

# PARISH OF ESHER

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

*Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTINGLE

3 DECEMBER 2023

## CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Communion	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 9am at St George's Church (SG)
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Reading, Prayers	Stephen Lee
Musician	Theo Tang
All Age Eucharist & Christingle	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Churchwarden	Jane Tyrrell
Sidespeople	Stewart Henderson, Ivy Tang
Reading, Prayers	Kath Chapman, ECS pupils
Refreshments	Janie McCulloch, Wendy Tanqueray
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Theo Tang, Liam Anderson, ECS choir, Annabelle & Daphne Doolan

## SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	Veni Emmanuel
SG & CC hymns	45, 75, 42
SG & CC setting	Addington
Christingle song	Hope of Heaven (Mark & Helen Johnson)
Communion music	<i>Go, tell it on the mountain</i> (African-American trad); <i>It was on a starry night</i> (Joy Webb)
Closing music	<i>Lift Up Your Eyes, O Jerusalem</i> (Eugene Lindusky)

## THE ADVENT WREATH PRAYER

Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
born in David's city of Bethlehem,  
born like him to be a King;  
be born in our hearts at Christmas,  
be King of our lives today.

**Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

Almighty God,  
as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness  
of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready  
to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O Lord our God,  
make us watchful and keep us faithful  
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;  
that, when he shall appear, he may not find us  
sleeping in sin but active in his service  
and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Welcome to the Parish

The Parish of Esher is for everyone.

The two church buildings, Christ Church in Esher and St George's in West End, have been beacons of faith, hope and love in Esher for well over a century.

Generations have come through the doors to celebrate their marriages, welcome their new-borns and grieve their losses – all of it embraced by the beauty of the worship offered in these houses of prayer week in and week out.

On Sundays we explore the riches of the Christian spiritual tradition 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. All of us belong here.

You can also check-out some of our services on YouTube to get a flavour of what we're about, or just come along some Sunday at 10.30am in Christ Church or at 9.00am in St George's West End.

Whether you join online or in person, we hope you'll find a community committed to a thoughtful Faith, a hard-won Hope, and a generous Love.

God bless,

The Parish of Esher

## READING Isaiah 64.1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence – as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

## GOSPEL Mark 13.24-end

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. '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 these things taking place, 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. 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

## TODAY'S OTHER LECTIONARY TEXTS

### 1 Corinthians 1.3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth  
2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!  
3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.  
4 O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?  
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.  
6 You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves.  
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.  
17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.  
18 Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.  
19 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

## PARISH NOTICES

**Advent Appeal 2023** - The Archbishops of Canterbury and Jerusalem, Justin Welby and Hosam Naoum, have launched a joint appeal for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. This will support the Anglican ministries in Gaza, Palestine and Israel, through donations to the 'Friends of the Holy Land Appeal'. The Parish Advent Appeal this year will support this cause. Donate via envelopes, online or by card.

**Cherish, Nourish, Flourish** - Please take a copy of the 'Cherish, Nourish, Flourish' leaflet home with you to read. It outlines some of the amazing things that have been happening in the parish in the past year, as well as some of the plans we have for the future. If you can give a new, or increase an existing financial gift to the parish, thank you. If at this moment you cannot, thank you for considering it. If you can give more time through volunteering in particular ways, thank you. Response forms can be found on the parish website and in both churches. Every contribution is needed, gratefully received and truly valued.

**Parish Giving** - Donate today via cash, the card machine in Christ Church or online by scanning the QR code on the little cards in Christ Church and that will soon be in St George's.

**Parish Communications** - Every Friday we send an email with Sunday's pewsheets and order of service. Those on the Parish Electoral Roll automatically get the email. If you'd like to receive please complete an Electoral Roll form or a contact form in either church.

**Darren** - The Rector's Adoption Leave will continue until Tuesday 19 November 2024. For parish enquiries please contact the Churchwardens or the Parish Office.

**Holy Communion** - The sacrament is distributed by 'simultaneous administration' – the priest touches the communion wafer in to the wine surface before giving it to the communicant.

**Fellowship Group** - The next meeting will be in the upstairs room in Christ Church at 11am on Wednesday 6 December. All are welcome.

**Exploring the Bible** - Our series of three Advent discussion evenings started well with a lively discussion about St Paul and his First Letter to the Corinthians. This coming Tuesday, at 8pm in Christ Church, we'll explore the Acts of the Apostles and next week we'll look at the Book of Revelation. Each evening stands on its own so do join us if you can. More details are in the flyers at the back of church and on our website.

**'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee!** - Thanks to Tom & Sally Radford's help we are able to continue Morning Prayer over the next year. It will be every Thursday at 9am on Zoom but can be 'in person' as well if there is interest. Please contact the Parish Office for details.

**Book Group** - On Monday 18 December, 4pm, we will hold an informal tea party to share some of our personal favourite Christmas poems and other readings and then on Monday 22 January we'll discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. If you'd like to join us, just turn up or contact Revd Jonathan Andrew – 01372 464380 / jandrewesher@gmail.com

**Sunday School** - During the All Age services, we run a creche at the back of the church. Please feel free to use the facilities and speak to Kath who looks after the space, if you need anything.

### Prayer points

Our wonderful parish school, Esher Church School, has given us the following 'prayer points' to focus our prayers for them.

*Pray for the school community as they juggle, open days, parents evenings, Christmas events over the next few months.*

*Pray for good health for the school community as they approach the winter months.*

Youth Group - The next Youth Group...

## Parish of Esher services

at Christ Church with a festive theme.

# Christmas 2023

### Christmas services and free events

#### **Friday 1 December**

*Christmas Tree Lighting Up*  
5.30pm Christ Church, Esher

#### **Saturday 2 December**

*Christmas Crazy Crafts*  
10am Lower Green Community Centre

#### **Sunday 3 December**

*Christingle Service*  
10.30am Christ Church, Esher

#### **Sunday 17 December**

*Festival of Lessons & Carols*  
6pm Christ Church, Esher

#### **Wednesday 20 December**

*Come & Sing Carols*  
1.15pm Christ Church, Esher

#### **Christmas Eve**

*Christmas Eve Holy Communion*  
10.30am Christ Church, Esher

#### *Crib Service*

4pm Christ Church, Esher

#### *Midnight Mass*

11.30pm Christ Church, Esher

#### **Christmas Day**

*Christmas Day Holy Communion*

9am St George's, West End  
10.30am Christ Church, Esher

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

Tel: 01372 462282 Email: [office@esherparish.org.uk](mailto:office@esherparish.org.uk) Website: [www.esherparish.org.uk](http://www.esherparish.org.uk)



## PARISH NOTICES

**Christingle Service** - This wonderful service will take place this Sunday, 10.30am, in Christ Church. Thanks must go to the team of volunteers who made the Christingles and to Waitrose and Tesco for the oranges!

**Christmas Tree Lighting Up** - We were very pleased to have continued our new tradition on Friday when we launched the season of good cheer by lighting up the Christmas Tree in Christ Church. The choir sang carols in our warm, candlelit church whilst mince pies and mulled wine were served. Thank you to everyone who made it possible.

**Christmas Crazy Crafts** - Our second Christmas Crazy Crafts was a fabulous event with children and carers from across the parish attending. There was biscuit decoration, a colouring station, stained glass decorating, Christmas card making, paper chain constructing and make-your-own kindness jars. A huge thank you to Jenny and Cathy at Lower Green, The Third Esher Scouts and all the wonderful biscuit makers and helpers. Easter Crazy Crafts will be back on 23 March so make sure you save the date!

**Christmas Leaflet** - We're now delivering the leaflets to Esher homes. Please contact Will Stevens or the Parish Office if you can help with any roads. All help is gratefully received.

**Poppy Appeal 2023** - The contents of the two red boxes from our churches totalled £147.04. A good sum and more than last year. Thank you for your generosity. Foreign coins from years of Sunday collections have also been given to the Royal British Legion.

**Our Church Cat** - Patch is now looked after by Sandra Argent, a previous churchwarden. Sadly Patch is unwell and needs expensive ongoing treatment. To donate please use the card machine or scan the QR code.



**Festival of Lessons & Carols** - This year this service will be on Sunday 17 December in Christ Church at the usual time of 6pm.

**Come & Sing Carols** - Our last free lunchtime event of 2023 will be our annual Come & Sing Carols on Wednesday 20 December, 1.15pm, when festive fayre will be served.

**Music on the Green** - Last month's concert, featuring the Heliconia Duo (flute and guitar), offered a sprightly and uplifting programme to conclude our regular season. We welcomed an audience of approaching 90 and raised over £250 for parish funds.

**Weekly Organ Meditations** - In St Mark's Church in Whiteley Village, our very own Barbara Wadley will be giving organ recitals every Thursday, 12-12.30pm. She'll be taking you on an organ journey playing a different composer and genre each week. Let yourself be inspired by Renaissance, Baroque, Romantic music which will feature everything from Albinoni/Bach/Beethoven to Widor/Whitlock/Zipoli. No refreshments served, retiring collection for the historic Norman & Beard organ at St Mark's. The series can be found listed on the UK recitals website [www.organrecitals.uk](http://www.organrecitals.uk)

**Christ Church Barrier** - We finally have a working barrier again. To those people who have barrier passes please ensure you have them with you when visiting Christ Church by car. Should you need a replacement we have a few spare which cost £10 each.

**Christ Church Boundary** - Due to a new Surrey County Council tree initiative we are receiving 75 free hedge whips. These are to fill the gap with our Park Road neighbour. Sally and Rachel from the Surrey team have kindly agreed to plant them on Tuesday 19 December at 10am. If anyone is free to help and make coffee I'm sure they'd love it.





Parish of Esher services

Christ Church, Esher  
**Festival of  
Lessons  
& Carols**

Sunday 17  
December 2023  
6pm

**Join us for this much loved celebration of Christmas. Enjoy choir and congregational carols and listen to the timeless story of the birth of Christ. All are welcome.**

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

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## PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Elizabeth Arnold, Betty Walker, Michael Newbould, Malcolm Sayer, Gilly Barrett, Allen Palmer, Katherine S, Keith Howell-Jones, Gill Barnett, George Raine, Sebastian, Stuart Williams, Pam & Jim Green, Armand Sarkissian, Hugh Miller

RIP Anniversaries: Francis Walden, George Thirtle, Charles Watson, Cicely Martin, Ron Williams, Elizabeth England

RIP: Joyce Bromfield, Barbara Woolgar, Tsveta Dunne, June Freeman, Patricia Legat, Barbara Welham, Joy Jenner, Hannelore Schulze, Andy Peake, John Treneman

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

December	Time	Reading
Monday	4	Isaiah 25.1-9, Ps 50, Matthew 12.1-21
Tuesday	5	Isaiah 26.1-13, Ps 80, Matthew 12.22-37
Wednesday	6	Isaiah 28.1-13, Psalm 7, Matthew 12.38-end
Thursday	7	9-10am Isaiah 28.14-end, Psalm 42, Matthew 13.1-23
Friday	8	Isaiah 29.1-14, Psalm 25, Matthew 13.24-43

## LOOKING AHEAD

December	Time	Event
Friday	1	5.30pm Christmas Tree Lighting Up, Christ Church
Saturday	2	10am Christmas Crazy Crafts, Lower Green Community Centre
Sunday	3	9am Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am Christingle Service, Christ Church
		1pm Parish Christmas Lunch, The Bear
Monday	4	7.45pm Choir practice
Tuesday	5	All day Booking: Claremont Fan Court School, Christ Church
Wednesday	6	All day Booking: Claremont Fan Court School, Christ Church
		11am Fellowship Group, Christ Church
		2pm Funeral Service for June Freeman, Randalls Park Crematorium
		7.45pm Bellringing practice, Christ Church

## CONTACTS

<b>PARISH OF ESHER</b> Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS St George's Church, West End Lane, Esher, KT10 8LF Tel 01372 462282 Email office@esherparish.org.uk Website www.esherparish.org.uk Facebook www.facebook.com/EsherParish YouTube www.youtube.com/esherparish Instagram www.instagram.com/esherparish/	<b>RECTOR</b> Revd Darren McCallig On Adoption Leave until 20/11/24. For parish enquiries contact the Churchwardens or the Parish Office.	<b>HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIESTS</b> Revd Jonathan Andrew & Ven David Gerrard
	<b>CHURCHWARDENS</b> Helen Coulson & Jane Tyrrell	<b>CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES WORKER</b> Kathryn Chapman youth@esherparish.org.uk
<b>PARISH ADMINISTRATOR</b> Melanie Williams <b>OFFICE HOURS</b> 9am to 3.15pm, Monday to Wednesday & Friday Please submit information and notices for inclusion in the Sunday pewsheet by midday on the preceding Wednesday. Thank you.		