

“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”



Ephesians 5:25b

Those of us who enjoy a good wedding were delighted when just a couple of weeks ago All Saints' played host to Sophie & Samuel Rainer-Guy's big day. What a pleasure it was to see a bride & groom so full of hope & love! Today at church we'll be thinking about God's vision for His church, and so it's helpful for us to remember that the Bible uses the example of marriage when describing Jesus' relationship with the church. Ephesians 5 tells us that the church is Christ's bride and that, **“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”** It's good to be reminded of just how much God values his people, and by extension how he calls us to look upon and love one-another within the church family.

Collect for the 4th Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.



Bible Readings for 21st April

Ephesians 3:10-11

¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1Peter 2:4-5

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to

be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1Corinthians 12:12-14

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ And so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

John 10:11-18

¹¹ 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ 'I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I

know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.'

A Date for Your Diary: Pentecost Sunday, 19th May



Churches Together will be holding a special Pentecost celebration at 6:30pm on Pentecost Sunday (19th May) at Eastleigh Elim Church, Nutbeem Rd.

Second Sunday at Six



Thank you to everyone who came to our first 'Second Sunday at Six' last weekend. It was rather wonderful! We shared tea & cake at 5:30, and then at 6pm were led by Ian & Chris in a very moving Compline service, full of great Bible readings and songs from the piano. Our next similar service is at **6pm on Sunday 12th May** (following tea at 5:30pm) and will be an Evensong service led by Andy Milligan.

Lovewise



We've received **lots** of very positive feedback indeed from last week's visit to EPC by Julie Maxwell from [Lovewise](https://www.LoveWise.org.uk). The resources that she talked about - all of which are designed to help parents, churches and schools to see the beauty in God's design for family and relationships - can be found via their website (www.LoveWise.org.uk). Ian has ordered some copies of the books highlighted last week, and will make these available as soon as they arrive. Julie has been in touch this week to let us know that Lovewise hold regular prayer meetings. If you'd like to know more about these, please make contact with them via their website.

APCM: 9:30am Saturday 27th April



We're just days away from this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting which is being held at: 9:30am on Saturday 27th April 2024 in All Saints'. We hope you can be there.

As part of Sunday's sermon Ian is going to try to explain (!) how although the Church is like a vine (see John 15), in order to flourish it can be very helpful indeed to have a really good 'trellis' in place. The 'trellis' is everything that happens behind the scenes to support church life, such as finance, safeguarding, PCC, admin and so on.

Please will you take some time to pray & ask: **how can you serve practically in church life?** At our APCM we will be appointing Wardens & PCC members, but there are many other roles that also need filling. Could you serve as a:

*** PCC Member *** PCC Secretary *** Data Protection Officer *** Church Warden *** Treasurer (& Assistant) Treasurer *** Speak to Ian for more info.



this week at **the 11 o'clock service:**
come to learn

take a deeper look at what the Bible teaches



today's topic:

loving the Church like Jesus does



Crèche+ & DJs is available today for all children and we'll be looking at the story of Jesus & Peter walking on water

You're invited to another wonderful

EASTLEIGH
PARISH

Quiz Night

7pm Friday
31st May

in All Saints',
Eastleigh Parish
Church

hosted by Jayne Martin

Teams
of 6

£8 per
person

Meal
included

proceeds from the quiz will go
to support Lovewise.org.uk

Keep in touch by signing up to ChurchSuite, at [Facebook.com/EastleighParish](https://www.facebook.com/EastleighParish), or
via www.EastleighParish.com

Ian Fletcher (Vicar): 07809 668 118 Sue Fletcher: 07502 427 693

Church Wardens: Phil 07966 159 684 / Keith 07905 249 860