

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

BIBLE SUNDAY

25 OCTOBER 2026

CHURCH SERVICE

Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Sean Seymour-Cole, Judy Madova
Reading, Prayers	Colin Martin, Bridget Williams
Chalice	Diana Johns, Bridget Williams
Musicians	Oliver Macfarlane, Theo Tang
Refreshments	Sia Marshall, Ben Ritchie

SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Chorale and Coda from Lied to the Flowers</i> (Flor Peeters)
Hymns	387, 379, 384
Setting	Coulson
Post sermon music	<i>Adagio cantabile from Sonata Pathétique</i> (Beethoven)
Communion anthem	<i>In God's word will I rejoice</i> (Purcell)
Closing music	<i>Toccata from Suite Gothique</i> (Boëllmann)

COLLECT

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures
to be written for our learning;
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience,
and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of all grace,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life
and the word of his kingdom:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

Message from Jo, our Rector

Dear friends,

I wonder how often you pick up your bible? For some, it's a daily support, for others it may well be gathering a certain degree of dust on an inaccessible shelf. And of course, some of us these days, just scroll! Online resources can be a real daily joy. 'Pray as you go' by Irish Jesuits, has music and a short bible reading and reflection each day. Whilst the Church of England's 'Daily Prayer', has a full recorded Morning and Evening Prayer - a beautiful cathedral service, accessed by your phone!

One thing we might work towards is actually gathering together more in person, in church. On Monday 19 October, 16 of us, young and older, celebrated the Feast of St Luke. Encouraging one another in the faith, gathering as we see the early church did in the book of Acts, is a real blessing. We can all mature in faith, whatever age we are, and we do that in part through learning together and being in fellowship together.

Scripture is the story of salvation history and God's relationship with humanity, and we participate in that journey. I look forward to doing more of it with you in these coming weeks, months and years!

Yours



READING Nehemiah 8.1-4a, 5-12

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet

wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.' And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

GOSPEL Matthew 24.30-35

Jesus said to the disciples:

The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away

Other Lectionary Texts

Psalm 119.9-16

Colossians 3.12-17

PARISH NOTICES

Eucharist for Simon & Jude, Apostles -

We mark this festival on Wednesday 28 October with a short Eucharist at 12 noon in Christ Church. Such days are a wonderful chance to develop our faith, share in the communion of the saints, enjoy the sacrament of the Eucharist, and celebrate the blessings the tradition has to offer us. Join us if you can.

Wedding Anniversary - We're delighted to welcome John & Margaret Suter to Christ Church this morning, who married here 40 years ago. We shall be saying a special prayer of blessing for them in the service.

Sunday School - This week we'll focus on Jesus's Greatest Commandment and make heart-shaped crafts to remind us of the most powerful and clear call-to-action in our faith.

Book Group - On Monday 9 November we'll discuss both Melanie McDonagh's book *Converts: From Oscar Wilde to Muriel Spark, Why So Many Became Catholic in the 20th Century*; and *Theo of Golden*.

Crafting supplies - Thank you to all those who are saving toilet/kitchen roll inners for Kat. Please keep them coming! She's also needing mini/small/medium boxes (up to approx 7x7x15") for construction projects and Crazy Crafts activities. Please leave them in Christ Church for Kat. Thank you.

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.

The Chosen - Our screening of this world beating production continues on Tuesday 27 October at 7.30pm at Christ Church. We'll show the episode where 'Jesus returns home to Nazareth and proclaims himself to be the Messiah'. There'll be an opportunity to discuss.

All Souls' Service - We'll mark All Souls' Day at Christ Church on Sunday 1 November, 4.30pm. The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed will be a quiet and gentle service with carefully chosen words and music. We will pray for those who have recently died, naming them and lighting a candle in their memory. To ensure loved ones are remembered, please add names to the list in church or email the Parish Office.

Fellowship Group - The next meeting in Christ Church is on Wednesday 4 November, 10.30am.

Youth Group - The next gathering in Christ Church will be on Friday 6 November, 5.30-7pm.

Remembrance Sunday - At 9am, there will be a short Said Eucharist in Christ Church. At 10.50am, the Act of Remembrance will take place at the War Memorial on Esher Green followed by the Service of Remembrance in Christ Church. We'll give the collection to the Royal British Legion. Please join us in remembering all those who gave their today for our tomorrow.

Act of Remembrance - If anyone can help to close roads and marshal the event please contact the Churchwardens or Parish Office.

Peace & Contemplation - An hour of reflection on the theme of 'Forgiveness & Reconciliation' on Thursday 12 November, 8pm, at Christ Church.

Shoebox Appeal - Our annual shoebox appeal launches this Sunday! Collect items for a family or older person from the list provided, pop in your shoebox and return to Christ Church by Sunday 8 November. We'll deliver to a local depot for delivery to people living in poverty in Ukraine and Eastern Europe this Christmas. Please pick up a shoebox from Christ Church.

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, Christine Steeds

RIP Anniversaries: John Ross, Jackie Hinton, June Freeman, Kathleen Thompson, Clive Craigmile, Lucy Knight, Rosemary Saunders, Valerie Petri, Patrick Townend, Sheelagh Daley, Zak Gillard

RIP: Jean-Claude Gazet

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

October		Time	Reading
Monday	26		Judith 4, Ps 1, 1 Timothy 6.1-10
Tuesday	27		Judith 5.1-6.4, Ps 5, 1 Timothy 6.11-end
Wednesday	28		Wisdom 5.1-16, Ps 116, Luke 6.12-16
Thursday	29	10am	Judith 7.19-end, Ps 15, 2 Timothy 1.15-2.13
Friday	30		Judith 8.9-end, Ps 19, 2 Timothy 2.14-end

LOOKING AHEAD

October		Time	Event
Sunday	25	2am	Greenwich Mean Time starts (clocks go back)
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	26	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday	27	7.30pm	Screening of The Chosen, Christ Church
Wednesday	28	Midday	Eucharist for Simon & Jude, Apostles, Christ Church
		7.30pm	Bellringing practice
Thursday	29	All day	Parish Office closed
		10am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
November		Time	Event
Sunday	1	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		4.30pm	All Souls' Service, Christ Church
Monday	2	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church

CONTACTS

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	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 pewsheets by 10am on the preceding Tuesday. Thank you.	