

Outlook

Isaiah 7:14b

***"The virgin will conceive
and give birth to a son,
and will call him Immanuel."***

Today is the final Sunday in Advent and as such we can't help but ask, "Are you ready?" There may well be a bit of last-minute shopping or present-wrapping to be done in readiness for Thursday, but much more importantly, are we ready to meet Jesus face-to-face? This is the purpose of Advent; to get us ready.

Christmas, Carols & Cake: It's a Full House!

All the seats/tables for today's 'Christmas, Carols and Cake' have now been reserved, but there are a few people who would still like to be there...



- **Even if you don't have a reservation** you'd be welcome to attend and enjoy the music/readings, but we won't be able to provide you with the afternoon tea.
- **If you've reserved a place but won't be there** please let us know so that we can pass it on to a person on the waiting list.

A Collect for the 4th Week of Advent



Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Isaiah 7:10-16

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz,
11 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign,
whether in the deepest depths or in
the highest heights.'
12 But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask; I will
not put the Lord to the test.'
13 Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you
house of David! Is it not enough to
try the patience of humans? Will you
try the patience of my God also?
14 Therefore the Lord himself will give

you a sign: the virgin will conceive
and give birth to a son, and will call
him Immanuel. 15 He will be eating
curds and honey when he knows
enough to reject the wrong and
choose the right, 16 for before the
boy knows enough to reject the
wrong and choose the right, the land
of the two kings you dread will be
laid waste."

Matthew 1:18-25

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the
Messiah came about: his mother
Mary was pledged to be married to
Joseph, but before they came
together, she was found to be
pregnant through the Holy Spirit.
19 Because Joseph her husband was
faithful to the law, and yet did not
want to expose her to public
disgrace, he had in mind to divorce
her quietly.
20 But after he had considered this,
an angel of the Lord appeared to him
in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of
David, do not be afraid to take Mary
home as your wife, because what is
conceived in her is from the Holy

Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son,
and you are to give him the name
Jesus, because he will save his
people from their sins.'
22 All this took place to fulfil what the
Lord had said through the prophet:
23 'The virgin will conceive and give
birth to a son, and they will call him
Immanuel' (which means 'God with
us').
24 When Joseph woke up, he did
what the angel of the Lord had
commanded him and took Mary
home as his wife. 25 But he did not
consummate their marriage until she
gave birth to a son. And he gave him
the name Jesus.



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.

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).

Keep in Touch



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Times & Dates for Your Diary

Christmas Eve

No 9:15am midweek Communion today
4:30 & 6:00pm Christingle
11:00pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

10:00am Communion for Christmas Day

Sunday 28th December

9:30am Parish Communion
No 11o'clock service today

Wednesday 31st Dec New Year's Eve

No 9:15am midweek Communion today

Sunday 4th January

Almost back to normal...
9:30am Parish Communion for Epiphany
11o'clock 'come to the table' but **no bring-and-share lunch** today



When You Pray...

As we head towards the end Advent and then begin to tick off the final few days of 2025, why not take some time out to pause, pray and reflect on your own walk with the Lord, **and** the health of this parish church?

Here are some suggested Bible passages to read & meditate on, and some questions to consider that you may find helpful to ponder on. Ian would be delighted to meet with you to discuss your thoughts or simply to pray with you.

Psalm 42:1

"As the deer thirsts for streams of water, so my soul thirsts for you, my God."

- ✿ Are you/we 'hungry' and 'thirsty' for God?
- ✿ Or is your/our appetite being filled with other things?

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."

- ✿ Do you/we **love** Christ's body, his Church? Is there any bitterness?
- ✿ Do you/we have a **grateful** heart?

Acts 2:42

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

- ✿ Are you/we **devoted** to things of God?
- ✿ If not, what might be preventing you/us from being fully committed?

1Thessalonians 2:13

"And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe."

- ✿ Are you/we **thankful** for the Word of God and its work in your/our life?
- ✿ Or are there parts of it that you/we resist?

As you look ahead to 2026, what areas in your own relationship with the Lord might you pay special attention to?

- ✿ Suggestions might include: Forgiving others; sharing your faith; encouraging others; being thankful; Bible reading; fasting; praying; commitment to fellowship; loving those you struggle with; generosity.