

# PARISH OF ESHER

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

*Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love*

ASCENSION DAY (*transferred*)

17 MAY 2026

## CHURCH SERVICE

Parish Communion (live streamed) Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)

Preacher Revd Jonathan Andrew

Churchwarden Will Stevens, Fraser McGuicken

Sidespeople Michael Banks, Debbie Banks

Reading, Prayers Charles Hawkshaw-Burn, Bridget Williams

Musicians Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane, Josephine Griffin

Refreshments Sandra Argent, Janie McCulloch

## SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music *Chorale Improvisation 'O Gott, du frommer Gott' (Karg-Elert)*

CC hymns 232, 223 (omit v2,5), 227

CC setting Coulson

Post sermon music *Air on the G String (Bach)*

Communion anthem *The Lord ascendeth up on high (Praetorius)*

Closing music *Fugue in E major (Lübeck)*

## COLLECT

Risen Christ,  
you have raised our human nature  
to the throne of heaven:  
help us to seek and serve you,  
that we may join you at the Father's side,  
where you reign with the Spirit in glory,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father,  
you have raised our humanity in Christ  
and have fed us with the bread of heaven:  
mercifully grant that,  
nourished with such spiritual blessings,  
we may set our hearts in the heavenly places;  
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 Acts 1.4-11**

While staying with them, Jesus ordered the apostles not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

## **GOSPEL Luke 24.44-end**

Jesus said to the disciples, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.' Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

## **READING Acts 1.12,13a,14**

Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying. They were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

### **Other Lectionary Texts**

Daniel 7.9-14

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1.15-end

## PARISH NOTICES

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2026 -**

The Parish of Esher's annual APCM will be in Christ Church at 12pm this Sunday after the joint Ascension Day service. Everyone is welcome but a reminder that only those on the Electoral Roll are able to vote.

**Vacancy Update** - We are now live with our second advertisement in the Church Times. We ask for your continued prayers as we look forward in appointing a new Rector. The closing date for applications is 27 May, and we will shortlist, assuming suitable applicants, in early June.

**Annual Report** - The 2025 Parish Annual Report has been emailed to everyone registered to receive Parish emails. Some reference copies are in both churches.

**Electoral Roll** - The new Roll has been prepared ahead of the APCM and can be inspected in church or the Parish Office.

**Sunday School** - This week, we'll be looking at the importance of balanced prayer, to ensure we both Praise and (say) Please, and creating some scales to help us be more intentional when we pray.

**Confirmation** - Kath Chapman will present Annabelle & Thomas Doolan for confirmation by the acting Bishop of Guildford at Guildford Cathedral at a service on Saturday 23 May at 7pm. Stuart Whatton and Barbara Wadley have been invited to lead the music during communion. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Pentecost** - Next Sunday is the Feast of Pentecost. As red is the liturgical colour associated with the Holy Spirit it'd be lovely to see a 'sea' of red clothes in our churches!

**Flower Coordinator** - We are still looking for a volunteer to take over the Christ Church Flower team as soon as possible. Carol has kindly offered to have a chat to discuss what's involved.

**Esher May Fair** - The Fair will be on Esher Green this Saturday from midday to 4pm. This a great opportunity to invite people into Christ Church and promote our Parish. Stuart has arranged music entertainment, 2-4pm, and Ann is opening the tower for bellringing tasters. There'll be free kid's crafts and Kath will run a Mindful Photography workshop for teenagers and children at 2.30-3.30pm. Sign-up with Kath at [youth@esherparish.org.uk](mailto:youth@esherparish.org.uk). If you can bake a cake and/or help on the day, please contact Will or Bridget.

**Ascension Day** - This Sunday at 10.30am, we gather in Christ Church as one Parish for a joint service to celebrate this major festival. Together, we will reflect on Jesus's physical departure from the earth, not with sadness but with joy as he carries our humanity into the 'heavenly places' and promises his continuing and even more powerful presence with us through the coming of the Holy Spirit.

**Music on the Green** - Join us on Wednesday 20 May, 1.15pm, to hear the Vita Nova Piano Trio in a programme of Beethoven and Schumann. Our renowned lunch will be available from 12.30pm

**The Chosen** - The next showing will be for four weeks commencing Tuesday 26 May at 7.30pm in Christ Church.

**Fellowship Group** - The next meeting will be in Christ Church at 10.30am on Wednesday 3 June.

**Peace & Contemplation** - 'The Wonder of Faith' on Thursday 4 June, 8pm, at Christ Church. Join us for an hour of peace with inspiring readings, beautiful music and reflective silence. Enjoy this time to relax.

**Book Group** - We'll discuss *The Life and Death of St Kilda* by Tom Steel at our next meeting on Monday 8 June.

## 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, John Stacey, Paul Nicholls

RIP Anniversaries: Elizabeth Allen, Darlene Rennie, John Tanqueray, Dorothy Christie, David Lankey, Keith Hinshelwood

RIP: John Bentley

Banns of Marriage: William Peter Gains & Elspeth Grace Louise Allen

## BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

	May	Time	Reading
Monday	18		Numbers 22.1-35, Ps 93, Luke 7.36-end
Tuesday	19		Numbers 22.36-23.12, Ps 99, Luke 8.1-15
Wednesday	20		Numbers 23.13-end, Ps 29, Luke 8.16-25
Thursday	21	10am	Numbers 24, Ps 24, Luke 8.26-39
Friday	22		Numbers 27.12-end, Ps 28, Luke 8.40-end

## LOOKING AHEAD

	May	Time	Event
Saturday	16	2pm	Christ Church at the Fair, Christ Church
Sunday	17	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		Midday	Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Christ Church
Monday	18	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Wednesday	13	1.15pm	Music on the Green lunchtime concert: Vita Nova Piano Trio
		7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	14	All day	Parish Office closed
		10am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Sunday	24	9am	Holy Communion, St George's
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church

## CONTACTS

<b>PARISH OF ESHER</b> 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 <a href="http://www.esherparish.org.uk">www.esherparish.org.uk</a> Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/EsherParish">www.facebook.com/EsherParish</a> YouTube <a href="https://www.youtube.com/esherparish">www.youtube.com/esherparish</a> Instagram <a href="https://www.instagram.com/esherparish/">www.instagram.com/esherparish/</a>	<b>RECTOR</b> In Vacancy	<b>CHURCHWARDENS</b> Will Stevens 07505 904089 Fraser McGuicken 07342 057763 <a href="mailto:churchwardens@esherparish.org.uk">churchwardens@esherparish.org.uk</a>
	<b>HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIEST</b> Revd Jonathan Andrew 07968 765188 <a href="mailto:jandrewesher@gmail.com">jandrewesher@gmail.com</a>	<b>DEPUTY WARDEN CHRIST CHURCH</b> Sandra Argent 07973 909152 <b>DEPUTY WARDEN ST GEORGE'S</b> Charles Hawkshaw-Burn 07799 895083
	<b>CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES WORKER</b> Kathryn Chapman <a href="mailto:youth@esherparish.org.uk">youth@esherparish.org.uk</a>	<b>SAFEGUARDING OFFICER</b> Alison Mohamed <a href="mailto:safeguarding@esherparish.org.uk">safeguarding@esherparish.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Office</b> Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS Tel 01372 462282 Email <a href="mailto:office@esherparish.org.uk">office@esherparish.org.uk</a> <b>Parish Administrator</b> Melanie Williams <b>Office Hours</b> 9.30am to 3.45pm, Monday to Wednesday & Friday		
<b>Live Streaming</b> 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.		