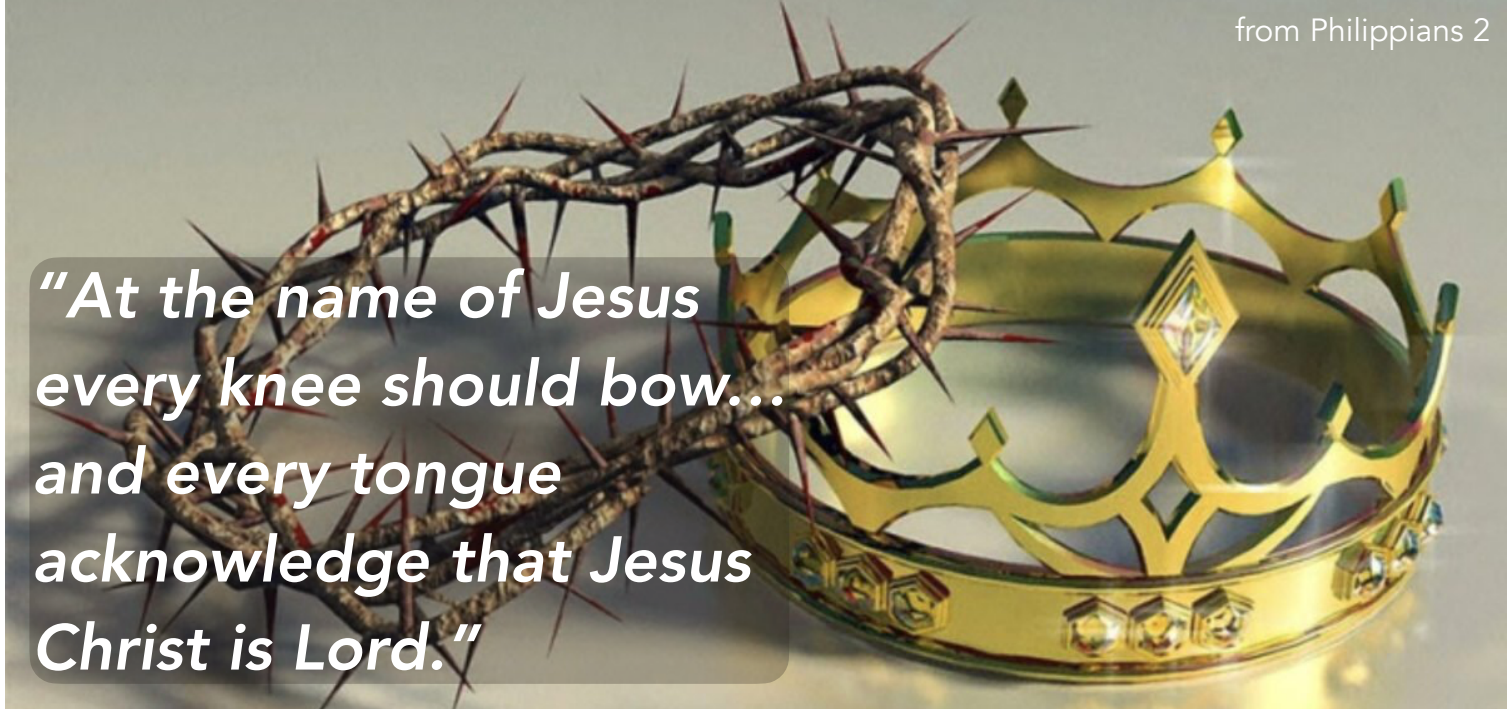


Outlook

from Philippians 2



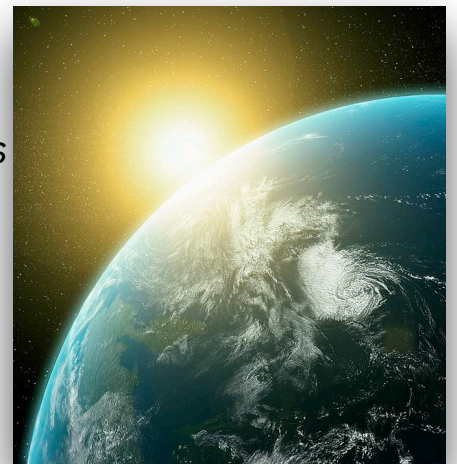
*"At the name of Jesus
every knee should bow...
and every tongue
acknowledge that Jesus
Christ is Lord."*

Although there's still 6 weeks or so to go until the end of 2025, this week is the final one of the Church's year-long calendar. Our Church year starts again next week with the the first Sunday of Advent, but we finish the Church year this weekend with a real high as we celebrate **The Feast of Christ the King**.

We rightly spend much time emphasising how gracious God is and how he is for us. For example, Philippians 2 describes how Jesus left the glory of Heaven to become a servant; in John 15 we hear in his own words how Jesus longs for us to become his friends, and; in Matthew 11 Jesus describes himself as being "gentle and lowly." All this is true. But he is also the **"King of Kings and Lord of Lords"** (see Revelation 19:16). As we approach him then we are staggered that the highest king would invite us to come and know him!

A Collect for the Feast of Christ the King

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Acts 6:1-15

1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.'

5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

8 Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called) – Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia – who began to argue with Stephen. 10 But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.

11 Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, 'We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God.'

12 So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin.

13 They produced false witnesses, who testified, 'This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. 14 For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us.'

15 All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Luke 22:66-23:6

66 At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law,

met together, and Jesus was led before them. 67 'If you are the Messiah,' they said, 'tell us.'

Jesus answered, 'If I tell you, you will not believe me, **68** and if I asked you, you would not answer. **69** But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.'

70 They all asked, 'Are you then the Son of God?'

He replied, 'You say that I am.'

71 Then they said, 'Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips.'

231 Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. **2** And they began to accuse him, saying, 'We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes

to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.'

3 So Pilate asked Jesus, 'Are you the king of the Jews?'

'You have said so,' Jesus replied.

4 Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, 'I find no basis for a charge against this man.'

5 But they insisted, 'He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.'

6 On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. **7** When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

Following on from the Book of Acts...



*All this autumn term we've been reading the book of Acts together. It's provided us with a dramatic description of all that Jesus continued to do and teach through the lives of the first members of the Church. **In light of all we've read in Acts**, how might you answer the following questions?*

- ▶ *Which episode from Acts did you find the most interesting and why?*
- ▶ *What has changed/developed in your own walk with the Lord since studying Acts?*
- ▶ *What's one thing you think we ought to consider doing differently in the life of Eastleigh Parish that we might better represent Jesus?*

Evening Prayer with Compline During Advent: Saturdays at 8pm



Mark Richards will be leading a weekly service of Evening Prayer with Compline each Saturday during Advent. Join Mark in the Lady Chapel at All Saints' for a beautiful, quiet service full of rich liturgy, prayers

and seasonal Bible readings. **Dates: 29th Nov; 6th, 13th, 20th Dec.**

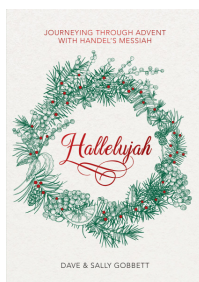
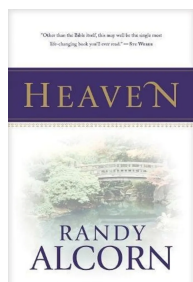
Christmas Invitations



Some printed invitations to our Christmas events will be available shortly and we'd love your help in getting the word out.

- Can you help deliver invitations to the houses on the Nightingale Estate? We're keen that they all get an invitation to Carols on the Green in particular. Let Ian/Sue know if you can help.
- Who might **you** invite to **Christmas, Carols and Cake**? Or **No-Rehearsal Nativity**? Or **Christingle**? Or **Midnight Communion**?

2 Great Books for Advent



We'd love to commend 2 good books to you. Firstly, **"Heaven"** by Randy Alcorn. There's a **kids' version** and the **regular version**. Both books are very readable and do a great job of describing much of what the Bible promises for life after death. Follow the link to buy **"Heaven"** or this link to buy **"Heaven for Kids"**. Secondly, Ian has bought 100 copies of an excellent Advent book named **"Hallelujah"** by Dave & Sally Gobbett. It's an advent-themed exploration of Handel's masterpiece "Messiah" and will help you not only appreciate that music more, but the story of Jesus behind it too. You can buy a copy from Ian for just £2.00 (*it costs £4.99 in the shops*).

Planning Ahead for Advent/Christmas: A Few Helpful Dates



- 6:30pm Tuesday 9th December: **Carols on the Green** with a brass band (!) outside St Francis'
- 11:00am Sunday 14th December: **No Rehearsal Nativity**
- 4:00pm Sunday 21st December: **Christmas, Carols & Cake**

Keep in Touch



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A Collect After Communion for the Feast of Christ the King

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.