

PARISH OF ESHER
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End

A Service for All Souls



*'The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.'*

Deuteronomy 33.27

Christ Church, Sunday 2 November 2025, 4.30pm

Welcome to our annual service for All Souls.

We come together today to remember those whom we love but see no longer. As we treasure their memory and give thanks for all they have meant to us, we unite ourselves with them in worshipping God, the One in whom the bond of love is never broken.

Silence is kept before the service begins.

Choir Introit

Within our darkest night (Taizé chant)

Welcome

In the name of Christ, who died and was raised by the glory of the Father, we welcome you; grace, mercy and peace be with you all.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

We meet this day to remember our loved ones who have passed through the valley of the shadow of death; to renew our faith and trust in God, to comfort those who are grieving, and to receive help and strength as we continue together along the journey of life.

Hymn

Abide with me

No. 10 in the Ancient & Modern hymnbook

Reading

Isaiah 53.4-9

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Sung Psalmody

Psalm 23, sung to the setting by Howard Goodall (b.1958)

Reading

Mark 16.1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus' body. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Choir Motet

Do not be afraid

Text by Gerard Markland, based on Isaiah 43.1-4

Music by Philip Stopford (b.1977)

The Address

Anthem

If ye love me, keep my commandments

Text from John 14.15-18

Music by Philip Wilby (b.1949)

Act of Remembrance

Let us pray.

Father of all, by whose mercy and grace your children remain in everlasting light and peace; we remember with thanksgiving those whom we love but see no longer; including ...

The names of those we remember are read and the lights are dimmed. You are invited to light your candle as your loved one's name is read and place it on the ledge in front of you, where it can burn until the end of the service. You are welcome to take the candle home with you.

A short silence is kept.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord:
and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace
and rise in glory.

Anthem

In Paradisum

From the Requiem in D minor, Op. 48, by Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

Prayers

O God our Maker,
we give you thanks for the gift of our earthly life
and the blessings you gave to those we remember today.
Thank you for the time we shared with them
and the love we received from them.
Sustain us with the faith and the trust
that where they have gone we will follow
to that home you have prepared for all of us
where there is no season and no separation
and love can find completeness.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all consolation,
you pursue us with untiring love
and dispel the shadow of death
with the bright dawn of life.
Look in mercy on us who mourn.
Lead us gently in our grief.
Give us patient faith in times of darkness,
strength to meet the times to come
and courage to leave our loved ones in your care,
confident in your promise of eternal life and peace.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of compassion,
you are tender towards your children
and your mercy is over all your works.
Heal any memories of hurt and failure,
and give us the wisdom and grace to use aright
the time that is left to us here on earth,
to turn to Christ and follow in his steps,
in the way that leads to everlasting life.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

We join our prayers together in the words of the Lord's Prayer.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Hymn

Be still, my soul

No. 594 in the Ancient & Modern hymnbook

The Blessing

May God be a bright flame before you,
a guiding star to lighten your darkness.
May God smooth the way for you
and when it is hard to see, lead you with outstretched arm.
May God shield you and surround you,
hold your sorrows, wipe your tears,
and when you are ready, lift your faces
and walk with you into the light of a new day.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you, now and always.
Amen.

Closing Music

Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana

Pietro Mascagni (1863-1945)

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