

**24<sup>th</sup> December 2017 ~  
Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Christmas Eve  
10.00 am Holy Communion**

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

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16 OT page 290  
Romans 16:25–27 NT page 161  
Luke 1:26–38 NT page 54

**11.30 pm First Communion of Christmas**

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

Preacher: Dr. Marion Gray

Isaiah 52:7-10 OT page 693  
Hebrews 1: 1-4 (5-12) NT page 215  
John 1: 1-14 NT page 88

**25<sup>th</sup> December 2017 ~ Christmas Day ~  
10.00 am Family Communion**

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

Isaiah 9: 2-7 OT page 648  
Titus 2: 11-14 NT page 212  
Luke 2: 1-14(15-20) NT page 55

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)
Office	Tuesdays and Thursdays (school hours) 8679 6888 <a href="mailto:office@immanuelstreatham.org.uk">office@immanuelstreatham.org.uk</a>

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](http://www.immanuelstreatham.org.uk)

**17<sup>th</sup> December 2017 ~  
Third Sunday of Advent  
10.00 am Holy Communion**

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

Readings: Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 OT page 702  
1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 NT page 202  
John 1:6–8, 19–28 NT page 88

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.

**6:00pm Carols for Christmas - see inside for details**

### Collect

**O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom  
of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

## Diary Dates

### December

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>—Prayer group meets at 7.30pm in the Chapel 2018**

**CAIAS returns on Thursday 11th January**

### Carols for Christmas

Are you ready and who have you invited?

#### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm**

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

Nativity costumes welcome whatever your age!

All are welcome to stay after the Service for a glass of mulled wine or a soft drink and a festive mince pie.

Small gift for your Christmas tree to take away.

Make this part of your family Christmas preparations

~ Approx. timings ~  
2 hours maximum!

~ Cost ~

your time for an evening out with the family.

### Immanuel Prays!

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in the Chapel**. Please do join us if you can, as we continue to pray for the life of our church and for one another. If there is someone or something you wish to pray for but cannot be present, please contact Lorraine Thomas or Marion Gray. There will be no meeting in the week after Christmas—watch this space for details of the meeting in the first week of January.

## Prayer Pointers

- Pray for our Christmas 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 "Leading Your Church into Growth" (LYCiG) course and those attending from Immanuel and St. Andrew, that this will benefit our church and its mission.

### 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>**

### 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 morning or 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent ~This week we reflect on John the Baptist who proclaimed the coming of Jesus ~ and how he would show God's Love ~ so our candle is the Love Candle. John knew his Calling and was obedient to God.

We reflect that God offers Hope that brings Peace because he loves each one of us. He does this by inviting us to accept and follow His Son Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

When we say yes to Jesus this influences our behaviour? We have a desire to share what we have discovered in faith (though we are often very bad at doing it!)

If we are in God's image then our lives should declare the desire for Hope and the active seeking of Peace as a way of showing and sharing God's Love..

What better time of year than Advent and Christmas to find ways to put this into practice? We will find it hard and by the time we get to Lent we will need the time that season gives us to reflect and prepare ourselves to celebrate Easter declaring God's promise fulfilled!

Last week I challenged you about what you might do this Christmas to show God's Hope and Peace in your life. Both Peace and Hope are displayed in acts of love. You may feel inadequate but God has equipped or gifted you to show His love ~ you have to recognise how! Gifts of hospitality come in all shapes and sizes. ~ Last week Marion spoke of being ready to show hospitality to God ~ feeling prepared to welcome Christ into our lives. We can offer God hospitality through prayer, study of His Word and obedience to His commandments in the power of the Holy Spirit, showing His Love to others. That is proactive ~ we have to give time to prepare and not let it be an afterthought!

God's love is generous ~ how will you show generosity to your family and friends or in the wider community? The church has started its New Year ~ the time to make resolve and act is now NOT on January 1st!

**~ You know Jesus so make Him known ~  
using the gifts God has given you.**

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