

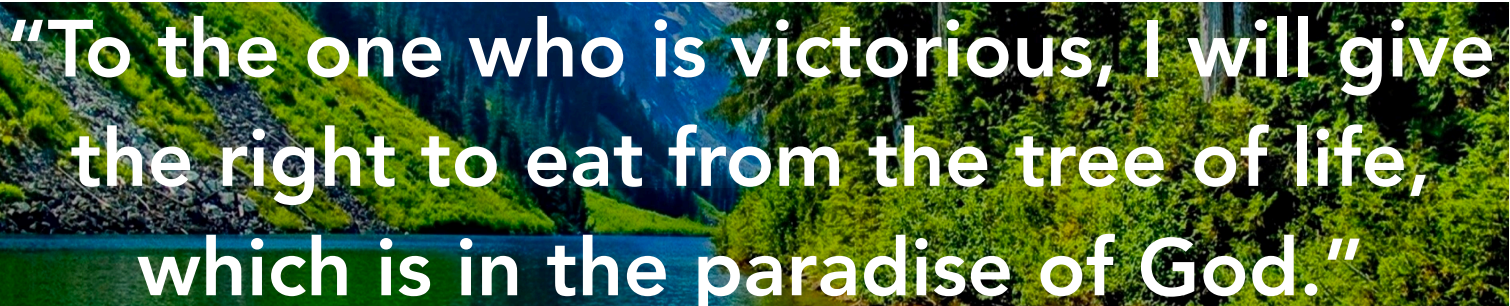
News and Information in the Life of Eastleigh Parish Church

This weekend will see us taking a look at the 2nd of the 7 letters to the churches in Revelation. **What did you find most striking about the letter to Ephesus that we read together last week?** Here's a few reminders of some key points from that letter:

- ◆ All the 7 churches are held by Jesus - and he holds them securely.
- ◆ When Jesus says he sees all that we think and do, he does so not as a 'super spy' trying to catch us out, but according to his nature which is "*compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.*" (Psalm 103:8)
- ◆ The love that the Ephesian Church had forsaken (i.e. 'forsaken' - left behind, like a broom at home) was not a feeling or emotional type of love. It is 'agapé love' - which is described in detail in 1Corinthians 13. It was this active, choosing, love that they had forsaken.
- ◆ There are some things that Jesus hates, and that he applauds his disciples for hating too. Jesus really does love sinners (like you and me). Jesus really does hate certain sins.
- ◆ Jesus offers the most incredible rewards, but only for those who choose him and his way of life now.

As we continue on through these 7 letters, here's a reminder of **2 helpful questions that** might stimulate your thinking:

1. Which of the 7 letters might best describe the Church in Eastleigh?
2. Of all the challenges Jesus gives to the 7 Churches in Revelation, what might you individually need to particularly respond to?



"To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."

Good News



It's great to have good news to share! This is just a little note to let you know that we've been really blessed in recent weeks at many of the **midweek activities held at All Saints'**. Although we're very keen to focus on the life of our Discipleship Groups, the ministry we enjoy at All Saints' is also really important.



On Tuesday morning this week, **Stay-&-Play** had more than 15 families attending. Not only was there a lovely atmosphere, but the families appeared to really engage with story & song time. Kay & Kayleigh are doing great stuff! If you'd like to help too - perhaps by serving the tea/coffee? - just let us know.



Our **After-School Club** on Wednesdays has been great too. We serve tea, toast & fruit to the hungry kids (& their parents!), and sometimes play organised games or simply hang out with one-another before breaking into 2 small groups for a short time. Kayleigh leads a group for the kids, and always teaches from the Bible, whilst Ian leads a discussion for the parents/carers on topics relating to bringing up children.



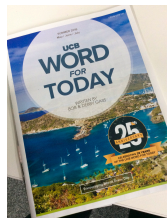
The **midweek communion service** at 9:15am every Wednesday is a real joy to attend. Most weeks, either Ian or Adrian offer a short thought from the Scriptures, and once the service is over, we stay on for an increasingly-long time of tea, coffee & catch-up. If you can, why not come and join us?



We hold **morning prayer at 9am** every Tuesday & Thursday. On Tuesday it's in All Saints', whilst on Thursday we use ZOOM. Just this week, one of our neighbours on Desborough Rd. came in and joined us for the time of prayer and left feeling refreshed and blessed.

I appreciate that not everyone is free to attend midweek activities - most of us are busy at school, college or work at that time of day. But do give thanks to God for the good things that he is doing in this area of EPC's ministry.

The Word for Today



The latest edition of the UCB **"Word for Today"** is available - for free - inside All Saints'. These booklets provide a helpful daily portion of the Bible to read and think about. If you know of someone who'd like a copy dropped-off to their home, just let Ian know.

Basics Bank: Stock Management Assistant Needed



Would you like to serve at Eastleigh Basics Bank? As well as needing general helpers, Basics Bank is now looking for a Stock Management Assistant. Full details are on the notice board inside All Saints'.

The Real Easter Egg

Do you know about **The Real Easter Egg** company? Each year, they produce high quality Fair Trade chocolate eggs for Easter... all of which are accompanied by brilliant booklets, cartoons, etc. that tell the Easter story. You can order these eggs **from this link**, or you might be able to find them in a local shop. (**Shop Equality** on Wells Place often has them in stock.)

Ladies' Breakfast



Ladies, you are invited to a breakfast at **9am on Saturday 5th Feb** in All Saints'. A delicious breakfast will be served (fruit salad, croissants, bacon/sausage rolls, etc.), and the guest speaker will be Caroline Oswald (who used to lead ARK). Suggested donation of £5pp to help cover costs.

You can book **via ChurchSuite**, or give Bronnie a call on **07858 596 794**.

Kids at 11 o'clock



This weekend, **Sunday 23rd**, all children in school years 1+ are invited to join Katie & Kayleigh for **DJs** (Disciples of Jesus) during the 11 o'clock service.

We'll continue to post what provision is on offer week-by-week here in the Outlook.

Revelation 2:10b

"Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown."

Revelation 2:8-11

8 'To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

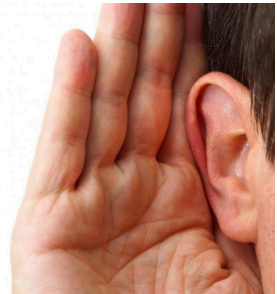
These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. **9** I know your afflictions and your poverty – yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. **10** Do not be afraid of what

you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

11 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

"Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Revelation 2:7



Luke 4:14-21

14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. **15** He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17** and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners

and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, **19** to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. **21** He began by saying to them, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'

Bible Readings for 30th Jan

Revelation 2:12-17 Luke 2:22-40