

# PARISH OF ESHER

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

*Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love*

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

22 FEBRUARY 2026

CHURCH SERVICES	
Holy Communion	Led by Ven David Gunn-Johnson at 9am at St George's (SG)
Preacher	Ven David Gunn-Johnson
Churchwarden	Charles Hawkshaw-Burn
Reading, Prayers	Charles Hawkshaw-Burn, Jackie Andrew
Musician	Oliver Macfarlane
Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Ven David Gunn-Johnson at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Ven David Gunn-Johnson
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Sean Seymour-Cole, Karen Harris
Reading, Prayers	Miranda Fuller, Martin Fuller
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane, Theo Tang
Refreshments	Debbie Banks, Wendy Tanqueray
SERVICE MUSIC	
Opening music	<i>Chorale and Coda from Lied to the Flowers (Peeters)</i>
SG & CC hymns	121, 116, 649
SG & CC setting	Addington
Anthem	<i>If ye love me (Tallis)</i>
Closing music	<i>Prelude &amp; Fugue in B flat, BWV 560 (Bach)</i>
COLLECT	
Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. <b>Amen.</b>	
THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER	
Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <b>Amen.</b>	

## Welcome to the Parish

Our two churches, Christ Church and St George's, have been beacons of faith, hope and love in Esher for well over a century.

Generations have come through our doors to celebrate marriages, welcome newborns into our Christian faith and to grieve their losses - all of it embraced by the worship and prayer offered each week.

Every Sunday we explore the richness of our Christian traditions 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 but whatever the reason, we all belong here.

You can find full details of our services online. Most Sundays we worship at 9am at St George's, West End and at 10.30am at Christ Church, Esher.

We look forward to welcoming you.

**READING Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7**

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

**GOSPEL Matthew 4.1-11**

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

**Other Lectionary Texts**

Psalm 32

Romans 5.12-19

## PARISH NOTICES

**Thank You** - To Ven David Gunn-Johnson, for visiting us and leading our morning services. It is a joy to worship with you.

**Bishop Andrew** - We recently shared the news of Bishop Andrew's cancer diagnosis. His statement is publicly available on the Diocese website: [www.cofeguildford.org.uk/news](http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/news). A further update has been issued stating sadly that the cancer is an aggressive form. We have sent the letter to all church members registered to receive emails from us. Copies are available to read in both churches. A day of prayer for Bishop Andrew will take place on Monday 23 February at Guildford Cathedral, 12 noon to 10pm.

**Vacancy Update** - Interviews with three candidates for Rector will be on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 March. We ask that you continue to pray for a successful outcome.

**Lent Appeal 2026** - This year our Lent Appeal will raise funds for Mlanga Parish Church in Tanzania for a new well for water. Valerie Msoka will share details in the notices at Christ Church on Sunday 22 February and at St George's on Sunday 29 February. Please use the appeal envelopes, pay by card or via the QR code and add your details so we can claim Gift Aid to enhance your donation.



**Lent Course** - The course, based on the book *Let Me Go There - The Spirit of Lent* by Paula Gooder, starts on Sunday 22 February at noon in Christ Church. It'll consist of hourly sessions on consecutive Sundays until Easter, facilitated most weeks by Christine Steeds. She may need someone to help on at least one Sunday. You may buy an e-book or a paperback online.

**Sunday School** - This week we'll create our Easter scene in the Sunday School garden, bury the Hallelujah and begin our Lenten Path to mark the most holy season.

**Music on the Green** - Our February concert 'Songs from the Shows' was a great success, with an audience of 108 (our second highest for a lunchtime fixture) raising £600 for parish funds – a huge thank you to Myfanwy Grace and Angus Cunningham for entertaining us so well. Next regular concert on 18 March, 1.15pm, will be a violin & piano recital.

**The Chosen** - In the last in our current series from this acclaimed dramatisation of Jesus' life we will show Episode 1.6 on the Christ Church big screen on Tuesday 24 February at 7.30pm. Don't miss it!

**The Last Brightness of Everything** - Stewart & Carol Henderson and Yvonne Lyon present this lauded music, poetry and narrative script performance at Christ Church on Saturday 28 February, 7.30pm. Advance tickets at £16.96 from Eventbrite (<https://tinyurl.com/yc3fabw7>) or £18 on the door. Refreshments provided.

**Choir visit to Chingford** - Our choir will join Chingford Parish Choir for a choral evensong on Sunday 1 March, 6.30pm, at St Peter & St Paul Church. Revd Darren McCallig will preside.

**Book Group** - For our next meeting in Christ Church on Monday 9 March, 4pm, we've chosen *The Seaside* by Madeleine Bunting. It takes readers on a journey round English coastal resorts, looking at their history. To obtain used copies go to [Abebooks.co.uk](http://Abebooks.co.uk).

**Peace & Contemplation** - The Wonder of Endings & New Beginnings. On Thursday 12 March, 8pm, in Christ Church. An evening of inspiring readings, beautiful music and reflective silence.

**Mothering Sunday** - Our wonderful Mothering Sunday tradition will continue with a combined Parish service at Christ Church on Sunday 15 March. We will give thanks for our mothers and those who play a nurturing and caring role. The fifth Sunday in March is Palm Sunday when there'll be services at both churches.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Michael Newbould, Gilly Barrett, Jim Green, George Raine, Katherine S, Keith Howell-Jones, John Cheetham, Sebastian, Karen Harris, David Gerrard, Katie Clark, Louise Tyzack, Caroline Kerr, Armand Sarkissian, Phoebe Ainsworth, Josh Baines, Mike Elder, Brian Elliott, Gudrun & David Jensen, Bishop Andrew

RIP Anniversaries: Margot Williams, Hugh Eccles, Albert Hayhoe, Doreen Trimmer, Stephen Bush, Teddy Baumann, Denise Green, Clive Sexton

RIP: Dany McLeod

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

February		Time	Reading
Wednesday	23		Genesis 41.25-45, Ps 11, Galatians 3.23-4.7
Tuesday	24		Genesis 41.46-42.5, Ps 44, Galatians 4.8-20
Wednesday	25		Genesis 42.6-17, Ps 6, Galatians 4.21-5.1
Thursday	26	10am	Genesis 42.18-28, Ps 42, Galatians 5.2-15
Friday	27		Genesis 42.29-end, Ps 22, Galatians 5.16-end

## LOOKING AHEAD

February		Time	Event
Sunday	22	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		Midday	Lent Course, Christ Church
Monday	23	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday	24	7.30pm	Screening of The Chosen, Christ Church
Wednesday	25	7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	26	All day	Parish Office closed
		10am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Friday	27	All day	Parish Office closed
Saturday	28	7.30pm	The Last Brightness of Everything, 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> In Vacancy	<b>CHURCHWARDENS</b> Will Stevens 07505 904089 Fraser McGuicken 07342 057763 churchwardens@esherparish.org.uk
	<b>HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIEST</b> Revd Jonathan Andrew 07968 765188 jandrewesher@gmail.com	<b>DEPUTY WARDEN CHRIST CHURCH</b> Sandra Argent 07973 909152 <b>DEPUTY WARDEN ST GEORGE'S</b> Charles Hawkshaw-Burn 07799 895083
	<b>CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES WORKER</b> Kathryn Chapman youth@esherparish.org.uk	<b>SAFEGUARDING OFFICER</b> Alison Mohamed safeguarding@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 pewsheet by 10am on the preceding Tuesday. Thank you.	