

# PARISH OF ESHER

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

*Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY / CANDLEMAS

1 FEBRUARY 2026

## CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Communion	Led by The Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford, at 9am at St George's (SG)
Preacher	Bishop Andrew
Churchwarden	Charles Hawkshaw-Burn
Reading, Prayers	Sue Langley, Juliet Philip
Musician	Stuart Whatton
Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by The Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford, at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Bishop Andrew
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Sean Seymour-Cole, Julia Forrest
Reading, Prayers	Jill Woolgar, Jane Tyrrell
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane
Refreshments	Helen Griffin, Janie McCulloch
Candlemas Evensong	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 6pm at Old St George's Church
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Churchwardens	Helen Coulson, Jane Tyrrell
Sidespeople	Will Stevens
Reading	Jane Tyrrell, Helen Coulson
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Alex Coutts

## MORNING SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Chorale Prelude on 'Morgenglanz der Ewigkeit', Op. 79b (Reger)</i>
SG & CC hymns	35, 765, 477
SG / CC settings	Addington / Coulson
Anthem	<i>I will sing with the Spirit (Rutter)</i>
Closing music	<i>Chorale-Improvisation on 'Lobe den Herren' Op. 65 no. 58 (Karg-Elert)</i>

## EVENING SERVICE MUSIC

Hymns	710 (omit v.4-5), 487(omit 3-4), 42
Anthem	<i>When to the temple Mary went (Eccard)</i>

## MORNING COLLECT

God of heaven,  
you send the gospel to the ends of the earth  
and your messengers to every nation:  
send your Holy Spirit to transform us  
by the good news of everlasting life  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous Lord,  
in word and eucharist we have proclaimed  
the mystery of your love:  
help us so to live out our days  
that we may be signs of your wonders in the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**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 1 Kings 17.8-16

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, 'Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.' So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, 'Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.' As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, 'Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.' But she said, 'As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.' Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.' She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.'

## GOSPEL John 2.1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

### Other Lectionary Texts

Psalm 36.5-10

1 Corinthians 1.18-end

## READING Hebrews 2.14-end

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

## GOSPEL Luke 2.22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

### Other Lectionary Texts

Psalm 24.1-end

Malachi 3.1-5

## PARISH NOTICES

**Thank You** - To Bishop Andrew Watson, for visiting us and leading our morning services. It is a joy to worship with you.

**Vacancy Update** - The closing date for applications is Monday 2 February with the shortlisting of potential candidates on Monday 8 February. We will then host successful candidates for interviews on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 March.

**Sunday School** - We'll be making some magical jars that turn water into wine!

**Youth Group** - At our February session, Friday 6 February, 5.30pm, we'll look at what we're passionate about, what people say about us and how we can let compliments land, something we're not always great at!

**Advent Appeal** - Thank you to everyone who donated to our 2025 Advent Appeal for the Lower Green Community Centre. We raised £1,581 – money that will make a real difference to the work they do.

**Lent Course** - It's proposed the course, based on the book *Let Me Go There - The Spirit of Lent* by Paula Gooder, will start on Sunday 22 February at noon in Christ Church.

**Flower Coordinator** - Carol Calvert has confirmed she'll be 'retiring' at Easter after 32 years of managing the Christ Church flowers and flower team. Carol says it is a glorious thing to do so we hope someone will be tempted. To understand what's involved Carol will be very happy to chat. Please contact the Parish Office.

**The Last Brightness of Everything** - Stewart & Carol Henderson along with Yvonne Lyon will present this lauded music, poetry and narrative script performance at Christ Church on Saturday 28 February 2026 at 7.30pm. Advance tickets at £16.96 from Eventbrite (<https://tinyurl.com/yc3fabw7>) or £18 on door on the night. Refreshments provided.

**Candlemas Service** - The service will be held in Old St George's, Esher at 6pm this Sunday evening and this year will be in the form of an evensong. We'll celebrate how the infant Jesus was presented in the Temple, offered to the Father and shown to his people. Just as his mother was purified, we will offer ourselves for cleansing. As we light candles, we will reflect on the joy of Jesus' coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to his Passion. Join us for this beautiful atmospheric service.

**The Chosen** - Join us for this acclaimed dramatisation of the life of Christ on the big screen in Christ Church. Watch, reflect and discuss on Tuesdays in February. The first screening, Episode 1.1, on Tuesday 3 February will be at 7.30pm. Free to all.

**Fellowship Group** - Next meeting in Christ Church is on Wednesday 4 February, 10.30am.

**Book Group** - We're meeting on Monday 9 February, 4.30pm, to discuss George Orwell's *Keep the Aspidochelone Flying*. Every welcome.

**Music on the Green** - On Wednesday 18 February at 1.15pm, Myfanwy Grace, our choir soprano and in-house music theatre professional, will perform a selection of famous melodies from top West End and Broadway shows. Do come and support Myfanwy's first solo recital at Christ Church.

**Ash Wednesday** - Our Ash Wednesday Choral Eucharist will be taking place in Christ Church on Wednesday 18 February at 8pm.

**Come, Heavy Sleep** - Enjoy a Renaissance music concert on Friday 20 February, 6pm, at Old St George's, Esher, to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of John Dowland. David Yardley, countertenor, and Augustin Cornwell-Irving, lute, will treat us to vocal and instrumental music by Dowland and his contemporaries Campion and Morley. Free admission with retiring collection.

## 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, Louise Tyzack, Caroline Kerr, Armand Sarkissian, Phoebe Ainsworth, Josh Baines, Mike Elder, Brian Elliott, Gudrun & David Jensen

**RIP Anniversaries:** June Williams, Elsie Eldridge, Betty Walker, Helen Sketch, Eileen Armstrong, Jean Tesh

**RIP:** John Dunne, Dany McLeod

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

February		Time	Reading
Monday	2		Genesis 18.1-15, Ps 1, Matthew 27.11-26
Tuesday	3		Genesis 18.16-end, Ps 5, Matthew 27.27-44
Wednesday	4		Genesis 19.1-3, 12-29, Ps 119.1-32, Matthew 27.45-56
Thursday	5	10am	Genesis 21.1-21, Ps 15, Matthew 27.57-end
Friday	6		Genesis 22.1-19, Ps 19, Matthew 28.1-15

## LOOKING AHEAD

February		Time	Event
Sunday	1	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		4.30pm	Choir practice, Old St George's Church, Esher
		6pm	Candlemas Evensong, Old St George's Church, Esher
Monday	2	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday	3	7.30pm	Screening of The Chosen, Christ Church
Wednesday	4	10.30am	Fellowship Group, Zoom
		7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	5	All day	Parish Office closed
		9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Friday	6	5.30pm	Youth Group, Christ Church
Sunday	8	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, 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.	