PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY — 26 JULY 2026

CHURCH SERVICES	
Holy Communion	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 9am at St George's (SG)
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Churchwarden	Charles Hawkshaw-Burn
Reading, Prayers	Charles Hawkshaw-Burn, Bridget Williams
Musician	Stuart Whatton
Eucharist & Holy Baptism (live streamed)	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Gavin Bradley, Valerie Msoka
Reading	Sean Seymour-Cole
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane
Refreshments	Sue Dunne, Helen Griffin
SERVICE MUSIC	
Opening music	*Elevación from 4 Piezas para la Misa* (José Lidón)
SG / CC hymns	546, 604, 310 / 604, 546, 310
SG / CC settings	Addington / Coulson
Communion anthem	*How lovely are thy dwellings* (Noel Rawsthorne)
Closing music	*Prelude and Fugue in B flat, BWV 560* (Bach)

COLLECT

Lord God,
your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise
be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens
of your love shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed
with your body be refreshed
with your life;
glory to you for ever.
Amen.

Rector of Esher

On behalf of the Parish of Esher PCC, we would like to share an update with regards the appointment of our new Rector.

Our Patron, Wadham College is delighted to announce that Revd Joanna Winn-Smith has been appointed as Rector at Esher, subject to DBS and medical clearance. Jo is currently Bishop's Chaplain in the Guildford Diocese.

Jo says: "*I am so excited to be coming to Esher to journey with you all in learning and sharing more of the love of Christ. I'm looking forward to worshipping in word, music, and sacrament, building community, supporting one another, and serving our parish. I've been a lay reader and youth group leader, worked for the national church, taught theology and ministry, been a counsellor, and supported the Bishop as his chaplain – time to put all those skills together and become a parish priest! Thank you for inviting me to join you.*"

Please pray for Jo and her family as they prepare to move.

On behalf of the PCC, we want to thank everyone who has supported this process with your prayers, encouragement and patience. This has truly been a parish journey, and we are deeply grateful for the care, commitment and faith shown by so many over recent months.

Let us give thanks to God for His faithfulness, rejoice in His provision, and look forward with hope and expectation to all that lies ahead.

READING Romans 8.26-end

The Spirit helps us in our weakness;
for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Other Lectionary Texts

Genesis 29.15-28
Psalm 105.1-11, 45b
Psalm 128
1 Kings 3.5-12
Psalm 119.129-136

PARISH NOTICES

Rector Update - We are hoping that Jo and her family might be able to move during September, but details are yet to be confirmed. We will share details of Jo's licensing and installation in due course.

Sunday School - For our last session before the break, we'll be creating bejewelled boxes filled with all the treasures we've been gifted from God. Kat wishes you all a wonderful summer and looks forward to seeing you when Sunday School returns on Sunday 6 September.

Christ Church Cleaning - A big thank you to Sia, Ben, Jill, Diana, Colin, Will, Guy and Hilary who worked together on the deep clean and tidy of Christ Church on Friday 17 July and Saturday 18 July.

Flower Coordinator - We are looking for a volunteer flower rota coordinator for Christ Church to take over from Carol Calvert. To help contact Helen Coulson (07506 701454).

Parish Giving Scheme - We're now using the Church of England's Parish Giving Scheme for all donations. This scheme claims Gift Aid directly for parishes. For details refer to the PGS website www.parishgiving.org.uk.

Cashless Donations - We have changed the card set-up at Christ Church so will be using a separate tablet and card terminal for now. With this change we are moving across to 'Give A Little' as our main donation software platform for ad-hoc donations in church and at Parish events. It facilitates Gift Aid which will be claimed by our Parish Gift Aid Officer.

Esher & Claygate Car Service - This service provides transport to medical appointments. It's a much-valued service, started by Parish of Esher church members, that offers one-way transport to local hospitals and return journeys to surgeries. To help or ask for help please call 07501 029237 (Monday to Friday).

West End Village Show - This year the show will take place on Saturday 29 August from 12 noon. For more details please see the website: westendflowershow.co.uk. As ever, the parish will be seeking help in selling cakes in St George's Church and serving teas in the West End Village Hall, all to raise funds for our churches. If you can help with supplying cakes, biscuits and other goodies and/or provide assistance on the day itself either at St George's Church or the Village Hall there are sign-up sheets in church. If you have any queries please do contact Helen Coulson (07506 701454)

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - Morning Prayer continues each Thursday at 10am.

Youth Group - We are now taking a break and will return on Friday 4 September.

Fellowship Group - We will be taking a break for the summer and will meet again in Christ Church on Wednesday 9 September, 10.30am. We welcome all to pray, to reflect on their faith and to put the world to rights!

Book Group - Our book group will next meet on Monday 14 September, 4pm, when - with a nod to the new film of *The Odyssey* - we'll discuss *The Penelopiad* by Margaret Atwood. Happy summer reading to everyone!

Music on the Green - We're taking a break in August and will return to Christ Church on Wednesday 16 September with a piano recital by our senior organ scholar, Theo Tang.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Michael Newbould, 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

RIP Anniversaries: May Roberts, Annie Dixon, Sarah Tweedle, Doreen Coslett, Joseph Bertram, Brenda Sercombe, James Morrison, Sheila Frame, Rebecca Szepietowski, Anthony Pennie

RIP: Paul Phillips, Moir Webb

Baptism: Olivia Jo Hebblethwaite

Banns of Marriage: David James Trevenen Holland & Rebecca Louise Alvey

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

July		Time	Reading
Monday	27		1 Samuel 14.24-46, Ps 30, Luke 23.13-25
Tuesday	28		1 Samuel 15.1-23, Ps 36, Luke 23.26-43
Wednesday	29		1 Samuel 16, Ps 34, Luke 23.44-56a
Thursday	30	10am	1 Samuel 17.1-30, Ps 37, Luke 23.56b-24.12
Friday	31		1 Samuel 17.31-54, Ps 31, Luke 24.13-35

LOOKING AHEAD

July		Time	Event
Sunday	26	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Eucharist & Holy Baptism, Christ Church
Wednesday	29	7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	30	All day	Parish Office closed
		10am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Friday	31	Midday	Parish Office closed
August		**Time**	**Event**
Sunday	2	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Wednesday	5	7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church

CONTACTS

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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.