

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

EPIPHANY

4 JANUARY 2026

CHURCH SERVICE

Holy Communion	Led by Father Tom Musson at 9am at St George's (SG)
Preacher	Father Tom Musson
Churchwarden	Charles Hawkshaw-Burn
Reading, Prayers	Sue Langley, Stephen Lee
Musician	Theo Tang
Parish Communion (live streamed)	Led by Father Tom Musson at 10.30am at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Father Tom Musson
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Gavin Bradley, Volunteer required
Reading, Prayers	Sandra Argent, Will Stevens
Musicians	Oliver Macfarlane, Theo Tang
Refreshments	Sandra Argent, Volunteer required

SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Chorale Prelude 'Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern', Op. 67 (Reger)</i>
SG / CC hymns	103, 105, 94 (omit v4) / 103, 105, 94
SG / CC settings	Addington / Coulson
Communion music	<i>Beside the cradle here I stand – Chorale no. 59 from Part VI of the Christmas Oratorio (J S Bach)</i>
Closing music	<i>Fanfare from 4 Piezas para la Misa (José Lidón)</i>

THE COLLECT

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men
have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, 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 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 2.1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." 'Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Other Lectionary Texts

Psalm 72.1-15

Ephesians 3.1-12

PARISH NOTICES

Thank You - To Father Tom Musson, for visiting us and leading our services. It is a joy to worship with you.

Sunday School - In our first session of 2026, we'll follow the star with the wise men and create our own heavenly body capturing the miracle of the Son of God coming to earth.

New Year Message - As we move into 2026, we'd like to share with you this prayer of blessing from the Church of England's resources for the beginning of a New Year:

Jesus, Lord of time, hold us in your eternity. Jesus, image of God, travel with us the life of faith. Jesus, friend of sinners, heal the brokenness of our world. Jesus, lord of tomorrow, draw us into your future. Amen.

May the year bring gifts of new possibility, much-needed refreshment and bright hope

Vacancy Update - As part of the vacancy process we held our Section 11 meeting last week. This was a pivotal point in the timeline with key milestones achieved: (1) Parish profile and vacancy advert finalised and approved, (2) Parish representatives confirmed for the shortlist and interview panels, and (3) Form 34 completed requesting our patron, Wadham College, to advertise the position in the Church Times for four weeks from Monday 5 January. All the actions were completed with full PCC, Diocese and Patron alignment. The shortlisting will take place on Monday 9 February with interviews on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 March. Congratulations and thank you to Helen Coulson and Fraser McGuicken, our two parish representatives.

Morning Prayer - Thank you to Tom and Sally Radford for running Zoom morning prayer throughout the past year. Very kind of them. It will continue every Thursday at 9.30am.

Parish Giving - Donate via cash, card machine in Christ Church or the QR code pewcards.

Candlemas Service - This year's Candlemas Service will be held in Old St George's, Esher at 6pm on Sunday 1 February. The liturgical feast recalls the day on which Jesus was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, and in our celebration we offer ourselves for cleansing. We celebrate both the joy of Jesus' coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion. All are welcome to join us for this reflective and atmospheric evening.

Parish Office - The office will be re-opening on Monday 5 January, 9.30am to 3.45am.

Fellowship Group - We'll meet at 10.30am on Wednesday 7 January in Christ Church.

Youth Group - At our first meeting of the New Year on Friday 9 January, 5.30pm, we'll look back at 2025, sensing where we are right now and looking forward to what we want for 2026.

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 will take place at West End Village Hall on Sunday 18 January starting 12.30pm. The catering by Gill Ovington will include two courses and glass of fizz for £28 per person. Everyone will have received an email with details on how to book. Contact Kath Chapman, Bridget Williams, Teresa Allen or Ann Battensby if you've not received.

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 served from 12.30pm.

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, Ruramaiy, Louise Tyzack, Caroline Kerr, Armand Sarkissian, Phoebe Ainsworth, Josh Baines, Mike Elder
RIP Anniversaries: Francis Krejsa, James Bath, Cyril Handison, Doris Blake, Audrey Orr, Patrick Alderton, Audrey Humphrys, Sarah Holton, Irene Redfern

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

January		Time	Reading
Monday	5		Ruth 3, Ps 48, Colossians 3.12-4.1
Tuesday	6		Ruth 4.1-17, Ps 89.1-37, Colossians 4.2-end
Wednesday	7		Baruch 1.15-2.10, Ps 99, Matthew 20.1-16
Thursday	8		Baruch 2.11-end, Ps 46, Matthew 20.17-28
Friday	9		Baruch 3.1-8, Ps 148, Matthew 20.29-end

LOOKING AHEAD

January		Time	Event
Sunday	4	9am	Holy Communion, St George's Church
		10.30am	Parish Communion, Christ Church
Monday	5		No choir practice
Wednesday	7	10.30am	Fellowship Group, Christ Church
		7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Christ Church
Thursday	8	All day	Parish Office closed
		9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
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

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 Hawshaw-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.	