

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

CHRISTMAS EVE

24 DECEMBER 2025

CHURCH SERVICES

Crib Service (live streamed)	Led by Kathryn Chapman at 4pm at Christ Church (CC)
Sidespeople	Sandra Argent, Michelle Cullen
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Diana Johns
Midnight Mass (live streamed)	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 11.30pm at Christ Church (CC)
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Churchwarden	Will Stevens
Sidespeople	Janie McCulloch, Ivy Tang, Sean Seymour-Cole
Reading, Prayers	Janie McCulloch, Jan Sayer
Musicians	Stuart Whatton, Theo Tang

MIDNIGHT SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>The Holy Boy</i> (John Ireland)
CC hymns	79, On Christmas night, all Christians sing 84, 58, 78 (v1-2, 6-7)
CC setting	Coulson
Anthem	<i>O holy night</i> (Adolphe Adam)
Closing music	<i>Marche Triomphale</i> 'Nun danket alle Gott' (Karg-Elert)

THE ADVENT WREATH PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest.
Amen.

THE COLLECT

Eternal God,
in the stillness of this night
you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:
give to the earth the peace that we long for
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father,
in this night you have made known to us again
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him
until the day dawns
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.
To him be glory both now and for ever.
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 52.7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

READING Hebrews 1.1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

GOSPEL John 1.1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

PARISH NOTICES

Peace and Joy at Christmas - As we come to the end of another year, we want to thank you for all your support, prayers, help and encouragement in 2025. We know that many in our community are facing dark and difficult times right now, but we pray that wherever you are the peace and joy of Christmas will be with you. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.' (John 1.5).

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 this past year. Very kind of them. It will resume on New Year's Day at 9.30am.

Sunday School - Sunday School wishes you a very merry Christmas and peaceful New Year. We will welcome our wonderful children back on Sunday 4 January.

Youth Group - Our first get-together in 2026 will be on Friday 9 January at 5.30pm.

Christmas Day - Please let Will Stevens know on 07505 904089 or wjtstevens@gmail.com if you'll be on your own on Christmas Day. He has a few ideas of what to do together, most of which will cost very little (which he will pay for).

Crib Services - This year we have one 'sitting' of this ever popular child-friendly service at 4pm on Christmas Eve in Christ Church.

Midnight Mass - This traditional late-night Christmas Eve service will take place in Christ Church tonight at 11.30pm. With choral and organ music and well-known carols it is the perfect way to usher us into Christmas Day.

Thank you - To everyone who's contributed to our shared ministry over the past year, particularly our ministry team, musicians, choir, bellringers, pastoral team, flower arrangers, MOTG organisers and caterers, gardeners, coffee and rota teams. Your hospitality, organisation, dedication and help is deeply appreciated. Your PCC.

Sunday 28 December at St George's - On the First Sunday of Christmas we will have just one Parish service – a Eucharist and Holy Baptism at 9am. No service in Christ Church.

Parish Office - The office is now closed for the holidays. It re-opens on Monday 5 January. If you need assistance, email the office as the emails will be forwarded to the wardens. For urgent pastoral matters please contact Revd Jonathan Andrew on 07968 765188 or jandrewesher@gmail.com.

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

Book Group - At our first meeting in 2026, on Monday 12 January, 4pm, we'll be discussing *Blonde Roots* by Bernardine Evaristo.

Music on the Green - The first concert of 2026 is on Wednesday 21 January, 1.15pm.

Epiphany Lunch - 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.

Parish Giving - Donate today via cash, the card machine in Christ Church or online by scanning the QR code on the little pewcards.

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: Eric Bridger, John Brewster, Julia James, Doris Bowyer, Edith May, Christine Paget-Brown, Léon Stork, Sheila Wilson, Richard Barlow, Jo Stork, Antony Fraser

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

December	Time	Reading
Wednesday 24		Malachi 2.17-3.12, Ps 45, Matthew 19.16-end
Christmas Day		Isaiah 62.1-5, Ps 110, Matthew 1.18-end
Friday 26		Jeremiah 26.12-15, Ps 13, Acts 6

LOOKING AHEAD

December	Time	Event
Christmas Eve	All day	Parish Office closed (24 Dec to 4 Jan incl.)
	4pm	Crib Service, Christ Church
	6pm	Community Carol Concert, St George's Church
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass, Christ Church
Christmas Day	9am	Christmas Communion, St George's Church
	10.30pm	Christmas Communion, Christ Church
Friday 26	All day	Boxing Day Bank Holiday
Sunday 28	9am	Holy Baptism & Eucharist, St George's Church
Monday 29		No choir practice
January	Time	Event
Thursday 1	All day	New Year Day Bank Holiday
	9.30am	Morning Prayer, Zoom
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

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 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.	