

10th December 2017 ~ First Sunday of Advent
10.00 am Holy Communion

President: Revd Sr. Elizabeth Shearcroft, C.A.
Preachment: Dr. Marion Gray

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11 OT page 677
2 Peter 3:8-15a NT page 235
Mark 1:1-8 NT page 33



Remember:

Shop online via the link below and Immanuel and St Andrew Church benefits at no cost to you.

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/immanuelstandrew>

Vicar	Revd Sr Elizabeth Shearcroft CA
Wardens	(Vacant) (Vacant)
Treasurer	Caroline Hewitt
Envelope Sec	Lorraine Thomas
Stewardship	Lorraine Thomas
Safeguarding	Laura Reynolds (Children)
Officers	Maureen Boothe (Vulnerable Adults)
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452 Streatham High Road, London, SW16 3PY

OPEN DOOR

Our weekly newsletter for you to take home



Immanuel and St Andrew

Registered Charity no:1131245
www.immanuelstreatham.org.uk

3rd December 2017 ~ First Sunday of Advent
10.00 am Holy Communion

President & Preacher: Revd Sr. Elizabeth Shearcroft, C.A.

During Advent we light the candles of the Advent Wreath using the liturgy in the separate Service booklet. If you would like to take a copy to use at home please do.

Readings: CW year B begins today

Isaiah 64:1-9 OT page 704
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 NT page 162
Mark 13:24-37 NT page 48

Collect

**Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

Diary Dates

December

- Tuesday 5th** ~ Full Governing Body meets at School ~ 6.30pm.
- Wednesday 6th** ~ Friends of Streatham Common ~ Carols by Crib & Tree on Common ~ 7.30pm ~ followed by refreshments at The Bull.
- Thursday 7th** ~ CAIAS begins again with the Christmas meal. Speak to Maureen about arrangements for this outing.

Carols for Christmas

Put the date and time in your diary

Sunday 17th December at 6.00pm

God's love for us heard in modern versions of the traditional lessons and familiar carols.

Nativity costumes welcome whatever your age!

Mulled wine and Christmas nibbles ~ plus pizza, nuggets and chips (for those who are more peckish!), plus free gift.

Make this part of your family Christmas preparations

~ Timing ~

Service an hour ~ eats and social hour and half max.

~ Cost ~

your time for an evening out with the family.

Immanuel Prays!

We will be starting a new weekly prayer group very soon – it could even be this coming week – listen to the notices for details. We will try to run a daytime group as well as an evening group, depending on demand. Meetings will be in the Chapel and anyone and everyone will be welcome.

Lorraine and Marion

Prayer Pointers

- For the “Leading Your Church into Growth” (LYCiG) course and those attending from Immanuel and St. Andrew, that this will benefit our church and its mission.
- Pray for our Advent preparations and the Services that will be offered.
- For those of our congregation facing the limitations of ill health.
- Pray for each of us as we seek justice, an end to wars and God's peace. For each of us as we learn afresh to live Jesus' commandment “*that you love one another as I have loved you*”.
- For the people of Zimbabwe and members of our church who have relatives living there.
- Pray for Elizabeth as she attends the funeral of her Uncle ~David Shearcroft ~ on 7th December and all the family as they mourn the deaths of three senior family members since the end of August.

Bruges Christmas Market ~ Coach Trip ~

A big thank you to Lorraine, Joyce or Clair for all their work to ensure this outing took place ~ and to all of you who took part and made it a success.

School Foundation Governor ~

Immanuel & St. Andrew Primary School

Following an unexpected resignation due to a change of circumstances we are looking for a foundation governor for our Primary School. You don't have to be a parent but do have to be a church member. It will involve a lot of work, with early evening meetings about 10 times a year, training courses to attend, heaps of papers to read, and a whirlwind of constant change to cope with. In return, you will have one of the most worthwhile and fulfilling voluntary roles you can imagine. If you want to know more, talk to Simon Early or one of the other governors. You can also look on-line at ~ <http://www.immanuelschoollambeth.org/meet-our-governors/>

Ministry Musings

“And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God”

Micah 6:8b

Today is the 1st day of Advent ~the time of expectant waiting. Waiting to greet the Christ child who we believe to be God incarnate and the fulfilment of God's covenant with His children.

God's children are all those who hear about and receive for themselves God's unconditional and outrageous love, through the gift of His Son Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

What a wonderful and powerful gift! The gift that promises recipients eternal life through the forgiveness of their sins because of the redemptive sacrifice, once and for all, that we are given in Jesus' Passion, Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension (to sit at the right hand of the Father). That is the gift we accept in faith ~ faith because we do not understand we just know ~ because of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We spend the next four weeks preparing to receive this gift ~ the child, both God and human, that will be this sacrifice. We use the four weeks to consider the centuries of preparation that God the Father made through His faithful servants, Abraham and the prophets, John the Baptist, Mary the Mother of Christ and recorded in our Holy Scripture ~ the Bible.

It is a brilliant season for us, God's children today, to rekindle that expectant enthusiasm in our faith; to see once more the enormity of God's love and care for us, created in His image to share that love in His broken world.

Before you get overwhelmed with the material preparation for the Christmas festivities and the last minute panic buying of gifts, card writing and sending and the anxiety of whether you have left Someone out ~ STOP ~ remember the reason for the season ~ put things back into some sort of perspective! You will find that perspective if you take time to put God in the centre of all you do ~ and you can do that by taking time to wonder at His love for you and praise Him that even when you can't or don't bother to think about Him ~ He never stops being bothered about you! Spend Advent considering how good you are at **knowing Jesus and making Him known** ~ and make it better than it is now ~ there is always space for improvement!

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