

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

8 MARCH 2026

CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Communion	Led by Ven Martin Breadmore at 9am at St George's (SG)
Preacher	Ven Martin Breadmore
Churchwarden	Charles Hawkshaw-Burn
Reading, Prayers	Veronica Whittall, Bridget Williams
Musician	Stuart Whatton
Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Ven Martin Breadmore at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Ven Martin Breadmore
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Bob Lonnon, Valerie Msoka
Reading, Prayers	Carol Henderson, Will Stevens
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Belinda Doolan
Refreshments	Helen Griffin, Janie McCulloch

SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Durch Adams Fall ist ganz verderbt,</i> <i>BuxWV 183 (Buxtehude)</i>
SG & CC hymns	813 (v 1-6 only), 629, 652
SG & CC setting	Addington
Post sermon music	<i>Syrinx</i> (Debussy)
Anthem	<i>Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake</i> (Farrant)
Closing music	<i>Cwm Rhondda Variations</i> (David Dahl)

COLLECT

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

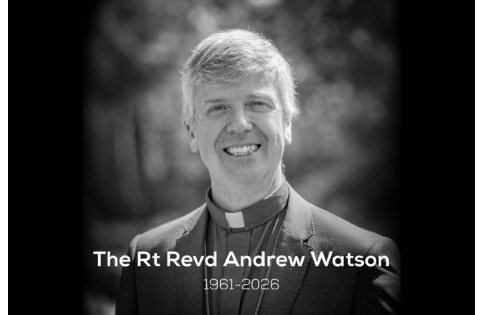
Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds
to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford



The Bishop of Dorking, The Rt Revd Paul Davies has announced the death of The Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford. Bishop Andrew died peacefully on Tuesday 3 March surrounded by family, less than one month after he received a terminal diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

Bishop Paul has commended the following prayer to be used by parishes on Sunday.

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for Andrew, our brother and bishop:

for his faith and faithfulness to you in life and in leadership.

As we mourn his death

and commend him to your everlasting arms, give us the same faith, hope and love,

rooted in the death and resurrection of your son, Jesus.

We pray especially for Beverly, Hannah, Sam, Joe, Lydia and the whole family.

Comfort them with your Holy Spirit and protect them in their grief.

And bring us, at the last,

with Andrew and all your children, to that eternal joy where you live

and reign in glory forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

READING Exodus 17.1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

GOSPEL John 4.5-42

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming

when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’ The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’ They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’ So the disciples said to one another, ‘Surely no one has brought him something to eat?’ Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, “Four months more, then comes the harvest”?’ But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.”

I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.’

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’”

Other Lectionary Texts

Psalms 95

Romans 5.1-11

PARISH NOTICES

Thank You - To The Ven Martin Breadmore, for visiting us and leading our morning services. It is a joy to worship with you.

Vacancy Update - Introduction day and interviews scheduled on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 March. We ask that you continue to pray for a successful outcome.

Sunday's Bellingring - As requested by the Diocese the Christ Church bellringing team will be half muffling all bells for this Sunday's ringing before the service (10-10.30am) in remembrance of Bishop Andrew.

Lent Appeal 2026 - In support of Mlanga Parish Church in Tanzania for a new well for water. Please support generously using the appeal envelopes, paying via the card machine or the QR code and remember to add your details so that we can recover Gift Aid.



Lent Course - Based on the book *Let Me Go There - The Spirit of Lent* by Paula Gooder, continues at noon in Christ Church. It consists of hourly sessions every Sunday in Lent, facilitated by Christine Steeds. She may need someone to help on at least one Sunday.

Sunday School - This week we'll explore our parish and Sunday School values to help us understand what we can do to break down barriers in the world and be more like Jesus.

Easter Eggs - Real Easter Eggs are for sale in both churches - £5 each. They include a new Easter story activity book with £200 prize competition, are made of Fairtrade chocolate and support charitable projects.

Easter Leaflet - Bundles are now ready to collect from Christ Church and St George's. We'd love to have them delivered to all homes across Esher before March 14, Easter Crazy Crafts. Contact Will Stevens, Charles Hawkshaw-Burn or the Parish Office if you can help.

Rectory Work - To get the Rectory ready for candidates to visit there will be working parties on Friday 6 and Saturday 7 March. We'd love as many people as possible to join the PCC on one or both days. If you can help, contact Will or Fraser. We'd also welcome plants to brighten up the Rectory garden. Thank you.

Youth Group - On Friday 6 March, 5.30pm, we'll explore breaking down barriers, through construction and debate, drawing on Jesus's example of challenging societal norms and removing obstacles that block understanding and compassionate progress.

Book Group - Our next meeting is on Monday 9 March at 4pm in Christ Church when we will be discussing *The Seaside* by Madeleine Bunting. It's a mix of memoir, travelogue and social commentary as the author visits some of England's most famous seaside resorts. Do come if you want to hear more, and, of course, to discuss the book.

Peace & Contemplation - The Wonder of Endings & New Beginnings will take place this coming Thursday, 12 March, at 8pm, in Christ Church. Come and enjoy a special evening of inspiring readings, beautiful music and reflective silence.

Easter Crazy Crafts - Our very popular crafting day returns on Saturday 14 March for all things Easter and crazy-ish. Come anytime 10am-1pm to the Lower Green Community Centre for lots to do and make including Easter cards, bonnets and baskets, egg decorating and pom-pom making! What's not to love! If you can help Kath set up, clear up or run the crafts, do let her know.

Mothering Sunday - Our wonderful Mothering Sunday tradition will continue with a special combined Parish service at Christ Church on Sunday 15 March, including musical input from members of Esher Church School choir. We'll give thanks for our mothers and those who play a nurturing and caring role.

PARISH NOTICES

Daffodils - We need help with posies for the Mothering Sunday service in Christ Church. Let Kath know if you're free 5-6pm, Friday 13 March. Greenery and ribbon donations welcome.

Music on the Green - On Wednesday 18 March, 1.15pm, Charis Sykesud, violin and Jack Redman, piano will perform late Romantic chamber music. Light lunch from 12.30pm in Christ Church. Retiring collection.

Palm Sunday - There will be services at both St George's and Christ Church on Sunday 29 March, the fifth Sunday of the month. We'll process into church with palm crosses, adults and children alike, marking Jesus' triumphal ride into Jerusalem.

Music in the Tower - For this annual calendar highlight our theme will be 'Medieval Muses & The Age of Mysticism' and we look forward to "transcendent medieval-inspired music for modern times" on voice and medieval harp from the early music virtuoso David Yardley. There will be four sittings during Holy Week in the Christ Church Tower Room on Tuesday 31 March and Wednesday 1 April, at 1 pm and 8 pm. The admission price is £15 each, with light refreshments. Seats are limited to 20 per each performance. Please book your place, without delay, on the sign-up sheets in Christ Church or via the Parish Office.

Fellowship Group - The next meeting will be in Christ Church at 10.30am on Wednesday 1 April. We welcome all to pray, to reflect on their faith and to put the world to rights!

The Great Tommy Sleepout - Sandra and Sam Argent will sleep outside for one night on Saturday 28 March 2026, to fundraise for the Royal British Veterans Enterprise. If you would like to support go to: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sandra-argent-1768579279.

Carol & Stewart Henderson - After 25 years of service in our parish, Carol & Stewart are moving to Scotland, shortly after the next Peace & Contemplation evening. We owe them a great deal of thanks for their readings, Carol's singing, Stewart's poetry, their help with Peace & Contemplation evenings, Lent and Advent courses, a trip to the Holy Land, raising money for the parish, and educating and entertaining the parish in events such as The Last Brightness of Everything. We wish them all the best in their new home.

'Zoom' Morning Prayer & Zoffee! - Morning Prayer continues every Thursday at 10am. To join please contact the Parish Office.

The Chosen - We thank everyone who came to the recent showing of Season 1 on the big screen in Christ Church. It was good to see such enthusiasm for the series. It is planned that Season 2 will be shown sometime in the 'summer term'. More information to follow after Easter.

Parish Giving - Donate today via cash, the card machine in Christ Church or online by scanning the QR code on the little pewcards.

Cambridge Half-Marathon - On Sunday 8 March our soprano choral scholar, Natalie Mechelewska, will be taking part in the Cambridge Half-Marathon to raise funds for Maggie's, a major cancer charity that is dedicated to supporting those affected by cancer and their families, offering care and comfort beyond medical treatment. She'd be most grateful for any sponsorship support for her run, and the fundraising link is <https://maggies.enthuse.com/pf/natalie-mechelewska>

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, Mike Elder, Brian Elliott, Gudrun & David Jensen, Michaela Banks

RIP Anniversaries: Bertha Stark, Beryl Taylor, Elli Weller, Kooi Yin Chang, Violet Barker Betty Pemberton, James Seaton, Frances Cate, Peter Whicheloe, June Josephine Trew, Jill Treneman

RIP: Dany McLeod, Bishop Andrew, Kay Benson

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

March		Time	Reading
Monday	9		Genesis 47.1-27, Ps 5, Hebrews 4.14-5.10
Tuesday	10		Genesis 47.28-end of 48, Ps 9, Hebrews 5.11-6.12
Wednesday	11		Genesis 49.1-32, Ps 38, Hebrews 6.13-end
Thursday	12	10am	Genesis 49.33-end of 50, Ps 56, Hebrews 7.1-10
Friday	13		Exodus 1.1-14, Ps 22, Hebrews 7.11-end

LOOKING AHEAD

March		Time	Event
Saturday	7	10am	Surrey Association of Bellringers Training, Christ Church
Sunday	8	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		Midday	Lent Course, Christ Church
Monday	9	4pm	Book Group, Christ Church
		7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	11	9am	Rector Applicants Tour of Esher
		6pm	Rector Applicants Supper, Christ Church
		7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	12	All day	Parish Office closed
		9am	Rector Applicants Interviews, Christ Church
		10am	Morning Prayer, Zoom

CONTACTS

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	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 Hawkshaw-Burn 07799 895083
	CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER Kathryn Chapman 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.	