

St Alban's Monthly Newsletter

JANUARY 2026



Sunday services this month

4 January – The Epiphany of Our Lord/Second Sunday after Christmas

8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Sung Eucharist

Preacher: The Reverend Bruce Hunter

11 January – The Baptism of Our Lord/First Sunday after Epiphany

8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Baptism in Morning Prayer

Preacher: The Reverend Phil Lui

18 January – Second Sunday after Epiphany/Aboriginal Sunday

8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Sung Eucharist

Preacher: Ken Bock OAM

25 January – Third Sunday after Epiphany/Australia Day Observance

8am Eucharist with Hymns / 10am Sung Eucharist

A Sunday School programme will be held at 10am every Sunday in The Loft

Forward notice:

Sunday 1 February – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Prayers and Blessing for all those involved in Education.

What's on at St Alban's during January

Monday 12 January

Parish Council meeting via zoom

Tuesday 13 January

Helpers Morning Tea

If you volunteer in any capacity at St Alban's, we would like to invite you to a special morning tea to thank you for the work you do. This will be held on Tuesday 13 January from 10.30am in the main hall.

Would you please rsvp to the Parish Office for catering purposes.

Saturday 24 January

9.30am Garden Maintenance. Extra hands, of all ages, are always helpful.

Enquiries: Gill McLennan 0411 957 270.

Returning in February

Wednesday 4 February

Everyday English Classes at 10am

Thursday 5 February

9.30am Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing by Zoom

10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

Tuesday 10 February

MU at 1.30pm in the Seminar Room.

Thursday 19 February

6.30pm **Men's BBQ Group** will be held in The Old Sunday School Room (behind the Parish Office).

Student Minister:

We welcome our new Student Ministers and Children's Ministry Workers Aimee and David Wong.

Thoughts and Prayers for Reflection for January 2026 is now available.

Thoughts and Prayers for Reflection is produced within the parish with a thought and prayer for each day of the month, as well as weekly prayers.

The February Newsletter

Our Newsletters give more information on what is happening at St Alban's. If you know of a parish event coming up during February, would you please let the Parish Office know. The deadline for the February Newsletter is Wednesday 28 January.

Keeping in Touch:

If you are not yet on our Parish Roll, or you have changed your address, email or phone number, we would like to keep our parish records up to date. Please complete one of the cards in the brochure holders on the back of the pews and hand it to the Duty Parishioners or the Rector at the door, or send an email to the Parish Office.

Changes to Nomination Process for Office Holders 2026

The process and requirements for the nomination and filling of Warden and Parish Councillor roles is changing in 2026. Safe Ministry ('SM') is the Sydney Diocese requirements to protect vulnerable people. The ordinance that governs the management of parishes has changed and applies to all parishes, not just Epping.

Background - As you will be aware from the media, there is unfortunately an ongoing number of reports of inappropriate behaviour towards vulnerable people including children, the elderly, those with disabilities, and women across society, both historical and current. The Diocese, in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, instituted policies and guidelines to protect all people within the Church, in particular children and vulnerable adults. SM requirements are in addition to any statutory requirements such as mandatory state legislated Working With Children Checks.

Parish Response - The Parish adheres to SM requirements. We have our own processes; a SM Representative, Sarah Weaver; you will see the regular notices reminding people of how to report issues. Within the Parish every ministry/leadership role, both ordained and lay, needs to be assessed and the person needs to complete and meet varied requirements. Those working with children have the most significant requirements.

This year the Diocese required all Wardens and Parish Councillors to undertake and complete SM training by year end to ensure that all leaders understand the risks and requirements to ensure that we provide a safe environment.

Changes for Annual General Meeting in March 2026 - The changes to the ordinance means that at the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") in March 2026, most office holders will need to have completed SM training **before** they can be nominated for election. This is mandatory, the only exception is for appointments made by the Rector (which are made after the elections, and sometimes after the AGM). These people will have a short period in which to complete requirements.

The Annual General Meeting for the Parish is **Sunday 22 March 2026** after the 10am Service.

What Does This Mean For People Considering Nomination? For people who are already undertaking some form of leadership or ministry, you may have already completed the required training. If in doubt, check with Sarah Weaver. If SM training has not been undertaken then you will need to complete the training before you can accept a nomination for a role. The training is not onerous. There is several hours of online units to complete, which you can do at home at your own pace, followed by a webinar.

You are encouraged to consider **NOW** ways that you can serve the Parish. Too often we leave this thinking and discussion until the new year, in the weeks leading up to the AGM, but we need to be doing this earlier and perhaps even undertaking the training, even if you may decide not to nominate. We want a Parish Council that is representative of the whole Parish, in age, diversity, skills, experiences, etc. We need to have new people coming onto Parish Council in these important roles to bring fresh ideas as well as allowing others to take a step back.

We need to ensure that we are meeting our statutory obligations, but more importantly that our Parish is a safe place for all people, especially the young and vulnerable, reflecting the love of Christ to all. May I ask you to be giving this prayerful consideration for yourself and others whom you feel would make a contribution to the leadership of the parish. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to Fr Phil, Sarah Weaver or one of the Wardens.

For Your Prayers

Parishes in our Mission Area - Beecroft, St John the Evangelist; Eastwood, St Philip; Gladesville, Christ Church; Macquarie, St George and St Dunstan; North Epping, All Saints; Ryde, St Anne; Soul Revival; West Ryde, St Columb; North Ryde, St John; Bridge, Trinity Chapel

Ecumenical Churches in our Area - Catholic Parish of Epping and Carlingford; Uniting Church Parishes of Epping and West Epping; Epping Presbyterian Church; Epping Baptist Church; and Epping Congregational Church.

Pray for our Parish - Pray for our Rector Phil in his leadership of our community of faith, and the building of our ministry team; pray for each of the team as they prepare and plan to serve in our parish; pray for Pastor Kian and the Indonesian congregation; pray for our Wardens and the Parish Council.

Pray for all of us in our ministries, and that we may each contribute our skills, talents, time and finances as we are able, for the good of the parish and the furtherance of God's kingdom in our parish and the community around us. May we ask for God's guidance and help to listen to his voice as we consider who he is calling to serve as office holders in the parish in the year ahead.

Pray for those from our Parish who are in need may know the comfort of God's healing grace: the lonely, those who are ill, undergoing surgery, or in pain, and those who are confused or fearful. Give thanks for all who care for them.

Pray for peace in our world - Pray for all those who are suffering displacement, hunger, fear, and loss as a result of war, violence and conflict. Pray for the children growing up in places where they do not feel safe, where there is no chance for regular schooling and where they have to witness deprivation and suffering. Pray for strength for all medical personnel and humanitarian workers. Pray that the leaders of nations will work for an end to war.

Aboriginal Sunday - Pray for justice and the flourishing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. May we take time to consider the theme for Aboriginal Sunday 2026 "Be Strong and Courageous" (Joshua 1:9). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Christian Elders are urging the Church to stand boldly and advocate for justice, healing, and reconciliation. Pray that we may be listening deeply, praying with hope, and taking action for justice and the flourishing of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sisters and brothers.

Pray for our Country, Australia - pray that in our country we can live in peace and harmony, acknowledging and celebrating the richness of the diversity of people here representing the races of the world; may we walk together in friendship and faith, pursuing justice and flourishing for all peoples, and for all creation. May we appreciate, preserve and treasure the beautiful and bountiful land in which we live.

Anniversary of Death for January

Benjamin Cole 2/1; Alan Davis 2/1; Jean Collett 3/1; Doug Carruthers 3/1; Emelie Fraser 5/1; Norman Pollock 6/1; Ronald Dougall 6/1; Deborah Riedel 8/1; James

Parsons 9/1; Charles Middleton 9/1; Charles Johnson 10/1; John Telfer 13/1; Brenda McLeod 13/1; Sheila Colling 13/1; Brian McLeod 14/1; Robin McLeod 14/1; Betty Farrar 14/1; Patricia Evans 16/1; Doreen Edwards 16/1; Albert Jayaratnam 16/1; Jacob Chelladurai 17/1; Gordon Young 18/1; Bobbie de Boos 19/1; Katie Dickinson 19/1; Kathleen Woodman 20/1; Val Dougall 21/1; Anthony Moon 23/1; Dora Perry 24/1; Doreen Peacock 24/1; Dorothy Partington 26/1; Nicholas Brayner 26/1; Lionel Nash 26/1; Gertrude Simmons 27/1; Roger Holloway 29/1; Kate Hindley 30/1; Derrick Evans 30/1

Mission of the Month



Bush Church Aid Society of Australia

The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia, an association within the Anglican Church, has a priority in mission to the isolated, remote urban and rural people of Australia.

Since 1919 BCA has enjoyed responsibility for ministries ranging from flying padres, church services, scripture in schools and family counselling, to welfare and medical services. Mission vans, hostels, hospitals, the Flying Medical Service, Mail Bag Sunday School, clergy, nurses and others played their part in taking the love of Christ to all corners of our vast continent.

For more information about BCA, please refer to the display on the narthex board, or visit website www.bushchurchaid.com.au

There are a few ways for you to financially support BCA. Either use the 'Beyond the Parish' side of your weekly offertory (please write 'BCA' next to the stamped date) or use a plain envelope marked 'BCA'. Alternatively, transfer funds electronically to the St Alban's account - please use the tag 'BCA', or donate funds directly at www.bushchurchaid.com.au/donate

Mission of the Month donations received last year

\$1488.00 = ABM

\$350.00 = Act for Peace

\$300.00 = Anglican Aid

\$400.00 = Anglicare Chaplaincy

\$725.00 = Anglicare Toys n Tucker

\$325.00 = Banksia Women and Rough Edges

\$660.00 = BCA

\$572.15 = BCA March and September box opening

\$725.00 = CBM

\$749.20 = CCA

\$190.00 = Christmas Bowl

\$685.00 = House of Welcome

These amounts have been donated through the Parish accounts and do not include donations made by parishioners directly.

Volunteers Needed: Share Your Gifts and Serve!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to get involved, meet others, and contribute to our parish community? We believe everyone has unique gifts and talents, and we have many opportunities for you to put them to use for God's glory.

We are currently seeking volunteers for the following ministries:

- **Welcoming Team:** Greet fellow parishioners and visitors, helping everyone feel welcome and at home.
- **Hospitality Team:** Assist with breakfast or morning tea on a Sunday.
- **Tech/Media Team:** Assist with zoom and presentation slides during services.
- **Maintenance Team (including Garden Maintenance):** Help keep our church a safe and welcoming physical environment.
- **Flower Guild:** Help beautify the church with others capable people.

How to Get Involved

If you're interested in any of these roles or want to learn about other opportunities, we'd love to connect with you.

Please contact the Parish Office (details on back page).

Your time and talent are a blessing to our church.

Lighting a candle at St Alban's

The Pastoral Care Committee have organised cards (next to the votive candles) to send to loved ones in need.

Lighting a candle is a prayer -

when you have gone it stays alight as a symbol of love and hope, of light and warmth, uniting your prayers with the prayers of the whole Church of God.

Tin Bin *(there is a hessian bag at the back of St Alban's Church) ...*

Thank you for your ongoing support. It is greatly appreciated by Christian Community Aid at Eastwood. All types of packaged food (not fresh) and bathroom supplies will be happily received.

Zoom details for Sunday 10am Service

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516182389?pwd=VGpWNXRMcFilyXVWeVB3N0pzQnpsUT09>

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 on line for a time of fellowship.

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. If you wish give to the Mission of the Month or any other specific cause, 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.

PARISH STAFF

Rector

The Reverend Philip Lui 0413 396 435 - phil@eppinganglicans.org.au

Parish Administrator

Mrs Denise Pigot 98763362 - office@eppinganglicans.org.au

Music Director

Chris Czerwinski 0452 557 695 - krzysztof_czerwinski@yahoo.com

Student Minister

Doris Awad - doris@eppinganglicans.org.au

Student Ministers and Children's Ministry Workers

Aimee and David Wong

Indonesian Congregation (EPIC) Pastor

Kian Holik - kian@eppinganglicans.org.au

Caretaker

Kari Hewitt 0402 119 004 – kari@eppinganglicans.org.au

Parish Office

3 Pembroke Street Epping 2121 (PO Box 79 Epping 1710)

9876 3362 - www.eppinganglicans.org.au