EAST LEIGH PARISH

29th November 2026

Outlook



Today is the first day of Advent. For many people the idea of "Advent" may conjure up thoughts of getting ready for Christmas Day. In the Church however the truer meaning of the Advent season is to get oneself ready not just to celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, but to be prepared for the return of Jesus Christ - which could happen at any moment.

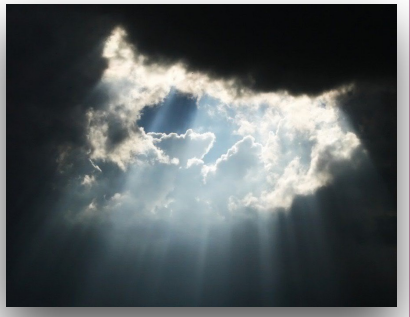
On this topic of the return of Jesus, sometimes we may hear this phrase: "the second coming" – but here's an interesting fact; that phrase is nowhere to be found in the Bible. Actually, it's probably a bit confusing as it can make it sound like everything will be wrapped up or come to an end on the moment Jesus returns. The Bible actually says there's more to it than one single event.

Each Sunday this Advent we plan to give 4 different talks to help us understand some of what the Bible teaches about life after death and the eventual return of Jesus Christ. We hope they will help us to be ready for ***the*** Advent: The return of Jesus Christ and his eternal plans for heaven and earth!

Today we start with a key question: *If I were to die today, where would I go?*

The Collect for The 1st Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.



2Corinthians 5:1-10

1 For we know that if the earthly tent
we live in is destroyed, we have a
building from God, an eternal house in
heaven, not built by human hands.
2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be
clothed instead with our heavenly
dwelling, **3** because when we are
clothed, we will not be found naked.
4 For while we are in this tent, we
groan and are burdened, because we
do not wish to be unclothed but to be
clothed instead with our heavenly
dwelling, so that what is mortal may
be swallowed up by life. **5** Now the
one who has fashioned us for this very
purpose is God, who has given us the
Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what
is to come.
6 Therefore we are always confident
and know that as long as we are at
home in the body we are away from
the Lord. **7** For we live by faith, not by
sight. **8** We are confident, I say, and
would prefer to be away from the
body and at home with the Lord. **9** So
we make it our goal to please him,
whether we are at home in the body or
away from it. **10** For we must all
appear before the judgment seat of
Christ, so that each of us may receive
what is due to us for the things done
while in the body, whether good or
bad.

Luke 23:32-43

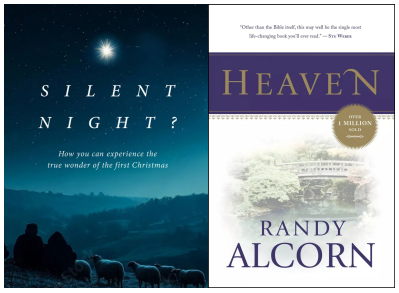
32 Two other men, both criminals,
were also led out with him to be
executed. **33** When they came to the
place called the Skull, they crucified
him there, along with the criminals –
one on his right, the other on his left.
34 Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for
they do not know what they are
doing.' And they divided up his
clothes by casting lots. **35** The people
stood watching, and the rulers even
sneered at him. They said, 'He saved
others; let him save himself if he is
God's Messiah, the Chosen One.'
36 The soldiers also came up and
mocked him. They offered him wine
vinegar **37** and said, 'If you are the
king of the Jews, save yourself.'
38 There was a written notice above
him, which read: this is the king of the
jews. **39** One of the criminals who
hung there hurled insults at him:
'Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself
and us!' **40** But the other criminal
rebuked him. 'Don't you fear God,' he
said, 'since you are under the same
sentence? **41** We are punished justly,
for we are getting what our deeds
deserve. But this man has done
nothing wrong.' **42** Then he said,
'Jesus, remember me when you come
into your kingdom.' **43** Jesus answered
him, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be
with me in paradise.'

Julie Shea

Julie's funeral will take place at 12:45pm on Monday 30th November in All Saints'. Thank you to all those who've offered to help with hospitality.

Advent Reading

This Advent we'd like to recommend 2 quite different books:



1) "Silent Night" by JM Stiles, which you can buy one from us for just £2.00 ***When you've read it, what not pass it on to a friend or neighbour?***

2) "Heaven" or "Heaven for Kids" by R Alcorn to accompany our Sunday teaching series.

Online Devotions: *Click the links to find 3 very different Advent Devotions*

1) A daily liturgy to use for personal/household prayer in Advent. 2) Daily readings for Advent. 3) The Adventure of Christmas - for young families.

Serving at the 11o'clock Service in 2027

Speak to Sue if you'd be able to serve at 11o'clock. We're keen to find welcomers/greeters; AV team; Bible-readers; refreshment team.

Bring-and-Share Meal: Sunday 6th December

Our final bring-and-share meal for 2026 is next Sunday. The suggestion this time is to bring festive-themed food to share. Hope to see you there!

Helping with Christmas Services

- Please look out for the sign-up sheets to help with various things for our Christmas services, or speak to Sue/Dot to add your name to the list.
- Let Naomi know if you can join her for a Christingle-building session at 2pm on Tuesday 22nd December.

Keep in Touch

Wardens: Keith 07905 249 860 & Dot 07446 072 097
Vicar: ian@eastleighparish.com 07809 668 118
Sue: sue@eastleighparish.com 07502 427 693
Naomi: naomi@eastleighparish.com for Children's Ministry
Revd Oliver: oliver@eastleighparish.com 07940 851 612
Jeremy: giving@EastleighParish.com for info about giving to EPC
Safeguarding: safeguarding@eastleighparish.com Mike 07855 838 544

EASTLEIGH PARISH

CHRISTMAS

EASTLEIGH PARISH CHURCH

CAROLS
ON THE GREEN
6:30pm Sat 19th
OUTSIDE St Francis'

CHRISTMAS
CAROLS & CAKE
4:00pm Sun 20th
Reserve a seat via our website
www.EastleighParish.com

STAY & PLAY NATIVITY
10:30am Tues 22nd

CHRISTINGLE
WITH THE ORANGES!
4:30 & 6:00pm Christmas Eve

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
11:15pm Christmas Eve

FAMILY COMMUNION
FOR CHRISTMAS DAY
10:30am Christmas Day

FIND US IN ALL SAINTS', SO50 5NH