

Christ Church ERITH

Sunday 3rd May 2026

Fifth of Easter

8.30am Holy Communion (18)

10.00am All Age Service (21)

PLEASE take this Pew Sheet home with you after the service. However, please **do NOT take home the Order of Service book**. Please return it to the table at the back of church after the service.

Today's Hymns

Opening: **77** *Christ is our cornerstone*

Gradual: **14** *All heaven declares*

Offertory: **220** *How sweet the name of Jesus sounds*

Closing: **405** *One more step along the world I go*

The Collect

**Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Reading: Acts 7.55-end

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Gospel: John 14.1-14

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

Post Communion Prayer: Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Notices

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING will follow the Parish Communion **next Sunday, 10 May.** **Help us reduce printing!** To cut down on the number of printed copies, we encourage you to receive the report by email instead. **If you are happy to do so, please send your email address to the PCC Secretary at: pcc.secretary@christchurcherith.org.uk** Thank you for helping us care for our resources.

MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICES: Monday Morning Prayer - at 9am online via Teams. Link is on www.christchurcherith.org.uk and Facebook, and can be shared. **Thursday Morning Prayer** – 9am at Christ Church. **Tuesday Evening Prayer** – 5pm at St John’s.

JUNIOR DISCIPLES CLUB for ages 3.5 – 11 years, every Sunday except the first of each month, meet in the Church Hall 10-10.30am, and then join the service. **ELEVATED YOUTH GROUP** for ages 12-18 years meet in the Church Hall 7-9pm on the **third and fourth Fridays** of each month.

TODDLER CHURCH continues every **Tuesday at 9.00 – 10.30am** in the church hall. **MESSY CHURCH** continues on the third Friday of each month at 3.30 – 5.45pm in the church hall, next date is **Friday 15 May.**

GAMES NIGHTS: Come and join us for an evening of fun and games - all ages welcome. The next sessions are at **St Johns Hall on Tuesday 12 May**, then at **Christ Church Hall on Friday 22 May, both 7pm – 9pm.** **St JOHN’S SILVER BIRCH CLUB** continues on **Thursday 7 May, 12pm-2.30pm** at **St John’s Community Hall.** Please take a leaflet at the back of church.

LOVE TO SING: Join us for fun, music and dancing on the third Thursday of each month. Next date is on **Thursday 14 May at 10.45am – 12.15pm in church (Christ Church).** This event is in collaboration with *Memory Lane Melodies*, a *Home Instead* programme. Christ Church is collaborating with them in providing the space as part of our outreach.

ALTAR FLOWERS: We are short of sponsors for the next few months and am looking for such people. There is a list of available dates to be filled. If you can help, please ring me on 07958 736781. **Cost is £8 per Sunday.** *Heather*

COMMUNITY PRAYERS: This week we pray especially for the residents of **Edinburgh Court (Stuart Mantle Way)** and **Elizabeth Court (Valence Road).**

TODAY’S second New Testament Lectionary reading is 1 Peter 2.2-10.

PENTECOST PILGRIMAGE WALK: Pilgrimage is journey to a holy place. It is an ancient Christian devotion where people carry their own prayers and the prayers of others along that journey to offer at their destination. Following in the footsteps of generations of pilgrims walking from London to Canterbury, we will be holding a pilgrimage on **Saturday 23rd May 2026**. We will meet at **Lesnes Abbey ruins at 10am** where there will be a short act of worship and finish at St John's at approximately 12 noon with another short act of worship and lunch. The total distance is roughly 2.5 miles. This will mostly be on good paths, although some of these will be woodland paths. There are no huge hills along the way, but please note that the route is not entirely flat and does include the set of steps and the footbridge over the railway. There will be two opportunities to join part way along the route:

- The end of the woods at the top of St Augustine's Road at approx. 10:45am
- The junction of Halt Robin Road and Gladeswood Road at approx. 11:15am

Please sign up at the back of church, noting any dietary requirements. For more information, please speak to Rev Amy.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE: Sunday 7th June 4pm at All Saints Belvedere. If you or your child (age 12 and above) wishes to be confirmed, please write your name on the list at the back of the church. **Confirmation preparation** for the young people starts 1pm today in church. Confirmation preparation for adults starts on Thursday 6:30pm in the quiet room in the hall. **If your name is not on the list but want to be confirmed**, please attend the appropriate session today or on Thursday.

NEXT WEEK: Readings for the Parish Communion at 10.00am on Sunday 10 May:
Acts 17.22-31 *Gospel:* John 14.15-21

Contact Details

Vicar: Revd Anthea Harris-Faulkner Tel: 01322 334729
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Assistant Curate: Revd Amy Brown Tel: 07481 194672
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Churchwardens: Natalie Slator and Ben Milton-Cole
churchwarden@christchurcheith.org.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Funmi Makanju fmakay@aol.com

Church Mobile Contact: 07764 476277

Weddings: Please contact a Churchwarden

Baptisms: Heather Taylor Tel: 07958 736781

Website: www.christchurcheith.org.uk

Contact details of other office holders are available at the back of church.