

PARISH OF ESHER

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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

28 DECEMBER 2025

CHURCH SERVICE

Eucharist & Holy Baptism	Led by Revd Jonathan Andrew at 9am at St George's (SG)
Preacher	Revd Jonathan Andrew
Churchwarden	Andrew Lindow
Reading	Bridget Williams
Musician	Oliver Macfarlane

SERVICE MUSIC

Opening music	<i>Andante Tranquillo from Sonata no. 3</i> (Mendelssohn)
SG hymns	59, 88, 70
SG setting	Addington
Communion music	<i>Prière à Notre Dame, from Suite Gothique</i> (Boëllmann)
Closing music	<i>Fanfare from 4 Piezas para la Misa</i> (José Lidón)

THE COLLECT

Heavenly Father,
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,
though they had done no wrong:
by the suffering of your Son
and by the innocence of our lives
frustrate all evil designs
and establish your reign of justice and peace;
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 Jesus Christ,
in your humility you have stooped
to share our human life
with the most defenceless of your children:
may we who have received these gifts of your passion
rejoice in celebrating
the witness of the Holy Innocents
to the purity of your sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross;
for you are alive and reign, 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 1 Corinthians 1.26-29

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God..

GOSPEL Matthew 2.13-18

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

Other Lectionary Texts

Jeremiah 31.15-17

Psalm 124

PARISH NOTICES

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

Sunday School - We look forward to a creative return on Sunday 4 January!

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

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

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

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 - This Sunday, the First Sunday of Christmas there will be 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.

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.

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

Parish Communications - Every Friday we send out Sunday's pewsheets and order of service. To go on the parish mailing list for this and other useful emails please complete an Electoral Roll form or a contact form.

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: Edith May, Doreen Hinds, Sheilagh Lowry, Janet Bedford, Kenneth Brookes, Ellen Garratt, Joseph Finnis, Ingeborg Vahl, Susan Scott, Phyllis Crabbe
Baptism: Rose Joy Parcell

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Dec/Jan	Time	Reading
Monday 29		Baruch 4.21-27, Ps 36, Matthew 18.1-10
Tuesday 30		Jonah 2, Ps 113, Colossians 1.15-23
Wednesday 31		Jonah 3-4, Ps 102, Colossians 1.24-2.7
Thursday 1		Genesis 17.1-13, Ps 103, Romans 2.17-end
Friday 2		Ruth 1, Ps 18.1-30, Colossians 2.8-end

LOOKING AHEAD

December	Time	Event
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
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

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.	