

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 Lonnnon |
| Reading, Prayers | Christine Steeds, Helen Coulson |
| Musicians | Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane, Robert Cunningham |
| Refreshments | Helen Coulson, Wendy Tanqueray |
| SERVICE MUSIC | |
| Opening music | Consolation in E (Liszt) |
| SG / CC hymns | 327, 108, 341 / 108, 342, 341 |
| SG / CC settings | Addington / Coulson |
| Anthem | O God, your goodness (Beethoven) |
| Closing music | Pasticcio (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
Psalm 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

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| 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 McGuiken 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 pewsheet by 10am on the preceding Tuesday. Thank you. | | |