Epping Anglicans

Parish of Saint Alban's, Epping
with Saint Aidan's, West Epping

Our Mission: Gather, Grow, Go

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

29 November 2026

Sunday at St Alban's

(Liturgical Colour Violet)

8.00am Eucharist
Reader: Elizabeth Jenkins / Preacher: Assistant Minister Bill Walton

@ 10.00am
Service of Advent Readings, Hymns and Prayers
Also available by zoom *(details on page 4)*
Preacher: Assistant Minister Bill Walton

EPIC Indonesian Congregation *(Old Sunday School Room)*
Pastor Kian Holik

Chinese Congregation
The Reverend Simon Pei

Sunday School in The Loft *(above the Main Hall)*

Youth @ St Alban's

Combined Church Fellowship with morning tea in the main hall after services

Rector: The Rev'd Philip Lui 0413 396 435 phil@eppinganglicans.org.au
Assistant Minister: (part-time): Bill Walton bill@eppinganglicans.org.au
Honorary Senior Associate: The Rev'd Paul Weaver 0408 285 776
paul@eppinganglicans.org.au
Parish Administrator: Denise Pigot 98763362 office@eppinganglicans.org.au
Music Director: Chris Czerwinski 0452 557 695 krzysztof_czerwinski@yahoo.com
Student Ministers: Doris Awad doris.awad@student.moore.edu.au
Gloria Walton
Student Ministers and Children's Ministry Workers: Aimee and David Wong
Indonesian Congregation (EPIC) Pastor: Kian Holik kian@eppinganglicans.org.au
Chinese Congregation Pastor: Simon Pei simon@eppinganglicans.org.au
Caretaker: Kari Hewitt karihewitt94@gmail.com
Parish Office: 3 Pembroke Street Epping 2121 (PO Box 79 Epping 1710)
9876 3362 - www.eppinganglicans.org.au

TODAY - Farewell to Fr Paul and Sarah Weaver

Today during the 10am service, and afterwards over morning tea, we will farewell and thank Paul and Sarah for all they have contributed to the life of this parish over many years.

What's coming up at St Alban's…

This week …

Wednesday 2 December
10am **Everyday English Classes**
12noon – 2pm **Chinese Knowing Jesus Course**
7.30pm **Young Adults Growth Group**
7.30pm **Choir practice**

Thursday 3 December
9.30am **Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing by Zoom**
10.30am **Eucharist with Prayers for Healing** – all welcome, followed by morning tea.
This will be the final service for 2026. Resuming 4 February 2027.

Friday 4 December
7.30pm – 9pm **Mandarin Bible Study** led by Simon Pei – Seminar Room All welcome

NEXT SUNDAY: Sunday 6 December: National Church Life Survey. The whole parish will be participating in the **National Church Life Survey (NCLS)**, as we have every five years since 1996. This significant survey takes about 15 to 20 minutes to complete, and assists the Parish to value our perspective, evaluate our collective church health, and discern our future ministry directions.
We will be conducting the Attender Survey and Child Survey (8 to 15 years, with parental consent) on **6 December** during each of our Sunday morning services. Everyone will have the option to complete it on paper or online. **Please bring to church that day a black or blue pen, or a charged smartphone or tablet with mobile data enabled.** Thank you for your valuable contribution to our church community! For more information, please visit the NCLS Research website at **https://www.ncls.org.au/research/**

A Christmas Stall (Sunday 6 December) will be held after the 8am and 10am services. Donations of edible goods and new craft items would be welcome. Enquiries: Elizabeth Jenkins 0403 792 967.

FORWARD DATES:

The North Epping Carols 2026 will be held on Friday 11 December 2026 at Epping Oval (60 Norfolk Road, North Epping). Food available from 6.30pm. Carols begin at 7.15pm followed by fireworks at 9pm.

Christmas Markets at Epping Uniting Church will be held on Saturday 5 December 8am to 1pm.

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Advent Wreath - Each Sunday in Advent is marked by lighting a new candle on the circular Advent Wreath of five candles.

Today, the First Sunday of Advent, we light the first candle (purple) which symbolises **hope** and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival.

Thoughts and Prayers for Reflection for December are available today.

The combined Monthly Newsletter for December and January is available today.

Office Arrangements - The Rector will be on leave from 14 December 2026 to 31 January 2027. The Reverend Canon David Wong, as Locum, will preside, and often preach, at our services.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Church: Ryde - St Anne; West Ryde - St Columb. Epping Uniting Church; The Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford Anglicare Christmas Connection 2026 - Mission of the Month.

For Your Prayers for the Month: Please refer to the prayers in the Newsletter.

Our Parish: Pray for the Rector and the Clergy and Ministry Team of our parish, and for our mission that we may Gather, Grow and Go and bring Christ to our community. Give thanks for each of our congregations in their various ministries; pray for our Sunday School and for our Youth and for their growth and safety.

Heavenly Father, thank you that you love those who are neglected, and show yourself to those who are considered outsiders. Thank you for Jesus' example in honouring women. Forgive us for the times we have been judgmental and have failed to listen. Help us to welcome people with compassion and to treat them as people with dignity and worth. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Pray for peace in our community, in our country and in the world.

Anniversary of Death: Georgina Lisle 29/11; Marianne Hardin 30/11; Hester Taylor; Rose Pitts; Doreen Blevin 1/12; Josephine Moron 2/12; Ron Nyholm 4/12; Bill Sheather 4/12; Alison Wells 5/12.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Anglicare Christmas Connection 2026

Throughout November, Saint Alban's is supporting **Anglicare Christmas Connection 2026**—an opportunity to share Christ's love in practical ways and to bring help and hope to families facing hardship and isolation. This appeal replaces Anglicare's **Toys 'n' Tucker** Christmas appeal from previous years. The more focussed Christmas Connection appeal supports Anglicare's frontline services, including financial wellbeing, foster care and chaplaincy. Your gift will help Anglicare provide practical assistance and personal care to people in need throughout the year.

a Practical help

- You are encouraged to visit online the Anglicare Christmas Connection secure website at **https://christmas.anglicare.org.au/#gift**
  Choose from **twelve gift options** representing practical Anglicare services—such as community pantry groceries, foster care support or face-to-face financial counselling. Select the gift that reflects the kind of practical support you would like to provide, and complete your **secure online donation**.
- Alternatively, transfer your donation electronically to the Saint Alban's account – please ensure that you use the tag 'Christmas Connection'.
- For **cash donations**, please place in a Christmas Connection envelope, with your chosen gift card, and put the envelope in the bag during the offertory collection. Both cards and envelopes are available from the temporary display stand now in the narthex.
- For **credit card** payments not online, and donations by **cheque**, please complete the tear-off slip attached to the envelope.

…*more over page*

Please note that one of the 12 gift cards is marked 'A Gift for Where It's Needed' whereby you can **nominate any amount**. Please remember that every gift, whatever its size, helps remind a neighbour in need that they are **supported, valued and not alone**.

b Meaningful connection

You are also encouraged to write a **short message or prayer** for someone receiving Anglicare's support. Please use the tear-off message panel of the Christmas Connection gift card. A **Message Mailbox** is now set up in the narthex for you to drop in your handwritten Connection Cards.

Guidance for writing messages and examples are at **https://christmas.anglicare.org.au/giving/write-a-message**

At St. Alban's, having your correct **contact details** is an important way that we care for you. It ensures you receive all church communications, and we can contact you in an emergency or other circumstances (e.g., if you are in hospital). All your details are kept in our church database software (Elvanto), are considered confidential, and are not shared outside of the purposes of contacting you about something in relation to St. Alban's. Even if you're sure you've given us your correct details, please still fill in the form to confirm! This is the link: https://tithely-5db26e4315992-994244.elvanto.com.au/form/9d6804e1-77f5-4489-884a-f9c050be5b4d or Bill will help you update your details after church on 29/11 and 6/12/26.

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Delicious, homemade plum puddings are for sale for charity. The proceeds will support the work of Wheelchairs for Kids, making adjustable chairs for young people aged 6 to 16, often enabling schooling and transforming lives and opportunities in third world countries. The puddings are 900 grams and come in a plastic pot convenient for storing in fridge or freezer and then heating. Although costs have gone up, the price is being kept at $40 this year and many of the ingredients have been donated. The puddings will cut into 8 generous, rich serves or can stretch further! There is also a gluten-free version available. Payment by bank transfer or cash to Ruth Shatford. Ruth will have them available between the 8 and 10am services until all sold. Enquiries to Ruth on 0413 304 349

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Giving in offertories and donations to September 2026 - Offertories and donations totalled $164,669 against a budget of $144,270, placing us $20,399 ahead. This is also $27,005 (20%) higher than at the same time last year. These figures do not include giving from the Indonesian and Chinese congregations, as their offerings mostly support their own ministry resources.

It is encouraging that this continues to be a somewhat steady and robust upward trend. This will further reinforce confidence to enable us to seriously consider candidates to fill some key roles to build on this growth trajectory that we are experiencing. The Wardens continue to be thankful for this positive result in giving and are greatly encouraged by it. We continue to pray that this momentum will continue, helping us remain faithful in the Parish's mission through the rest of 2026 and into 2027. The Wardens.

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Please consider paying your offertory directly into the church account.
The details are:- **St Alban's Account - BSB No: 032 081 - A/c: 000024**
Please indicate which service you attend.
Offerings for EPIC Indonesian congregation, please specify EPIC in the reference.
Offerings for the Chinese congregation, please specify 'Chinese' in the reference.
If you wish give to the Mission of the Month or any other specific cause (eg Assistant Minister/Student Minister Fund), please indicate it on your direct transfer. During the blessing of the gifts of the people, we are including the offertory made to the Parish by direct transfer; handed in to the office, and the offertory made using the EFTPOS Terminal at the back of the church.

Zoom details for Services available by Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516182389?pwd=VGpWNXRMcFlLYXVWeVB3N0pzQnpsUT09
Passcode 389867 *if required.*
Dialling in: 8015 6011. Meeting ID: 825 1618 2389 followed by # (and another # - there isn't a participants number).
Please keep your computer or phone on "mute" during the service.
To mute/unmute your phone, press *6. Please stay online for a time of fellowship.