

# Epping Anglicans

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

**Our Vision:** To be a city on a hill - a worshipping community,  
loving Jesus and the people around us.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
14 December 2025

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## **Sunday Services**

### **8.00am Eucharist**

Reader: Ron Arnold

Preacher: *The Reverend Phil Lui*

### **10.00am Choral Eucharist and Sunday School Pageant**

**Also available by zoom** (*details on back page*)

Reader: John Thompson

President: *The Reverend Phil Lui*

#### **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 and Children's Ministry Worker**

Doris Awad - doris@eppinganglicans.org.au

#### **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

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**Morning tea:** Please stay for morning tea in the Main Hall after each of the 8am and 10am Services. EPIC Indonesian Congregation will join us after the 10am service. Everyone is very welcome.

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## What's coming up at St Alban's...

### Thursday 18 December

9.30am Reading, Reflection and Prayers for Healing by Zoom (*link on back page*)

10.30am Eucharist with Prayers for Healing (final service for the year)

7.15pm Evening Bible Study Group. Enquiries to Ted on 0431 663 853.

### Saturday 20 December

Garden Maintenance from 9.30am to 12noon. Extra hands, of all ages, are always helpful. Enquiries: Gill McLennan 0411 957 270.

Preparation of the Church for Christmas. From 9am there will be a general clean up of the church.

### Sunday 28 December

Come share your Christmas leftovers for lunch after the 10am service.

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**Thank you** to those who lead our children at Sunday School: Doris Awad, Becky Lui, Amy Taylor and all the parents assisting over the year. We appreciate the time and care you put into nurturing the children.

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**David and Aimee Wong** who will join us as Student Ministers in 2026, were married in New Zealand on 12 December - we pray for them and wish them well as they prepare to join us early next year.

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**6pm Christmas Eve Family Service** - We would like to hear from our children who play a musical instrument, or who can bang anything in time. Please email the Rector and tell him the instrument you play ([phil@eppinganglicans.org.au](mailto:phil@eppinganglicans.org.au))

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**Christmas Stall** *held last Sunday* - raised \$506.

Thank you to everyone who took part organizing, bringing items, buying and selling.

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**Baptism** - A baptism will be taking place on 11 January 2026. If you are interested in joining a baptism preparation course or would like your child baptised, please talk with Phil Lui.

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**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 next year in early January. More details to come.

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The **December Newsletter** covering the whole month, with more details, is available in the church porch. Please ask the duty parishioner for a copy.

## Nine Lessons and Carols

**NEXT Sunday 21 December at 7.45pm**

followed by a light supper in the Parish Hall.

*A plate of food would be greatly appreciated.*

Battery candles will be available before the service @ \$3 each

**The Season of Advent** - Advent is the beginning of the Christian year. It is a time of preparation and waiting for the coming (Adventus) of Christ. The colour of Advent is purple - the colour used in both Lent and Advent. During the season there are some changes in the liturgy reflecting the penitential nature of the season:

- the Gloria is omitted,
- the Confession and Absolution are in a different place.
- we kneel (or sit) for The Great Thanksgiving, and

we are invited to kneel (where this is possible) to receive communion, so that at Christmas we can stand to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child.

Each Sunday in Advent is marked by lighting a new candle on the circular Advent Wreath of five candles (three purple, one pink and one white). We have lit candles one and two and this Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, referred to as the Gaudete Sunday ('Rejoice Sunday') reminding us of the joy of the coming of Christ, we light the third candle - the pink candle, or the 'Shepherds' Candle'. To the shepherds' great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too.

## For your Prayers

**Church:** Evangelism and New Churches; Arden Anglican School; Epping Presbyterian Church; Macquarie Community Church. Christmas Bowl - Mission of the Month

**For the Parish:** Pray for our Rector Phil, pray for Pastor Kian and the members of the Indonesian Congregation (EPIC) as they settle in as part of our community of faith. Pray for all who minister in our parish. Give thanks for our Parish Administrator, Denise and all she does to make our parish run smoothly.

**In our world:** continue to pray for all those suffering from the natural disasters in Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia. Pray too for those suffering as a result of the building fire in Hong Kong. Pray for all who mourn the loss of family and friends, and for all who are displaced and have lost their homes and livelihoods.

ABM AID has established an Emergency Appeal for Sri Lanka for their partners in the Church of Ceylon. Details on the Noticeboard or <https://www.abmission.org/appeals/appeals-emergency/srilankafloods2025/>

In our country pray for those who have lost their homes in bushfires, and pray for safety for firefighters, SES and other responders.

**In our community:** As we come to the end of the school year, pray for students, teachers and administrators - may they have a time of refreshment over the holidays. Pray for families as they manage the time of change of routine. Pray for those in financial stress, and finding it difficult to manage the expectations of this time of year. Pray for all the organisations seeking to relieve the stress of others; may they be generously supported.

**For the Week:** God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. Amen.

**Those recently deceased:** Neil Cameron, who was St Alban's Organist for many years, died last week. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Andrew's Cathedral next month.

Bessie Roots (Lachlan's mother) whose funeral was held last Thursday.

**Anniversary of Death:** Irene Rogers 14/12; Lillian Schaefer 14/12; Cath Taylor 14/12; Ian Graham 15/12; Joy Downes 15/12; Audrey Turner 15/12; Jean Hemsall 15/12; Philip Dowe 16/12; John Hemsall 17/12; Phyllis Rook 17/12; Nell Glanville 18/12; Michael Stannard 18/12; Russell Waters 20/12

## Flowers for Christmas

We would very much appreciate donations toward buying the flowers to beautify our church this Christmas. Donations can be handed in at the office, placed in an envelope marked "Christmas flowers" and put in the collection or paid into St Alban's account by direct debit and marked as above. We would also love some Christmas bush if you have it growing. Thank you from the flower guild.

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## Mission of the Month - Sharing God's love through the Christmas Bowl

For 76 years, Australians have given to the Christmas Bowl as an act of faith, generosity, and hope. Born in the aftermath of World War II, it began as a simple idea: churches across the country joining together at Christmas to share what they could so that others, far away, could have food, shelter, and safety. Over the years, their gifts have supported refugees, rebuilt homes after disaster, and reminded people in crisis that they are not forgotten. For further details, please refer to the display on the Narthex board, the December newsletter, or visit the Act for Peace website [www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)

There are a few ways to donate to the Christmas Bowl. Either use the 'Beyond the Parish' side of your weekly offertory (please write 'Christmas Bowl' next to the stamped date) or use a plain envelope marked 'Christmas Bowl'. Alternatively, transfer funds electronically to the St Alban's account - please use the tag 'Christmas Bowl', or donate funds at a unique donation webpage set up for the Epping Anglican Parish [mycb.link/45776](http://mycb.link/45776)

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**Safe Ministry** - The Parish of St Alban's with St Aidan's Epping NSW is committed to the physical, emotional and spiritual welfare and safety of all people, particularly within its own community. If you have any questions or concerns you can contact the Rector, The Reverend Phil Lui on 09876 3362 or email [phil@eppinganglicans.org.au](mailto:phil@eppinganglicans.org.au) You can also contact the Diocesan Safe Ministry Team on 02 9265 1604 email [info@safeministry.org.au](mailto:info@safeministry.org.au) or to report abuse 1800 774 945 email [abuserreport@safeministry.org.au](mailto:abuserreport@safeministry.org.au)

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## Total Givings for 2025 as of September

Giving and donations: \$137,664 / Budget: \$155,070 / We are currently behind by: \$17,406

Require \$5.8k uplift in givings per month to make up the full year budget

As at the end of September 2025 we have experienced an increase in giving which is promising and we are very thankful for. The shortfall mentioned above is a carry over of the gap in giving in the early part of 2025 which we have not been able to bridge.

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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. 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.

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## Zoom details for 10am Service and 9.30am Thursday 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.

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