

# PARISH OF ESHER

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

*Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love*

CHRISTMAS DAY

25 DECEMBER 2025

## CHURCH SERVICES

Christmas Communion	Led by Revd William Allberry at 9am at St George's (SG)
Preacher	Revd William Allberry
Churchwarden	Charles Hawkshaw-Burn
Reading, Prayers	Stephen Lee, Jackie Andrew
Musician	Oliver Macfarlane
Christmas Communion (live streamed)	Led by Revd William Allberry at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd William Allberry
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Bob Lonnon, Andy Tyrrell
Reading, Prayers	Alison Bownes, Jane Tyrrell
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane

## SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Fuga in C, BuxWV 174 (Buxtehude)</i>
SG & CC hymns	78 (v1-2, 6-7), 64 (omit v3,4), 66
SG / CC setting	Addington / Coulson
Anthems	<i>Infant holy, infant lowly</i> (Polish trad) <i>Joy to the World</i> (Holford & Mason, arr. Coulson)
Closing music	<i>In dulci jubilo, BWV 729 (Bach)</i>

## THE ADVENT WREATH PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Light of light,  
you have come among us.  
Help us who live by your light  
to shine as lights in your world.  
Glory to God in the highest.  
**Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.  
**Amen.**

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord.  
**Amen.**

## 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 Isaiah 9.2-3, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## GOSPEL Luke 2.1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds

living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### Other Lectionary Texts

Psalm 96

Titus 2.11-14

## PARISH NOTICES

**Thank You** - To Revd William Allberry, for visiting us and leading our services. It is a joy to worship with you.

**Peace and Joy at Christmas** - As we come to the end of another year, we want to thank you for all your support, prayers, help and encouragement in 2025. We know that many in our community are facing dark and difficult times right now, but we pray that wherever you are the peace and joy of Christmas will be with you. 'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.' (John 1.5).

**Vacancy Update** - As part of the vacancy process we held our Section 11 meeting last week. This was a pivotal point in the timeline with key milestones achieved: (1) Parish profile and vacancy advert finalised and approved, (2) Parish representatives confirmed for the shortlist and interview panels, and (3) Form 34 completed requesting our patron, Wadham College, to advertise the position in the Church Times for four weeks from Monday 5 January. All the actions were completed with full PCC, Diocese and Patron alignment. The shortlisting will take place on Monday 9 February with interviews on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 March. Congratulations and thank you to Helen Coulson and Fraser McGuicken, our two parish representatives.

**Morning Prayer** - Thank you to Tom and Sally Radford for running Zoom morning prayer throughout this past year. Very kind of them. It will resume on New Year's Day at 9.30am.

**Sunday School** - Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year. We'll welcome children back on Sunday 4 January.

**Christmas Day** - Please let Will Stevens know on 07505 904089 or [wjtstevens@gmail.com](mailto:wjtstevens@gmail.com) if you'll be on your own on Christmas Day. He has a few ideas of what to do together, most of which will cost very little (which he will pay for).

**Thank you** - To everyone who's contributed to our shared ministry over the past year, particularly our ministry team, musicians, choir, bellringers, pastoral team, flower arrangers, MOTG organisers and caterers, gardeners, coffee and rota teams. Your hospitality, organisation, dedication and help is deeply appreciated. Your PCC.

**Sunday 28 December at St George's** - On the First Sunday of Christmas we will have just one Parish service – a Eucharist and Holy Baptism at 9am. No service in Christ Church.

**Parish Office** - The office is now closed for the holidays. It re-opens on Monday 5 January. If you need assistance, email the office as the emails will be forwarded to the wardens. For urgent pastoral matters please contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 07968 765188 or [jandrewesher@gmail.com](mailto:jandrewesher@gmail.com).

**Fellowship Group** - We'll meet at 10.30am on Wednesday 7 January in Christ Church.

**Youth Group** - Our first get-together in 2026 will be on Friday 9 January at 5.30pm.

**Book Group** - At our first meeting in 2026, on Monday 12 January, 4pm, we'll be discussing *Blonde Roots* by Bernardine Evaristo.

**Music on the Green** - The first concert of 2026 is on Wednesday 21 January, 1.15pm.

**Epiphany Lunch** - The lunch will take place at West End Village Hall on Sunday 18 January starting 12.30pm. The catering by Gill Ovington will include two courses and glass of fizz for £28 per person. Everyone will have received an email with details on how to book. Contact Kath Chapman, Bridget Williams, Teresa Allen or Ann Battensby if you've not received.

**Parish Giving** - Donate via cash, card machine in Christ Church or the QR code pewcards.

**Parish Communications** - If interested in receiving parish emails please complete an Electoral Roll form or a contact form.

## 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, Ruramayi, Louise Tyzack, Caroline Kerr, Armand Sarkissian, Phoebe Ainsworth, Josh Baines, Mike Elder  
**RIP Anniversaries:** Eric Bridger, John Brewster, Julia James, Doris Bowyer, Edith May, Christine Paget-Brown, Léon Stork, Sheila Wilson, Richard Barlow, Jo Stork, Antony Fraser

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

December	Time	Reading
Christmas Day		Isaiah 62.1-5, Ps 110, Matthew 1.18-end
Friday 26		Jeremiah 26.12-15, Ps 13, Acts 6

## LOOKING AHEAD

December	Time	Event
Christmas Day	9am	Christmas Communion, St George's Church
	10.30pm	Christmas Communion, Christ Church
Friday 26	All day	Boxing Day Bank Holiday
Sunday 28	9am	Holy Baptism & Eucharist, St George's Church
Monday 29		No choir practice
January	Time	Event
Thursday 1	All day	New Year Day Bank Holiday
	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday 4	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday 5		No choir practice
Wednesday 7	10.30am	Fellowship Group, Christ Church
	7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday 8	All day	Parish Office closed
	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Friday 9	5.30pm	Youth Group, Christ Church
Sunday 11	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday 12	7.15pm	Choir practice, 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 pewsheets by 10am on the preceding Tuesday. Thank you.	