

# PARISH OF ESHER

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

*Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love*

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

27 APRIL 2025

## CHURCH SERVICES

Patronal Eucharist	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 9am at St George's West End (SG)
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Reading, Prayers	Sue Langley, Gerard Harper
Musician	Stuart Whatton
Eucharist & Holy Baptism (live streamed)	Led by Revd William Allberry at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd William Allberry
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Helen Griffin, Ivy Tang
Reading	Sandra Argent
Refreshments	Sia Marshall, Sandra Argent
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Theo Tang

## SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>The Angels' Song, on a Theme of Orlando Gibbons (Stanford)</i>
SG / CC hymns	216, 422, 576 / 216, 207, 220
SG / CC settings	Addington / Coulson
Communion anthem	<i>O sons and daughters, let us sing (Jean Tisserand)</i>
Closing music	<i>Postlude in G, Op. 105 no. 2 (Stanford)</i>

## THE COLLECT

Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:  
open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of others  
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,  
to the praise of God the Father.

**Amen.**

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God our Father,  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ  
you have assured your children of eternal life  
and in baptism have made us one with him:  
deliver us from the death of sin  
and raise us to new life in your love,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## Message from our Rector, Darren

My dear friends,

Today's Gospel Reading (John 20.19-31) is the origin of the well-known expression 'Doubting Thomas' – a nickname which is not usually a compliment! But, perhaps, we are a little unfair to Thomas. After all, his great virtue was that he absolutely refused to say that he understood what he did not understand, and refused to say that he believed what he did not believe. You might say that there was an admirable honesty about Thomas.

One might even say that the kind of doubt exhibited by Thomas shows concern and leads to questioning, which can lead to a deeper, more mature and dynamic faith. Louis Untermeyer (1885-1977) the American author and poet, appears to have appreciated this possibility. In his poem 'Prayer' he coined the phrase 'buoyant doubt.'

*Ever insurgent let me be,  
Make me more daring than devout;  
From sleek contentment set me free,  
And fill me with a buoyant doubt.*

From 'sleek contentment' and un-thinking certainties, Good Lord, deliver us!

God bless



## READING Acts 5.27-32

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

## GOSPEL John 20.19-31

It was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

### Other Lectionary Texts

Exodus 14.10-end; 15.20-21 page 64 (OT)

Psalm 150 page 612 (OT)

Revelation 1.4-8 page 265 (NT)

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

## PARISH NOTICES

**St George's Church, West End** - This Sunday, we mark our beloved Tin Tabernacle's Patronal Festival. In the 9am Eucharist we'll celebrate the special role of the little church in the life of West End people and look to George, its Patron Saint, as an example of heroic faith. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Confirmation** - A Deanery Confirmation Service will be held at St Peter's Hershams on Sunday 22 June at 5pm. Please speak to the Rector or to Kath if you're interested in being confirmed. The preparation sessions in Christ Church will run for four consecutive Sundays (excluding 18 May) commencing on Sunday 11 May at 12-12.45pm.

**Sunday School** - This week we'll be talking about curiosity, thinking about what questions we'd like to ask Jesus and making some 'Faith Isn't About Sight' glasses.


**Baptism** - Jane Tyrrell's granddaughter Margo will be baptised in Christ Church this Sunday (27 April). Please join the family afterwards to celebrate with a special cake.

**Book Group** - We'll next gather on 28 April, 4pm, to discuss *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt, which raises important questions on the 'rewiring' of children and young people's brains through excess screen time. For more details contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 07968 765188 / jandrewsher@gmail.com.

**Youth Group** - Our group returns on Friday 2 May, 5.30-7pm at Christ Church, when we'll be considering forgiveness - what it means and how to practice it.

**Lower Green Community Centre** - They're in need of specific items for their Foodbank. Please see the list on the foodbank boxes at the back of both churches. Thank you so much.

**Leave** - The Rector returns on Wednesday 30 April. The Parish Office re-opens on Monday 28 April. For help please contact the churchwardens.

**New Electoral Roll** - Under Church of England rules a parish's Electoral Roll must be renewed every six years and 2025 is that year. Everyone must re-apply. New applications are welcome. The final closing date is today, Sunday 27 April. There are forms in both churches and an online form is available via this QR code. 

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2025** - The Parish of Esher's annual APCM will be held in Christ Church on Sunday 18 May after the 10.30am service. Everyone can attend and those on the electoral roll are able to vote.

**Annual Report** - The Parish's Annual Report & Accounts for 2024 will be emailed to everyone registered to receive Parish emails, including all those on the Electoral Roll, before the APCM.

**Thanksgiving & Celebration Service and Supper on Sunday 4 May at 6pm** - We are holding a special service for all our wonderful volunteers, who work so hard to keep our two churches running. After the service we hope you will join us for supper in Christ Church, provided free as a token of our thanks for all you do. Please complete the form, found at the back of the church, and return to Jane, Helen, Andrea, Bridget or the Parish Office. Alternatively, email the appropriate information to the Parish Office.

**Fellowship Group** - The next meeting will be in Christ Church at 10.30am on Wednesday 7 May. We welcome all who want to pray, reflect on their faith and put the world to rights!

**'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee!** - Morning Prayer continues each Thursday at 9.30am. To join please contact the Parish Office.

**Music on the Green** - For our lunchtime concert on Wednesday 21 May, 1.15pm, the Old Coulsdon Jazz Band we'll be treating us to some much-loved swing classics from Glenn Miller and the American big band era.

## 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, Katie Clark, Armand Sarkissian

RIP Anniversaries: Martin Moreton, William Pearson, John Daley, Mary Bedford, Edna Chambers, Ian Dewar, Jemima Warrington

RIP: Vanessa Meckiffe

Baptism: Margo Juniper Davies

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

April/May	Time	Reading
Monday 28		Joshua 1.1-9, Ps 146, Ephesians 6.10-20
Tuesday 29		Isaiah 62.6-10, Ps 148, Acts 12.25-13.-13
Wednesday 30		Deuteronomy 3.18-end, Ps 30, John 20.19-end
Thursday 1		Proverbs 4.10-18, Ps 139, James 1.1-12
Friday 2		Deuteronomy 4.15-31, Ps 61, John 21.15-19

## LOOKING AHEAD

April	Time	Event
Sunday 27	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
	10.30am	Eucharist & Holy Baptism, Christ Church
Monday 28	4pm	Book Group, Christ Church
	7.15pm	Choir practice
Wednesday 30	7pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
May	Time	Event
Thursday 1	All day	Parish Office closed
	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Friday 2	5.30pm	Youth Group, Christ Church
Saturday 3	2.30pm	Hornchurch Bellringers visit, Christ Church
Sunday 4	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
	10.30am	All Age Eucharist, Christ Church
	6pm	Thanksgiving & Celebration Service and Supper, Christ Church

## CONTACTS

<b>PARISH OF ESHER</b> Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS <b>what3words location</b> //frosted.forum.firms St George's Church, West End Lane, Esher, KT10 8LF <b>what3words location</b> //sugars.hulk.chip <b>Website</b> www.esherparish.org.uk <b>Facebook</b> www.facebook.com/EsherParish <b>YouTube</b> www.youtube.com/esherparish <b>Instagram</b> www.instagram.com/esherparish/	<b>RECTOR</b> Revd Darren McCallig 01372 461088 rector@esherparish.org.uk Rector's day off is Monday	<b>HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIEST</b> Revd Jonathan Andrew 07968 765188
	<b>CHURCHWARDENS</b> Helen Coulson 07506 701454 Jane Tyrrell 07971 698299	<b>CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES WORKER</b> Kathryn Chapman youth@esherparish.org.uk
<b>Parish Office</b> Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS <b>Tel</b> 01372 462282 <b>Email</b> office@esherparish.org.uk <b>Parish Administrator</b> Melanie Williams <b>Office Hours</b> 9.30am to 3.45pm, Monday to Wednesday & Friday		
<b>Live Streaming</b> 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.		