

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

11 JANUARY 2026

CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Communion	Led by Ven David Gunn-Johnson at 9am at St George's (SG)
Preacher	Ven David Gunn-Johnson
Churchwarden	Charles Hawkshaw-Burn
Reading, Prayers	Joan Trower, Peter Bedford
Musician	Robert Cunningham
Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Ven David Gunn-Johnson at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Ven David Gunn-Johnson
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Julia Forrest, Bob Lonnon
Reading, Prayers	Christine Steeds, Helen Coulson
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane, Robert Cunningham
Refreshments	Helen Coulson, Wendy Tanqueray

SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Consolation in E</i> (Liszt)
SG / CC hymns	327, 108, 341 / 108, 342, 341
SG / CC settings	Addington / Coulson
Anthem	<i>O God, your goodness</i> (Beethoven)
Closing music	<i>Pasticcio</i> (Langlais)

THE COLLECT

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens
and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 Isaiah 42.1-9

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him; he will
bring forth justice to the nations. He
will not cry or lift up his voice, or make
it heard in the street; a bruised reed he
will not break, and a dimly burning wick
he will not quench; he will faithfully
bring forth justice. He will not grow
faint or be crushed until he has
established justice in the earth; and
the coastlands wait for his teaching.
Thus says God, the Lord, who created
the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what
comes from it, who gives breath to the
people upon it and spirit to those who
walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called
you in righteousness, I have taken you
by the hand and kept you; I have given
you as a covenant to the people, a light
to the nations, to open the eyes that
are blind, to bring out the prisoners
from the dungeon, from the prison
those who sit in darkness. I am the
Lord, that is my name; my glory I give
to no other, nor my praise to idols. See,
the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare; before
they spring forth, I tell you of them.

GOSPEL Matthew 3.13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the
Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would
have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be
baptized by you, and do you come to me?'
But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now;
for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all
righteousness.' Then he consented. And
when Jesus had been baptized, just as he
came up from the water, suddenly the
heavens were opened to him and he saw
the Spirit of God descending like a dove
and alighting on him. And a voice from
heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved,
with whom I am well pleased.'

Other Lectionary Texts

Psalms 29

Acts 10.34-43

PARISH NOTICES

Thank You - To Ven David Gunn-Johnson, for visiting us and leading our services. It is a joy to worship with you.

Sunday School - As Jesus's baptism was described as a dove coming down from heaven upon him, we'll create a large art piece capturing the joy of our baptisms and being part of the Esher Parish community.

Vacancy Update - The advert for the Rector of Esher position is now in the Church Times and on the Diocese of Guildford website. To read parish profile go to: <https://cofeguildford.org.uk/xdb/licensedclergyva>. The shortlisting will take place on Monday 9 February with interviews on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 March.

The Chosen - We're pleased to be showing this internationally successful drama of the life of Jesus Christ on the big screen in Christ Church. Come and watch for free every Tuesday in February from 7.30pm

Music Exam Success - Congratulations to our junior organ scholar Robert Cunningham on achieving a distinction in his recent Piano Grade 7 exam, with a splendid 133 marks out of 150. Well done, Robert!

John Maybrey - Before Christmas Ann Battensby, our Tower Captain, heard the sad news that John had died. Some may remember he was the Christ Church Tower Captain from the 1960s till 1987 when Jennifer Meade took over. The funeral took place in Stedham, West Sussex on Friday 19 December. Donations, split between the Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance and our Christ Church bell restoration fund, can be given via www.memorygiving.com/johnfrederickmallettmaybrey

St George's - Unfortunately a pipe burst this past week. Charles very kindly mopped up. Water fell on the electric organ but Stuart has thankfully confirmed it is fine.

John Dunne - Very sadly John Dunne passed away on Christmas Eve. Our prayers and thoughts are with Sue and the family at this difficult time. The funeral will be on Monday 19 January, 2pm, in Christ Church. Everyone is welcome to attend and to remember John.

Candlemas Service - The service will be held in Old St George's, Esher at 6pm on Sunday 1 February 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.

Book Group - At our first meeting in 2026, on Monday 12 January, 4pm, we'll be discussing *Blonde Roots* by Bernardine Evaristo.

Epiphany Lunch - The lunch takes place at West End Village Hall on Sunday 18 January starting 12.30pm. Thank you to everyone who's booked – we look forward to our special lunch together.

Music on the Green - Join us on Wednesday 21 January, 1.15pm. to welcome in the New Year with the sparkling sounds of Fontina Winds in an engaging programme for wind quintet. Free concert with lunch from 12.30pm.

Sunday 1 February - On this Sunday the Bishop of Guildford will preside and preach at both churches. Please make every effort to attend.

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.

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, Ruramayi, Louise Tyzack, Caroline Kerr, Armand Sarkissian, Phoebe Ainsworth, Josh Baines, Mike Elder

RIP Anniversaries: Edward Buckley, Hedley Williams, Ivy Bagley, Jenny Willment, Michel Botibol, Penny Harrison, Brian Willey, Marjorie Dunnachie, Mary Teague

RIP: John Dunne

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

January		Time	Reading
Monday	12		Genesis 1.1-19, Ps 2, Matthew 21.1-17
Tuesday	13		Genesis 1.20-2.3, Ps 9, Matthew 21.18-32
Wednesday	14		Genesis 2.4-end, Ps 20, Matthew 21.33-end
Thursday	15		Genesis 3, Ps 21, Matthew 22.1-14
Friday	16		Genesis 4.1-16, 25-26, Ps 67, Matthew 22.15-33

LOOKING AHEAD

January		Time	Event
Friday	9	5.30pm	Youth Group, Christ Church
Sunday	11	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	12	4pm	Book Group, Christ Church
		7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	14	7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	15	All day	Parish Office closed
		9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday	18	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		12.30pm	Epiphany Lunch, West End Village Hall, West End
Monday	19	2pm	Funeral of John Dunne, Christ Church
		7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	21	1.15pm	Music on the Green lunchtime concert: Fontina Winds, Christ Church
		7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church

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 what3words location ///sugars.hulk.chip Website www.esherparish.org.uk Facebook www.facebook.com/EsherParish YouTube www.youtube.com/esherparish Instagram www.instagram.com/esherparish/	RECTOR In Vacancy	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 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.	