

Outlook

Exodus 20:1

***"I am the Lord your God,
who brought you out of Egypt,
out of the land of slavery."***

This week has involved lots of new-starts and re-starts for many of us, and so it's a great time for us to begin a new series of Bible studies here at church. Between now and the start of Lent we're going to take a look at the 10 Commandments.

It's very significant that God gave these commandments to the Israelites shortly after he had liberated them from slavery in Egypt and whilst they were still on their way towards the Promised Land. He showed them the way that he wanted them to live - in the land of freedom. This way of life is described in the Epiphany Hymn "Men of Gladness" when it encourages us to be, "pure and free from sin's alloy." Many years after the story of the Exodus Jesus said, "**anyone who sins is a slave to sin**" (John 8:34). His desire has always been that we would live lives of freedom and godly purpose, and not lives of slavery to sin. His 10 Commandments provide us with clarity on how we might find a new freedom in Christ as we journey through life and live lives that glorify him. We hope you find these studies to be freedom-giving and liberating!



A Collect for this Week

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognise him as our Lord and through faith know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Bible Readings for 11th January

Exodus 20:1-21

1 And God spoke all these words:
2 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.
3 'You shall have no other gods before me.
4 'You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.
7 'You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.
8 'Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labour and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns.
11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and

all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.
12 'Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.
13 'You shall not murder.
14 'You shall not commit adultery.
15 'You shall not steal.
16 'You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.
17 'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.'
18 When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance 19 and said to Moses, 'Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not let God speak to us or we will die.'
20 Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.'
21 The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

Matthew 3:11-17

[John the Baptist said:] 11 'I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.'

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John.

14 But John tried to deter him,

saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?'

15 Jesus replied, 'Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.' Then John consented.

16 As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'

Churches Together in Eastleigh: Reading the WHOLE of the Bible in 1 Week!



2026 marks the 500th anniversary of the publishing of William Tyndale's English New Testament. To mark this special landmark CTiE plan to read aloud the whole of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation during the international 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'.

To help make this happen, CTiE are hoping to recruit an army of volunteers who will each read a small section of the Bible. Most of the reading will take place in Wells Place (home of Eastleigh Baptist Church) from **8am to 9pm Monday 19th to Friday 23rd January 2026**. You can book a reading slot by [clicking this link](#) - and you can of course go along to hear the Bible being read all week. (*Ian plans to be there 3-7pm on Tues 20th.*) And then... at a time tbc on Saturday 24th January the final section - the 4 Gospels - will be read aloud in the town centre (location also tbc).

When You Pray...



It's vital that we keep on praying for the spiritual life of this church and its members... but might you also ask God to help fill some key roles in church life too? Please ask the Lord to raise up those who would serve in the **Treasurer, Maintenance & Hospitality** teams/roles. Thank you!

Lent Course 2026

We plan to run a Lent Course this year. The same material will be repeated on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday afternoons through Lent (so you only need to attend one or the other). Might you join us? And who might you invite?

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WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS
YOU'VE EVER HEARD?

A 7-week course for Lent 2026. Reading the Gospel of Mark we will see who Jesus says he is and why his death & resurrection are so important.

7:30pm Tuesdays 17th Feb - 31st March

1:45pm Wednesdays 18th Feb - 1st April

(same material both sessions - attend either Tues eve or Weds afternoon)

More info via ChristianityExplored.org & 07809 668 118



A Bible Memory Verse for the New Year?

As this new calendar year gets going, why not learn this terrific portion of Scripture below off by heart? (And don't forget to put it into action too!)

Colossians 3:13-15

"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."

Keep in Touch



Wardens: Keith 07905 249 860 & Dot 07446 072 097

Naomi: naomi@eastleighparish.com (for Children's Ministry)

Vicar: ian@eastleighparish.com 07809 668 118

Sue: sue@eastleighparish.com 07502 427 693