

Christ Church ERITH

Sunday 22nd March 2026

Fifth of Lent

10.00am Parish Communion (6)

PLEASE take this Pew Sheet home with you after the service. However, please **do NOT take home the Order of Service book**. Please return it to the table at the back of church after the service.

Today's Hymns

Opening: **81** *Christ triumphant, ever reigning*

Gradual: **501** *There's a wideness in God's mercy*

Offertory: **255** *It's a thing most wonderful*

Communion: **32** *And now, O Father mindful of thy love*

437 *Rock of ages, cleft for me*

293 *Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us*

Closing: **78** *Christ is the one world's true light*

The Collect

Most merciful God,

**who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:**

grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross

we may triumph in the power of his victory;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Reading: Ezekiel 37.1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Gospel: John 11.1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do

you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, ‘The Teacher is here and is calling for you.’ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Post Communion Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Notices

NEXT SUNDAY, 29th March: Due to the start of BST (clocks go forward 1 hour that morning), there will be a **joint service for Palm Sunday at St John's, starting at 10.00am.** *There will be no Palm Sunday service at Christ Church;*

HOLY WEEK & EASTER:

Monday 30th March to Wednesday 1st April - 8pm Compline (Night Prayer) at St John's;

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April – Joint Service 7:30pm at St John's;

Good Friday, 3rd April – 10am Christ Church, 2pm St John's;

Easter Day, 5th April – 9am Christ Church, 11am St John's.

LENT COURSE: Concludes this **Thursday, 7.30-9.00pm** at St John's (in church). We will be unpacking the creation story in Genesis 1 to better love God's creation. All are welcome.

EASTER LILIES are customarily paid for by donations from members of the church in remembrance of the loss of a loved person. I will be putting a collection plate by the Font for people to contribute over the next two weeks. I have already ordered the lilies. *Thank you, Heather.*

MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICES: **Monday Morning Prayer** - at 9am online via Teams. Link is on www.christchurcheith.org.uk and Facebook, and can be shared. **Thursday Morning Prayer** – 9am at Christ Church. **Tuesday Evening Prayer** – 5pm at St John's.

JUNIOR DISCIPLES CLUB for ages 3.5 – 11 years, every Sunday except the first of each month, meet in the Church Hall 10-10.30am, and then join the service.

ELEVATED YOUTH GROUP for ages 12-18 years meet in the Church Hall 7-9pm on the **third and fourth Fridays** of each month.

St JOHN'S SILVER BIRCH CLUB continues on **Thursday 2 April, 12pm-2.30pm** at **St John's Community Hall**. Please take a leaflet at the back of church.

TODDLER CHURCH continues every **Tuesday at 9.00 – 10.30am** in the church hall. **MESSY CHURCH** continues on the third Friday of each month at 3.30 – 5.45pm in the church hall, next date **Friday 17 April**.

GAMES NIGHTS: Come and join us for an evening of fun and games - all ages welcome. The next sessions are at **Christ Church Hall this Friday, 27 March**, then at **St Johns Hall on Tuesday 14 April, both 7pm – 9pm**.

LOVE TO SING: Join us for fun, music and dancing on the third Thursday of each month. Next date is **16 April at 10.45am – 12.15pm in church (Christ Church)**. This event is in collaboration with *Memory Lane Melodies, a Home Instead* programme. Christ Church is collaborating with them in providing the space as part of our outreach.

THE OFFERTORY and GIFT AID: You can pay into the following account by bank transfer: **Account Name:** *Christ Church, Erith.* **Sort Code:** 40-20-25 **Account Number:** 01166395.

Or pay using the following online service:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/bbf2c400-846f-4c03-aa23-3dff9b5cca89> We are also able to take contactless payments using our card machine at the back of church. There is also a collection of cash offertory during the service. If you are a UK taxpayer, please use a **Gift Aid envelope** for your donation, and fill in the details on the printed form on the envelope.

OUR DAILY BREAD is a booklet containing readings, thoughts and prayers for the present period. Copies of the latest edition are available free of charge at the back of church.

TODAY'S Old Testament Lectionary reading is Romans 8.6-11.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS: This week we pray especially for the residents of **Cook Square** and **Cornelia Place**.

Next Week

**Readings for the Parish Communion at 10.00am on Palm Sunday,
29 March (at St John's):** Isaiah 50.4-9a

Palm Gospel: Matthew 21.1-11 *Passion Gospel:* Matthew 27.11-54

Contact Details

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Weddings: Please contact a Churchwarden

Baptisms: Heather Taylor Tel: 07958 736781

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Pew Sheets/Notices: Paul Hyde paulh4010@gmail.com

Contact details of other office holders are available at the back of church.