



Parish of Esher
Cherish, Nourish, Flourish

Parish of Esher - Christ Church, Esher with St George's Church, West End

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The Parish of Esher is for everyone. Our two church buildings, Christ Church Esher and St George's West End, have been beacons of faith, hope and love in this area for generations.

This autumn we want to **cherish** that living legacy – to give thanks for the myriad ways in which the worship, ministry and outreach of this place makes a difference for good in the local community.

We also want to **nourish** – to consider how we might play our part in supporting the present work of the parish, and also in nurturing the many green shoots of growth and fresh vitality.

The goal of it all is to **flourish** – to be a vibrant parish where all are welcomed, supported and enabled to make their unique contribution to the building-up of the Kingdom of God in this place.

These pages outline some of what we already do together as a parish, as well as what we'd like to do in the future. I ask you, please, to consider how you might support this work.

If you can give a new, or increase an existing financial gift, thank you. If right now you cannot, thank you for considering it. If you can give more time through volunteering in particular ways, thank you. Every contribution is needed, gratefully received and truly valued.

God bless,

Dawn



Cherish

There is so much for which we can be thankful, including:

- The faithful offering, week-in week-out, of worship to Almighty God through reverent and resonant liturgies.
- The commitment to serve the wider community through baptisms, weddings, funerals and pastoral care – providing spiritual support to all without distinction.
- The successful renovation of Saint George's Church so that it can continue its unique role at the heart of West End village life.
- Our new Children & Families Worker who has revitalised our Sunday School with her infectious enthusiasm and wonderful creativity.
- Strengthened relationships with both parish schools – Esher Church School and Esher High School – through the service of parish-appointed Governors, regular assemblies and classes, the ECS Prayer Ambassadors and seasonal services in church.
- The dedication of our amazing staff and volunteers – everyone who gives of their times, talents or treasure to sustain the parish and its ministry.

Nourish

There are many wonderful new initiatives which need our ongoing support, including:

- Seasonal Crazy Craft days in conjunction with the Lower Green Community Centre –serving our community and having fun!
- New Youth Group for 10-13 year olds – a safe space for fun, food, and connecting our young people with what's important to them in life, spirituality and the wider world.
- Organ and Choral Scholarships to refresh and enhance the musical life of the parish and provide opportunities to the next generation of talented church musicians.
- Termly partnerships between Music on the Green and Esher Church School, expanding the reach of our musical outreach programme.
- Renewed emphasis on growing in understanding of our faith through, for example, 'Exploring the Bible' discussion evenings.
- Greater collaboration with local business and the Esher Chamber of Commerce, including our first ever Christmas Tree lighting ceremony.



Some of the beautiful creations at the recent Harvest Crazy Crafts. Watch out for the Christmas and Easter Crazy Crafts days in the Lower Green Community Centre. These fun-filled gatherings are fast becoming festive family favourites!

Flourish

In 2021 we set three priorities for the parish. Two of these – the recruitment of a Children & Families Worker and the renovation of St George's West End – have been achieved. The third – upgrading the lighting and electrics at Christ Church Esher – remains a work in progress. Since then, other key goals have been identified, including:

- **Strengthening the parish's finances.** It costs almost £5,000 per week to maintain and repair our buildings, meet our utility bills, pay our staff, run our programmes, serve our community and make our contribution to the wider church. At present, our regular (in accounting terms 'unrestricted') income of regular giving, collections, fees and fundraising does not meet these day-to-day costs.
- **Enhancing security at Christ Church.** This landmark church in the centre of Esher is a resource for the community and keeping it safe and open for all will require an upgrade of the building's security with, for example, the installation of CCTV.
- **Improving parish communications.** The recently purchased ChurchSuite subscription software will radically improve how we let everyone know what's going on in the parish, sign-up to events and check rotas.

How do we do it?

The short answer is – we do it together!

- ChurchSuite can streamline much routine parish business and strengthen communication. Have you signed-up yet?
- The free-to-join Electoral Roll is the church equivalent of a formal 'membership list.' If you're not yet on the roll, might you consider it?
- The church's planned giving scheme is the simplest way to make regular contributions by standing order. Is it time to join, or reassess your level of giving?
- Donating through Gift Aid means the parish can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give, at no extra cost to you. If you're a UK taxpayer, then why not join?
- Many of us have regular monthly expenditure on media subscriptions, technology or entertainment. Where does giving to the work of the Church come in our list of priorities?

At the end of the day...

How much we give is a thoughtful, prayerful decision for each of us to make. The Bible speaks of giving according to our means (2 Corinthians 8.11) but more than that it points, on every page, to the God who is only love – giving and giving not out of a sense of obligation, but simply because that is what Love does.