

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

ASH WEDNESDAY

18 FEBRUARY 2026

CHURCH SERVICES

Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 8pm at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Churchwardens	Helen Coulson, Jane Tyrrell
Sidespeople	Will Stevens
Reading	Alison Bownes
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Robert Cunningham

SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Erhalt uns Herr bei deinem Wort, BuxWV 185 (Buxtehude)</i>
CC hymns	121, 127, 128
CC setting	Addington
Anthem	<i>Turn thy face from my sins</i> (Attwood)
Closing music	Capriccio 'Desperato' (Gottlieb Muffat)

COLLECT

Holy God,
our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God,
you have given your only Son to be for us
both a sacrifice for sin
and also an example of godly life:
give us grace
that we may always most thankfully receive
these his inestimable gifts,
and also daily endeavour
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Notice to the Parish:

An Update on Bishop Andrew Watson

After a wonderful recent visit from Bishop Andrew, we wanted to share with you some difficult news regarding his health. Following recent medical investigations, doctors have diagnosed a tumour in his pancreas, with further tests confirming that the cancer is inoperable.

These developments have come as a great shock to Bishop Andrew and his family. He hopes to continue in his responsibilities for as long as he is able, with Easter as an initial milestone, though plans will remain under review.

He has expressed deep gratitude for the love and support he has already received, and for the powerful sense of God's presence. He asks especially for your prayers – for his family, for his senior team, and for the Diocese during this unexpected period of change. Prayers for healing are welcome, and he also speaks with faith and hope as he entrusts the future to God.

He remains profoundly thankful for the privilege of serving as Bishop of Guildford and for the rich life and witness of this Diocese.

Please continue to hold him and his family in your prayers.

READING *Isaiah 58.1-12*

Thus says the Lord:

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. 'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones

strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

GOSPEL *John 8.1-11*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

Other Lectionary Texts

Joel 2.1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51.1-18

2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10

Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

PARISH NOTICES

Vacancy Update - After a very positive shortlisting on Monday 9 February we are excited about the progress, more details to follow as soon as all candidates have been informed. We will be holding interviews on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 March.

Lent Course - The course, based on the book *Let Me Go There - The Spirit of Lent* by Paula Gooder, starts on Sunday 22 February at noon in Christ Church. It'll consist of hourly sessions on consecutive Sundays until Easter facilitated most weeks by Christine Steeds. She may need someone to help on at least one Sunday. You may buy an e-book or a paperback online.

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

Sunday School - This week we'll create our Easter scene in the Sunday School garden, we will bury the Hallelujah and start our Lenten Path marking the start of our most holy season.

The Great Tommy Sleepout - Sam and I will sleep out outside for one night on Saturday 28 March 2026, to fundraise for the Royal British Veterans Enterprise (RBVE) who have supported our ex-servicemen and women for over 100 years! Please donate via our Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sandra-argent-1768579279. We're hoping the weather will improve! Thank you, Sam & Sandra Argent.

Flower Coordinator - Carol Calvert has confirmed she'll be 'retiring' at Easter after 32 years of managing the Christ Church flowers and flower team. To understand what's involved Carol will be happy to chat.

Easter Leaflet - The leaflet will shortly be sent to the printers, and we'll let you know when they are ready to collect. We would love to have them delivered to homes across Esher before March 15, Mothering Sunday.

Come, Heavy Sleep - Enjoy a Renaissance music concert on Friday 20 February, 6pm, at Old St George's, Esher, to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of John Dowland. David Yardley, countertenor, and Augustin Cornwall-Irving, lute, will treat us to vocal and instrumental music by Dowland and his contemporaries. Free admission.

The Chosen We're continuing to show this acclaimed dramatisation of the life of Christ on the Christ Church big screen. Episode 1.6 will be shown on Tuesday 24 February, 7.30pm. Don't miss them!

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.

Choir visit to Chingford - Our choir will be joining Chingford Parish Choir for a choral evensong on Sunday 1 March at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Chingford starting at 6.30pm. Revd Darren McCallig will be presiding.

Fellowship Group - We meet next in Christ Church at 10.30am on Wednesday 4 March.

Book Group - We've chosen a completely different, non fiction, book for our next meeting in Christ Church at 4pm on Monday 9 March. *The Seaside* by Madeleine Bunting takes readers on a journey round English coastal resorts, looking at their history up to the present day. For those who are happy with used copies, some are currently available at £3.77 (incl. postage) from Abebooks.co.uk.

Peace & Contemplation - The Wonder of Endings & New Beginnings. Thursday 12 March, 8pm, at Christ Church. An evening of inspiring readings, beautiful music and reflective silence.

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, Louise Tyzack, Caroline Kerr, Armand Sarkissian, Phoebe Ainsworth, Josh Baines, Mike Elder, Brian Elliott, Gudrun & David Jensen, Bishop Andrew

RIP Anniversaries: Patricia Peake Sexton, Christopher Creagh-Brown, Christine Eccles, Joyce Meek

RIP: Dany McLeod

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

February	Time	Reading
Wednesday 18		Daniel 9.3-6, 17-19, Ps 38, 1 Timothy 6.6-19
Thursday 19	10am	Genesis 39, Ps 77, Galatians 2.11-end
Friday 20		Genesis 40, Ps 3, Galatians 3.1-14

LOOKING AHEAD

February	Time	Event
Wednesday 18	8pm	Ash Wednesday Choral Eucharist, Christ Church
Thursday 19	All day	Parish Office closed
	10am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
Friday 20	6pm	'Come, Heavy Sleep' Dowland Concert, Old St George's Church, Esher
Sunday 22	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
	10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
	Midday	Lent Course, Christ Church
Monday 23	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday 24	7.30pm	Screening of The Chosen, Christ Church
Wednesday 25	7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday 26	All day	Parish Office closed
	10am	Morning Prayer, Zoom

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 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 pewsheets by 10am on the preceding Tuesday. Thank you.	