

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

4 OCTOBER 2026

CHURCH SERVICE

Harvest Thanksgiving (live streamed)	Led by Revd Jo Winn-Smith at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Jo Winn-Smith
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Gavin Bradley, Sean Seymour-Cole
Reading, Prayers	Troy Robinson, Jane Tyrrell
Chalice	Sue Langley, Will Stevens
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Theo Tang
Refreshments	Michelle Cullen, Jane Tyrrell

SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Chorale Prelude 'Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier', BWV 731</i> (Bach)
Hymns	282, 287, 290
Setting	See order of service
Communion anthem	<i>Thou visitest the earth</i> (Greene)
Closing music	<i>Toccata in E minor</i> (Pachelbel)

COLLECT

Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea
and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
may we cherish and respect
this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord of the harvest,
with joy we have offered thanksgiving
for your love in creation
and have shared in the bread
and the wine of the kingdom:
by your grace plant within us a reverence
for all that you give us
and make us generous and wise stewards
of the good things we enjoy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Message from Jo, our Rector

Greetings!

As Rector normally I would be welcoming you to Christ Church, but as this is my first Sunday, may I take the opportunity to thank you all for the warm welcome I, and my family, have received. As we get to know each other, I hope there will be a good mix of the familiar and the new, the exciting and the reassuring.

I come here by God's grace and call, and I pray you do too. We gather to give thanks, affirm our shared identity in Christ, to be blessed and then go out with inspired hearts. I hope that will be our pattern not just at Harvest, but every Sunday.

Please do introduce yourselves, be patient with me as I try to learn names and all the 'normal' (but new to me!) patterns here in Esher. I look forward to journeying with you in these coming weeks, months and years.

Yours, Jo

READING Deuteronomy 8.7-18

The Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you. Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

GOSPEL Luke 12.16-30

Jesus told the people a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.' He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

Other Lectionary Texts

Deuteronomy 28.1-14

Psalms 65

2 Corinthians 9.6-end

Luke 17.11-19

PARISH NOTICES

Harvest Thanksgiving - We're holding this service at Christ Church this Sunday, 4 October. Harvest donations will be given to the Lower Green Community Centre. For their Emergency Food Store requirements refer to the harvest flyer or harvest page on the parish website. Thank you in advance for all your kind donations. If you would to make a monetary donation you can do this via the card machine or pewcards and select the 'Harvest Collection' option.

Sunday School - For our Harvest Thanksgiving celebrations, the children will be joining the congregation in church and Kat will have a special Harvest-themed activity for the children to do that we will use during the service.

Christ Church Flowers - Angela Sweet is organising the flower rota for the next few months. Please email or phone her if you feel you could arrange flowers for one nave pedestal. No previous experience necessary. Just enthusiasm! Contact Angela on 07803 502776 or via angelavsweet@gmail.com

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - Morning Prayer continues each Thursday at 10am.

St George's - Our tin tabernacle is now closed for repairs to the foundations and flooring. We look forward to welcoming everyone back when the work is complete in December.

Fellowship Group - We meet again in Christ Church on Wednesday 7 October, 10.30am. Canon Richard Truss, one of our lovely visiting ministers, will join us. He'll talk about his book on David Jenkins – bishop, academic, public theologian and provocateur. All welcome.

Harvest Crazy Crafts - Our next crafting show at the Lower Green Community Centre will be on Saturday 10 October, 10am-1pm. Come anytime to make harvest themed creations – paper plate animals/flowers, biscuit decoration! Entry is free, the cafe will be open and kids get a goodie bag. Do look after your children at all times. Please see Kat if you can help.

Book Group - We had a lively discussion of *The Penelopiad* on Monday. Our next two meetings will be on Monday 12 October and Monday 9 November. For October, we agreed to read *Theo of Golden*, by Allen Levi: for November, we'll read Melanie McDonagh's book *Converts: From Oscar Wilde to Muriel Spark, Why So Many Became Catholic in the 20th Century*. Plenty of notice on the date, as the subject may be of particular interest.

The Chosen - The next series of this world beating production covering Jesus's ministry will commence at 7.30pm at Christ Church on Tuesday 13 October and then each Tuesday for the next three weeks.

Music on the Green - At the next concert on Wednesday 21 October, 1.15pm, we'll have the pleasure of the Elmbridge U3A Jazz Band visiting us. Come and enjoy tunes from the 40s, 50s and 60s, with classics from Duke Ellington to Cole Porter, bossa and Latin numbers, and hits from the Great American Song Book. Lunch from 12.30pm.

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: David Rennie, Peter Langley, Dorothy Ward, John Parker, Jennifer Meade

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

October		Time	Reading
Monday	5		2 Kings 5, Ps 80, Acts 26.1-23
Tuesday	6		2 Kings 6.1-23, Ps 89.1-18, Acts 26.24-end
Wednesday	7		2 Kings 9.1-16, Ps 119.105-128, Acts 27.1-26
Thursday	8	10am	2 Kings 9.17-end, Ps 92, Acts 27.27-end
Friday	9		2 Kings 12.1-19, Ps 88, Acts 28.1-16

LOOKING AHEAD

October		Time	Event
Sunday	4	10.30am	Harvest Thanksgiving, Christ Church
Monday	5	All day	Parish Office closed (5-6 Oct incl.)
		7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	7	10.30am	Fellowship Group, Christ Church
		7.30pm	Bellringing practice
Thursday	8	10am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Saturday	10	10am	Harvest Crazy Crafts, Lower Green Community Centre
Sunday	11	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	12	11am	Organ exam, Christ Church
		4pm	Book Group, Christ Church
		7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday	13	7.30pm	Screening of The Chosen, Christ Church
Wednesday	14	7.30pm	Bellringing practice

CONTACTS

PARISH OF ESHER Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS what3words location ///frosted.forum.firms St George's Church, West End Lane, Esher, KT10 8LF Website www.esherparish.org.uk Facebook www.facebook.com/EsherParish YouTube www.youtube.com/esherparish Instagram www.instagram.com/esherparish/	RECTOR Revd Jo Winn-Smith rector@esherparish.co.uk	CHURCHWARDENS Will Stevens 07505 904089 Fraser McGuicken 07342 057763 churchwardens@esherparish.org.uk
	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 Hawshaw-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.	