PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT — 15 NOVEMBER 2026

CHURCH SERVICE	
Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Revd Jo Winn-Smith at 10.30am at Christ Church
Preacher	Revd Jo Winn-Smith
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Debbie Banks, Michael Banks
Reading & Prayers	Peter Bedford, Tom & Sally Radford
Chalice	Stephen Lee, Diana Johns
Musicians	Oliver Macfarlane, Robert Cunningham
Refreshments	Sandra Argent, Helen Griffin
SERVICE MUSIC	
Opening music	*Chorale Prelude 'Ach Gott, verlass mich nicht', Op. 79b* (Reger)
Hymns	2, 641 (omit v3), 828
Setting	Coulson
Communion anthem	*The Call – No. 4 from Five Mystical Songs* (Vaughan Williams)
Closing music	*Dialogue sur les Trompettes avec Larigot, from Messe pour les Paroisses* (Couperin)

COLLECT

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

Message from Jo, your Rector

Dear friends,

In a week where stories of abuses of power and manipulation and grooming by charismatic individuals have hit the headlines, the gospel speaks to how we use what we have, which includes misuse. This weekend is also Safeguarding Sunday, a pertinent reminder of our responsibility to be alert, compassionate and wise. We must also remember that the church has often failed in its duties and been swayed by the influential, not listening to the vulnerable and defenceless.

This can all seem alien or incredulous, when many of us have the fortune to have not been involved in such situations. But to the minority, who are statistically likely to be part of our community, it is painfully familiar. And they are watching how the rest of us respond. When it came to Jesus, he allied himself to the vulnerable and oppressed, saying it would be better to hang a millstone around one's neck and be drowned than cause a little to stumble in their belief in him.

In the coming weeks, lots of people will be crossing our threshold, and it is our opportunity to show the love of Christ to them. May they find us welcoming, compassionate and caring, as we fulfil our talents and responsibilities towards God and neighbour.

Yours



READING 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL Matthew 25.14-30

Jesus said to his disciples:

'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Other Lectionary Texts

Zephaniah 1.7, 12-end
Psalm 90.1-12

PARISH NOTICES

Remembrance Sunday - Thank you to everyone who organised, volunteered and helped last Sunday. A real team effort!

Margaretha de Haan - We're sorry to share the news that Margaretha, a Parish friend and dedicated volunteer, has died. We hold Margaretha and her family and friends in our prayers. The funeral will be at Christ Church. We will share details shortly.

Sunday School - What gifts has God given you and how can you use them to help others and honour Him? These are the big questions the children will be thinking about this week! Huge thanks to Mim who is running Sunday School in Kat's absence.

Christmas Leaflet - Leaflet bundles are ready in Christ Church for delivery to Esher homes before the first event, Deck the Halls, on Friday 4 December. Bundles for delivery will be distributed at today's service.

Real Advent Calendar - The UK's only fairtrade advent calendar supports charitable causes. Buy for £5 in both churches from this Sunday.

Sermon - The Archbishop of Canterbury recently preached a deeply insightful and soberly inspiring sermon on the current world landscape. Worth a read: www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/speeches/being-church-turbulent-times-archbishop-sarahs-address-porvoo-primates

St George's - Our tin tabernacle is closed for repairs to the foundations and flooring. We'll welcome everyone back in December. Donations always welcome for the ongoing maintenance of our historic fabric via this Collection Pot QR code.

PARISH OFFERTORY
To support our mission and ministry you can give cash during the offertory. Donations can also be made via card or the QR code pewcards. Alternatively, you can give via the Parish Giving Scheme: www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish. For more giving information go to: www.esherparish.org.uk/?q=content/get-involved.

Music on the Green - On Wednesday 18 November at Christ Church we'll welcome Opus Sax, a vibrant young saxophone quartet, to give us a wide-ranging programme from Bach through to jazz, tango and folk classics. Light lunch from 12.30pm, concert at 1.15pm.

Tree work - Major work will be undertaken by EBC contractor, Moore's Tree Company, on Tuesday 24, Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 November. They will work on the big cedars at the lychgate, one near the office, a tree by the Lammas Lane boundary wall plus tidy up churchyard adjacent to Park Road. Do please avoid using the car park on these three days.

Advent Groups - As part of our preparation for Christmas, an opportunity to reflect on the advent (literally 'coming') of Christ will be available in reflection groups this Advent. We will meet Mondays 11-12.15am or Tuesdays 6-7.15pm in Christ Church from November 30 and December 1. Each session will be standalone, so do come, even if you cannot make them all.

Fellowship Group - The next meeting in Christ Church is on Wednesday 2 December, 10.30am. We welcome all to pray, to reflect on their faith and to put the world to rights!

Deck the Halls - Let's launch the festive season by lighting up the Christmas Tree in Christ Church at 5.30pm on Friday 4 December. Do join us for a fun family evening of food, carols, decorations and Christingle making!

Christingle Service - Join us to celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World, at this All Age service on Sunday 6 December, 10.30am, in Christ Church.

Christmas Crazy Crafts - Our Christmas family crafting event is back with a new blue and silver theme! Come anytime to Lower Green Community on Saturday 12 December, 10am-1pm. Free entry, kids get a goodie bag and the cafe will be open. If you'd like to help for an hour or two on the day, please let Kat know.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Gilly Barrett, Jim Green, George Raine, Katherine S, Keith Howell-Jones, John Cheetham, Sebastian, David Gerrard, Katie Clark, Louise Tyzack, Caroline Kerr, Armand Sarkissian, Phoebe Ainsworth, Josh Baines, John Stacey, Paul Nicholls, Gudrun & David Jensen, Myfanwy Tranmer, Christine Steeds, Michelle Cullen

RIP Anniversaries: Joseph Underwood, Peter Page, Ernest Stanton, Hannelore Schulze, Ronald Swaine, Brian Stapley, Peggy Fermont, John Patrick, William Ward

RIP: Jean-Claude Gazet, Elizabeth Roberts, Margaretha de Haan, Michael Newbould

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

November		Time	Reading
Monday	16		Daniel 8.1-14, Ps 47, Revelation 10
Tuesday	17		Daniel 8.15-end, Ps 52, Revelation 11.1-14
Wednesday	18		Daniel 9.1-19, Ps 56, Revelation 11.15-end
Thursday	19	10am	Daniel 9.20-end, Ps 62, Revelation 12
Friday	20		Daniel 10.1-11.1, Ps 65, Revelation 13.1-10

LOOKING AHEAD

November		Time	Event
Sunday	15	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	16	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	18	1.15pm	Music on the Green concert: Opus Sax, Christ Church
		7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	12	All day	Parish Office closed
		10am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Friday	20	10.30am	Memorial Service for Elizabeth Roberts, Christ Church
Saturday	21	9.30am	Merstham Bellringers visit, Christ Church
Sunday	22	10.30am	Eucharist & Holy Baptism, Christ Church
Monday	23	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday	24	All day	Tree work by Moore's Tree Company, Christ Church (Tuesday 24, Wednesday 25 & Thursday 26 November)
Wednesday	25	7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	26	All day	Parish Office closed
		10am	Morning Prayer, Zoom

CONTACTS

PARISH OF ESHER
Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS
what3words location ///frosted.forum.firms
St George's Church, West End Lane, Esher, KT10 8LF
what3words location ///sugars.hulk.chip
Website www.esherparish.org.uk
Facebook www.facebook.com/EsherParish
YouTube www.youtube.com/esherparish
Instagram www.instagram.com/esherparish/

RECTOR
Revd Jo Winn-Smith
rector@esherparish.org.uk

CHURCHWARDENS
Will Stevens 07505 904089
Fraser McGuicken 07342 057763
churchwardens@esherparish.org.uk

HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIEST
Revd Jonathan Andrew
07968 765188
jandrewesher@gmail.com

DEPUTY WARDEN CHRIST CHURCH
Sandra Argent 07973 909152
DEPUTY WARDEN ST GEORGE'S
Charles Hawkshaw-Burn 07799 895083

CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER
Kat Mahale
youth@esherparish.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
Alison Mohamed
safeguarding@esherparish.org.uk

Parish Office Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS **Tel** 01372 462282 **Email** office@esherparish.org.uk
Parish Administrator Melanie Williams **Office Hours** 9.30am to 3.45pm, Monday to Wednesday & Friday

Live Streaming 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 pewsheet by 10am on the preceding Tuesday. Thank you.