

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

27 SEPTEMBER 2020

CHURCH SERVICES

St George's	Holy Communion at 9am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Preacher	Rebecca Warner
Reading & Prayers	Peter Bedford
Musician	Keith Howell-Jones
Christ Church	Parish Communion at 10.30am led by Revd Darren McCallig
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sides	Angela Sweet, Volunteer
Preacher	Rebecca Warner
Reading	Belinda Doolan
Prayers	Dave Whymark
Musicians	Oliver Macfarlane, Stuart Whatton, Nicholas Dibb-Fuller

MUSIC

Opening Organ Voluntary	<i>Chorale Prelude: Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier</i> (Bach)
Choir Anthem	<i>A Gaelic Blessing</i> (Rutter)
Communion Music	<i>Sonatina in B flat</i> (Anon 18 th cent, trans. Donella)
Closing Organ Voluntary	<i>Variations de Concert, Op.1</i> (Joseph Bonnet)

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you
with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Today's Gospel reading includes a parable about a man with two sons. When asked by their father to go and work in the family vineyard, the first son says 'no' but later changes his mind and gets to work. The second son, on the other hand, initially says 'yes' but fails to follow through on the promise. Biblical scholar Tom Wright sees this parable as applying to both the religious authorities of Jesus's day, and also to us. He explains:

'The first son ... stands for the tax collectors and prostitutes. Their daily life seemed to be saying 'No' to God; but when they heard John [the Baptist] they changed their mind and their lifestyle (in other words, they 'repented'). The second son ... stands for the Temple hierarchy and other leaders. They look as though they're doing God's will, worshipping in the Temple and keeping up appearances, but they refused to believe in John's message, not only about repentance but also about the Messiah who was standing unknown in their midst.'

The challenge then for us, says Wright, is to ask ourselves, 'Where have I been like the second son and said 'Yes' to God while in fact going off in the other direction?' (Matthew for Everyone).

God bless,



READING Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-end

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

GOSPEL Matthew 21.23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

PARISH COVID INFORMATION

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update -

In line with the latest COVID-19 guidance from the Government and the Diocese, Sunday morning public worship has resumed with a Parish Communion at Christ Church on Sundays, at 10.30am. We are also pleased that public worship at St George's has started again with fortnightly 9am services. Regular worshippers have been advised how this works. If you would like to know more please contact the Parish Office. St George's will now remain closed during the week. Christ Church will continue to open for private prayer on Wednesdays, 9am-6pm. In both church buildings there are safety guidelines to be followed and social distancing to be maintained. Please read the instructions upon entering. Thank you.

Help & the Parish Office - The office is working remotely and is closed. If you need support, do let us know via the Parish Office email and telephone. For urgent enquiries 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.

Daily Hope Helpline 0800 804 8044 -

This is a new free initiative launched by the Church of England and Lambeth Palace with help from Holy Trinity Claygate. Following a greeting from the Archbishop of Canterbury, a list of options includes a short talk exploring a traditional hymn, hymns on a loop, the Church of England's weekly service and morning/evening prayers.

CHRIST CHURCH SERVICE NOTES

Welcome! It's great to be back together for Sunday worship. A few things to remember:

- Please take the Order of Service and the Pewsheets with you. We'll follow the same Order almost every week, so do re-use it.
- Please ensure the sidespeople have your details for 'Track & Trace' purposes.
- The toilet (at the back of the church) is open, but please use only if necessary.
- Our service will be live-streamed on our Parish Facebook page. The camera is angled so that only the priest and those speaking from the lectern can be seen.
- Face coverings/masks are now required by law in places of worship. Exemptions are: those leading worship; children under 11; those unable to put on/wear a face mask because of a physical or mental illness or disability; those for whom wearing a mask will cause severe distress; and anyone assisting someone who relies on lip reading to communicate.
- Communion will be in one kind only (consecrated bread) with the priest wearing a face covering for distribution. Please come 'up' the centre aisle and use the hand sanitiser before receiving. Please return to your seat 'down' the side aisles.
- If you prefer to make an act of 'Spiritual Communion' please use the prayer in the Order of Service, on page 10.
- Sadly, we cannot offer coffee and we're asked to not stay inside. But, chatting outside in small groups is encouraged!
- Just as we asked you to use the hand sanitiser on the way in, please use it again on the way out.

It's wonderful to have you here - thank you for coming.

PARISH COVID INFORMATION

Parish Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Update -

In line with the latest COVID-19 guidance from the Government and the Diocese, Sunday morning public worship has resumed with a Parish Communion at Christ Church on Sundays, at 10.30am. We are also pleased to announce we have devised a way in which services at St George's have starting again in September. Regular worshippers have been advised how this will work. If you have not been contacted but would like to know more please contact the Parish Office.

Please note that now services are about to resume at St George's it will remain closed during the week. Christ Church will continue to open for private prayer on Wednesdays, 9am-6pm. In both church buildings there are safety guidelines to be followed and social distancing to be maintained. Please read the instructions upon entering. Thank you.

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ST GEORGE'S SERVICE NOTES

Welcome! It's great to be back together for Sunday worship. A few things to remember:

- Please take the Order of Service and the Pewsheets with you. We'll follow the same Order almost every week, so do re-use it.
- Face coverings/masks are now required by law in places of worship. Exemptions are: those leading worship; children under 11; those unable to put on/wear a face mask because of a physical or mental illness or disability; those for whom wearing a mask will cause severe distress; and anyone assisting someone who relies on lip reading to communicate.
- Communion will be in one kind only (consecrated bread) with the priest wearing a face covering for distribution. Please stay in your seats and the priest will come to you. Before receiving the bread each person should apply hand sanitiser from their own personal bottle (we have some available if you have forgotten to bring yours).'
- If you prefer to make an act of 'Spiritual Communion' please use the prayer in the Order of Service, on page 10.
- Sadly, we are asked to not stay inside after the service. But, chatting outside in small groups is encouraged!
- Just as we asked you to use the hand sanitiser on the way in, please use it again on the way out.

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PARISH NOTICES

Harvest Services - We will be holding two Harvest Eucharist services - one service at Christ Church on Sunday 4 October at 10.30am with the second one at St George's on Sunday 11 October at 9am. All of our Harvest donations will be donated to the East Elbridge Foodbank. They are particularly in need of fruit juice (long life) coffee (small jars), Fray Bentos pies, tinned hot dogs, tinned fish, tinned vegetables, ketchup/mayo (small plastic bottles), tinned fruit, custard, rice pudding and household cleaning items. The Foodbank has set up a Harvest Appeal on their Local Giving page for those preferring to give financially. <https://localgiving.org/east-elbridge-foodbank-harvest2020>. Thank you.

Pet Service - We have decided, regretfully, to postpone the Pet Service at St George's until next Spring. It was proving too difficult to work out how best to organise it within the current COVID restrictions.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - Our delayed APCM will take place on Sunday 18 October after the Christ Church service.

Electoral Roll - In April 2019 we completely reviewed our Electoral Roll. You may find you're not on the roll now. If you would like to add your name to the roll, please contact the Parish Office for a form. Thank you.

Donations - Many thanks for your ongoing generosity to the Parish of Esher. Like many parishes our income has fallen in recent months. Please consider supporting our mission and ministry via our JustGiving page at - <https://www.justgiving.com/esherparish>. There will be a retiring collection after the service today. You can make payments to the parish bank account too - contact the Parish Office for details and for GA forms.

Music on the Green - Our next concert will be on Wednesday 21 October, when we will welcome the Flauguissimo Duo, a husband and wife team on baroque flute and theorbo. You can listen to the last recital on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/EsherParish>. It will be on our MOTG YouTube channel soon. Online donations are gratefully received at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/MOTG>

Macmillan Coffee Morning - Whilst we are unable to hold a regular coffee morning as we did last year we will have a virtual one on Zoom on Friday 9 October. Details to follow.

Pioneers Youth Group - Pioneers (Year 7+) restarts at St Mary's East Molesey on Sunday 4 October at 6pm. Please let Dave Whymark know if your young person will be attending as numbers are needed ahead of time to ensure we do not exceed the set limit.

Book Group - We're starting a Parish Book Group, with 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry' by Rachel Joyce being the first book for discussion. The first meeting is to take place on Tuesday 13 October at 4.30pm on Zoom. If it sounds your sort of thing, please contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 01372 479776 / jandrewsher@hotmail.com

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - This Wednesday, September 30, Morning Prayer will not be running. It will resume the following Wednesday, at 9am, led by our Rector, Darren, on Zoom as usual. All are welcome to join. Contact the Parish Office for the Zoom sign-in details.

Zoom Bible Reflection & Prayer - At 9am on Tuesday mornings, there is a time of Bible reflection and prayer. All are welcome to join this informal Zoom gathering which finishes about 10am. Contact the Parish Office for the Zoom sign-in details.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

RIP Anniversaries: John Mitchell, Margaret Williams, Dorothy McGuire, Eileen Lock, Janet Thirtle, Peter Meade, Cynthia Collis, Charles Orr, Leslie Norris, Bill Stevens, Betty Taylor, Nicholas Simmons, Winifred Peden, Jean Mumby, David Rennie

RIP: Doris Wright, Raymond Stenning

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Sept/Oct		Time	Reading
Monday	28		1 Kings 12.25-13.10; Ps 44; Acts 19.8-20
Tuesday	29	9.00-10.00am	Tobit 12.6-end; Ps 34; Acts 12.1-11
Wednesday	30		1 Kings 17; Ps 119.57-80; Acts 20.1-16
Thursday	1		1 Kings 18.1-20; Ps 57; Acts 20.17-end
Friday	2		1 Kings 18.21-end; Ps 51; Acts 21.1-16

LOOKING AHEAD

September		Time	Event
Sunday	27	9.00am	Holy Communion, St George's
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	28	7.15-8.30pm	Choir rehearsal, Christ Church
Tuesday	29	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
October		Time	Event
Sunday	4	10.30am	All Age Eucharist & Harvest Service, Christ Church
		6.00pm	Pioneers, St Mary's East Molesey
Monday	5	7.15-8.30pm	Choir rehearsal, Christ Church
Tuesday	6	9.00-10.00am	Bible Reflection & Prayer, Zoom
Wednesday	7	8.50-10.00am	Morning Prayer & Zoffee!, Zoom
		10.00am	Fellowship Group, Christ Church
Sunday	11	9.00am	Harvest Eucharist Service, St George's
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		Middy	Interment of Patricia McKenna, Christ Church

CONTACTS

PARISH OF ESHER Website www.esherparish.org.uk Twitter www.twitter.com/esherparish Christ Church open Wednesday, 9am to 6pm	RECTOR Revd 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	