings for Morning Prayer are given below.

	July	Time	Reading
Monday	27		1 Samuel 10.1-16; Ps 1; Luke 22.24-30
Tuesday	28	9.00-10.00am	1 Samuel 10.17-end; Ps 5; Luke 22.31-38
Wednesday	29	8.50-9.30am	1 Samuel 11; Ps 119.1-32; Luke 22.39-46
Thursday	30		1 Samuel 12; Ps 15; Luke 22.47-62
Friday	31		1 Samuel 13.5-18; Ps 19; Luke 22.63-end

LOOKING AHEAD

	July	Time	Event
Monday	27	6.00-7.00pm	Choir social, Member's garden
		7.30-8.15pm	Choir meeting, Zoom
Tuesday	28	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	29	8.50-10.00am	Morning Prayer & Zoffee!, Zoom
August		Time	Event
Sunday	2	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	3	7.30-8.15pm	Choir meeting, Zoom
Tuesday	4	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	5	8.50-10.00am	Morning Prayer & Zoffee!, Zoom

CONTACTS

PARISH OF ESHER Website www.esherparish.org.uk Twitter www.twitter.com/esherparish Christ Church open Wednesday, 9am to 6pm	RECTOR Rev'd Darren McCallig Tel 01372 461088 Email rector@esherparish.org.uk Rector's day off is Monday
PARISH OFFICE Christ Church, Church Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 8QS Tel 01372 462282 Email office@esherparish.org.uk	