

Jesus said:

**"Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will never pass away."**

Luke 21:33

Imagine receiving a letter from Buckingham Palace telling you that King Charles was going to make a royal visit to your home. Not many of us would sit idly by waiting for his appearance; we'd be far more likely to scrub, Hoover, dust and paint - and generally do all we could to be ready for his coming.

How much more then ought we to prepare for the return of the greatest of kings, Jesus Christ?

Today is the first day of Advent. This is our annual season in which we make a conscious effort to ask ourselves, *"Are we ready for the return of the Lord?"*

Collect for 1st Sunday in Advent

*Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.*



Christmas Events



We've started to advertise our Christmas events. Who will you invite? Invitation cards are available for **Christmas, Carols & Cake** on Sunday 15th December, and you can reserve a table/spaces via

EastleighParish.com If you see any of our adverts on social media, please **like** and especially **share** them - this really helps get the word out.

Bible Readings for the 1st Sunday in Advent

Acts 1:1-11 (NIVUK)

¹ 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 21:25-36 (NIVUK)

²⁵ 'There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At

that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

²⁹ He told them this parable: 'Look at the fig-tree and all the trees. ³⁰ When

they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near.³¹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³² 'Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ 'Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.'

Compline for Advent: 6:30pm Thursday 5th, 12th & 19th December



There'll be a Compline (Night Prayer) service on the 3 consecutive Thursdays of Advent. Mark Richards has recently completed his Bishop's Commission for Mission training and he will be leading these quiet & reflective times of prayer. We'll meet in the Lady Chapel.

EASTLEIGH PARISH

Christmas Carols & Cake

TRADITIONAL CAROLS & READINGS SERVED WITH A FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEA

3:30pm Sunday 15th Dec
at All Saints', Eastleigh Parish Church

reserve a table at
EastleighParish.com

You're invited!

EASTLEIGH PARISH

No-Rehearsal Nativity!

11:00am Sun 22nd Dec

Everyone's invited!

Come dressed as your favourite character, or borrow one of our costumes

Christmas

with Eastleigh Parish Church

CHRISTMAS, CAROLS & CAKE

3:30pm Sunday 15th Dec

NO-REHEARSAL NATIVITY

11:00am Sunday 22nd Dec

CHRISTINGLE

4:30 & 6:00pm Christmas Eve

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

11:00pm Christmas Eve

Some Suggested Bible Meditation for the 1st Week of Advent

This week's theme: Jesus the Light of the World

In the Morning, John 1:9-13

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

During the Day, Isaiah 9:2

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

In the Evening, Genesis 1:1-4

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light.