

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL

25 JANUARY 2026

CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Communion	Led by Canon Richard Truss at 9am at St George's (SG)
Preacher	Canon Richard Truss
Churchwarden	Charles Hawkshaw-Burn
Reading, Prayers	Mair Molteno, Jackie Andrew
Musician	Oliver Macfarlane
Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Canon Richard Truss at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Canon Richard Truss
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Judy Macdavo, Karen Sarkissian
Reading, Prayers	Jane Anderson, Tom & Sally Radford
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Oliver Macfarlane, Theo Tang
Refreshments	Sia Marshall, Ben Ritchie

SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Herr Christ, der einig Gottes Sohn</i> , <i>BuxWV 192</i> (Buxtehude)
SG & CC hymns	96, 358, 652
SG / CC settings	Addington / Coulson
Anthem	<i>The Three Kings</i> (Cornelius)
Closing music	<i>La Rejouissance from the Royal Fireworks</i> <i>Music</i> (Handel)

(THE COLLECT

Almighty God,
who caused the light of the gospel
to shine throughout the world
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful
to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in 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 9.1-22

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the

sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

GOSPEL Matthew 19.27-end

Peter said to Jesus, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

Other Lectionary Texts

Acts 9.1-22

Psalms 67

Galatians 1.11-16a

PARISH NOTICES

Thank You - To Canon Richard Truss, for visiting us and leading our services. It is a joy to worship with you.

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.

Sunday School - This week we are thinking about the rewards gained from following Jesus and we'll be making a Footprints of Faith path and game from our own feet!

The Chosen - Join us for this acclaimed dramatisation of the life of Christ on the big screen in Christ Church. Watch, reflect and discuss every Tuesday in February starting 7.30pm. Refreshments provided.

Flower Coordinator - Carol Calvert has confirmed she'll be 'retiring' at Easter after 32 years of managing the Christ Church flowers and flower team. Carol says it is a glorious thing to do so we hope someone will be tempted. To understand what's involved Carol will be very happy to chat.

Cedar Tree - A limb was removed recently to make a Christ Church tree safe. EBC should have acted six months ago when asked to reduce the weight that led to the fracture.

John Maybrey - John was the Christ Church Tower Captain from the 1960s till 1987. Donate to the bell fund via www.memorygiving.com/johnfrederickmallettmaybrey

Girls aged 4-18 - Girlguiding empowers girls to find their voice and discover themselves via challenges and adventures for all abilities and personalities, from 4 to 18 years. There are spaces in Brownies, Guides and Rangers in Claygate. Register via: www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/

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

Sunday 1 February - Andrew, Bishop of Guildford, will preside and preach at both morning services. Please make every effort to attend.

Fellowship Group - The next meeting will be in Christ Church at 10.30am on Wednesday 4 February. Everyone is welcome to join.

Youth Group - Our next session will be on Friday 6 February, 5.30pm, in Christ Church.

Book Group - We're moving on to a book from 1936 for our meeting on Monday 9 February: *Keep the Aspidistra Flying* by George Orwell. New and used copies are widely available. Happy reading!

Music on the Green - On Wednesday 18 February at 1.15pm, Myfanwy Grace, our choir soprano and in-house music theatre professional, will perform a selection of famous melodies from top West End and Broadway shows. Do come and support Myfanwy's first solo recital at Christ Church. Free concert with lunch from 12.30pm.

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/4mzwp48b>) 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, Louise Tyzack, Caroline Kerr, Armand Sarkissian, Phoebe Ainsworth, Josh Baines, Mike Elder

RIP Anniversaries: Janette Williams, Sandra Brown, Michael Teague, Marjorie Giles, Julia Snelling, Margaret Cullington, David Rolfe, Barbara Baker, Elsie Schwarz, Suzanne Armstrong-Kelsey, Audrey Phillips, Peter Butler, Alexander Grey

RIP: John Dunne

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

January		Time	Reading
Monday	26		Genesis 11.27-12.9, Ps 108, Matthew 26.1-16
Tuesday	27		Genesis 13.2-end, Ps 36, Matthew 26.17-35
Wednesday	28		Genesis 14, Ps 46, Matthew 26.36-46
Thursday	29	9.30am	Genesis 15, Ps 47, Matthew 26.47-56
Friday	30		Genesis 16, Ps 65, Matthew 26.57-end

LOOKING AHEAD

January		Time	Event
Sunday	25	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	26	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday	27	8pm	Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting, Christ Church
Wednesday	28	7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	29	All day	Parish Office closed
		10am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
February		Time	Event
Sunday	1	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
		6pm	Candlemas Evensong, Old St George's Church, Esher
Monday	2	7.15pm	Choir practice, Christ Church
Tuesday	3	7.30pm	Screening of The Chosen, Christ Church

CONTACTS

PARISH OF ESHER Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS what3words location ///frosted.forum.fims 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 pewsheet by 10am on the preceding Tuesday. Thank you.	