

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."

Colossians 3:1

Good morning and welcome to Eastleigh Parish Church.

On Thursday of this week it was 40 days exactly since Easter Sunday, and so this weekend we're remembering and celebrating what we call Ascension Day - the day on which Jesus went back up to Heaven to sit at God the Father's right hand. It's mind-boggling to think that Jesus laid aside his majesty to come and serve us in the way that he did; and it's equally amazing to know that, **"Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."** (Romans 8:34).

This morning we're delighted to welcome a very special guest, The Venerable Jean Burgess who is the Archdeacon of Bournemouth. Jean will be speaking at both services today and helping us explore the importance of Jesus' Ascension into heaven.

Collect for Ascension

*Risen Christ,
you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:
help us to seek and serve you,
that we may join you at the Father's side,
where you reign with the Spirit in glory,
now and for ever. Amen.*



Bible Readings for Ascension

Acts 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach **2** until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. **3** After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. **4** On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. **5** For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

6 Then they gathered round him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'

7 He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. **11** 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'

Luke 24:44-53

44 He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.'

45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. **46** He told them, 'This is what is written: the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, **47** and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things. **49** I am

going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

50 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. **51** While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. **52** Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. **53** And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

For Your Diary

Here are a few events that you might like to plan to be at:



◆ Pentecost Evening Celebration with Churches Together in Eastleigh; 6:30pm Sunday 19th May at Eastleigh Elim Church, Nutbeem Rd.

◆ Churches Together in Eastleigh Sunday morning Open Air Celebration; 10:30am Sunday 14th July next to the Railway Man in town



◆ "Psalm Roar" - more details to follow - 10am to 4pm on Saturday 23rd November in All Saints'

Encouraging Stories from Around the World



Last Sunday Ian shared a number of amazing stories of how many people from the Muslim world are finding faith in Jesus Christ (including the Crown Prince of Kuwait, Abdullah al-Sabah, pictured here). If you'd like to hear more stories like this you could visit <https://mbbglobal.net/category/testimonies/video-testimonies/>

When You Pray...



- Belle Miles is being confirmed at Winchester Cathedral on Saturday 18th May. Ask God to fill her with His Holy Spirit; that she would know 'the hope of her calling' (see Ephesians 1:18-21).
- Thank God for our weekly youth group which meets every Thursday. We're currently going through the Youth Alpha course. Please pray that we'd all come to know Jesus as Lord & saviour.
- Praise God that our weekly Stay & Play continues to go well. Please pray that the 'seed' of the word of God would find good soil to settle in, and that new team members would come forward to serve.
- Please ask God to bring healing to Jayne H who has been back in hospital once again this week.
- Thank God that Mark Richards will shortly be commissioned as a Street Pastor. Pray that he would see God at work through this new ministry of his.
- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (see Psalm 122:6). For more detail on how to pray for Israel and the people of Gaza at this difficult time, here is a very helpful website: <https://www.oneforisrael.org/israel-at-war/>

You're invited to another wonderful

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



this week at **the 11 o'clock service:**

come to learn

take a deeper look at what the Bible teaches



Creche+ & DJs is available today for all children and we'll be looking the parable of the wise and foolish builders

Keep in Touch



- ▶ **Sign up to ChurchSuite** (an app/website for church communication) - speak to Sue F or see website for info
- ▶ **Find us online** at facebook.com/EastleighParish, or via www.EastleighParish.com
- ▶ **Call us**
 - ▶ Ian Fletcher (Vicar): 07809 668 118
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 - ▶ Keith Pickering (Church Warden): 07905 249 860
 - ▶ Dot Chadwick (Church Warden): 07446 072 097