



# Easter

PARISH OF ESHER

Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End



*Loving solidarity across difference ...  
dogged determination to hold on to hope*

There will be no Easter services in the Church of Saint John the Evangelist, Palmers Green, North London, this year. That's because the building was badly damaged by fire on New Year's Day and it will take about six months to repair. Sadly, the incident was not an accident – police forensics found that the fire was set deliberately by the high altar and carefully 'nurtured like a barbecue' in order to cause maximum harm.

The arson attack appears to be part of a series of hate crimes against the vicar, the Revd Julie Coleman. She's devastated by the damage as are those who had weddings and baptisms booked. The Revd Julie and her congregation are – in her own words – just about 'hanging on to hope.'

What keeps them going, she says, are the many kindnesses they've received, including from members of other churches and faiths. The local Roman Catholic priest donated beautiful new linen for use on the altar, while Muslim women from Afghanistan hand-made a new chasuble (the garment worn by a priest at Holy Communion) to replace the one damaged in the fire. Julie and her family have been inundated with gifts of groceries and meals.

So while there will be no Easter celebrations in the church itself this year, the essence of Easter most certainly endures in Palmers Green. It's there in the simple acts of human kindness, in the loving solidarity across difference, and in the dogged determination to hold on to hope.

In short, Easter is not cancelled. In fact, the Revd Julie and her congregation will gather for their services in a makeshift worship space in the parish centre this year, deeply conscious of the fire-scarred church building next door, yet still singing 'Alleluia!'. That's what Christians call resurrection – the Easter-morning Jesus emerging from the darkness of the tomb still carrying the wounds of crucifixion and human cruelty – the living embodiment of hard-won Hope, the bright promise of unconquerable Love.

Revd Darren McCallig  
Rector of Esher

# *Easter Blessings*

MAY YOU KNOW THE  
JOY & PEACE OF THE RISEN CHRIST



Easter Greetings from the Rector  
and all at Christ Church in Esher  
and St George's in West End



# The Parish of Esher ✦ Easter 2024

The Parish of Esher is for everyone. On Sundays we explore the riches of the Christian spiritual tradition through words and music, silence and sacrament. Some of us grew up in church and have never left. Some of us grew out of church, but are testing the waters again. Some of us have more questions than answers. All of us belong here.

You can check out some of our services on YouTube to get a flavour of what we're about, or just come along some Sunday at 10.30am in Christ Church or at 9am in St George's, West End. Whether you join online or in person, we hope you'll find a community committed to a thoughtful Faith, a hard-won Hope, and a generous Love.

As well as the church services, there's a range of other activities and programmes: a vibrant Sunday School and Youth Group; a free monthly lunchtime concert series, Music on the Green; book groups, study groups and prayer groups; 'Friends' coffee mornings; and much more. Check our website [www.esherparish.org.uk](http://www.esherparish.org.uk) for details.



Christ Church, Esher



St George's, West End

## **Saturday, 23 March**

### **Easter Crazy Crafts**

10am, Lower Green Community Centre

*Drop in anytime, 10am-1pm, for free family fun!*

## **Palm Sunday, 24 March**

### **Palm Sunday Services**

9am, St George's, West End

10.30am, Christ Church, Esher

## **Tuesday, 26 March**

### **Wednesday, 27 March**

#### **Music in the Tower**

1pm & 8pm, Christ Church

*Places are limited so please book ahead.*

## **Maundy Thursday, 28 March**

### **Maundy Thursday Service**

8pm, Christ Church, Esher

## **Good Friday, 29 March**

### **Good Friday Service**

2pm, Christ Church, Esher

## **Easter Sunday, 31 March**

### **Easter Day Services**

9am, St George's, West End

10.30am, Christ Church, Esher

## **Parish of Esher - Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End**

Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS ✦ St George's Church, West End Lane, Esher KT10 8LF

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Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10am to 12 noon