



# ELIM CHRISTIAN CENTRE

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024



**MAKING JESUS REAL: THROUGH PRAYER, PRAISE AND BIBLE TEACHING**



Loving God. Inspiring Others. Reaching Out.

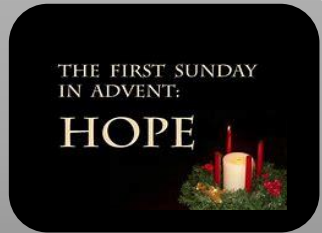
*Welcome to ECC*



**Pastor Steve and the Church Leadership** extend to each one of you a very warm welcome. If this is your first time here, you are very welcome. We will be spending time praising God and listening to teaching that is relevant to our lives. It is our prayer that God will touch you, inspire you and excite you in a very powerful and incredible way.

**10.30am MORNING CELEBRATION AND BAPTISM SERVICE**

*First Sunday of Advent*



PLEASE FEEL FREE TO JOIN US FOR PRAYER EVERY SUNDAY IN THE BACK HALL FROM 10AM

**BUFFET SERVED AFTER THE SERVICE**

**PASTOR'S ADVENT THOUGHT: O Come Let Us Adore Him.** Christmas is a time when people *adore* many things, especially food, celebrations and the presents. But our wishes can make us lose focus of what Christmas is really all about. Adore comes from the Latin word *Adorare* meaning 'to worship' and the Carol, 'O Come All Ye Faithful' encourages us to *adore* our Lord and not a new iPad. Christmas tends to be, 'O Come Let Us Adore IT rather than the 'Christ of Christmas'. But why should we adore Jesus? 4 Reasons. 1. It's a requirement from God 2. It's our duty to Him. 3. We have been called to fill the earth with the glory of God. 4. We are instructed to reflect God's glory. God's sole purpose in creating us was so that He would be worshipped BY us, and if we *ignore* Him then there will always be a void in our lives. At the first Christmas, Mary sang a song to show how much she *adored* the new baby Jesus. May that be our inspiration as we hit the 'hectic season'. Jesus Blessings. *Pastor Steve*

Tea and coffee are served **AFTER** today's service in the church. Enjoy.



Please make sure all mobile phones are turned off or on silent during the service. Ta

## Prayer Topics for your Prayer Time

*'Pray Without Ceasing' [1 Thess. 5:17]*

- † For all those who have been affected by the flooding in Spain especially Shena's sister and husband Brian
- † New US President Donald Trump and stability in America after the elections
- † Church secretary: Diane & all the work she does for the church
- † Sadie, who is recovering from a knee replacement operation
- † Carmen, Carmen's sister Valerie and Lyn who all need God's healing touch
- † Ongoing plans and preparations for our Missions trip to Portugal next April
- † Hope Centre Ministries & the work they do with people with addictions
- † The conflict in the Middle East
- † The conflict between Russia & Ukraine
- † PM Keir Starmer & Labour Government
- † Those with mental health issues or those living with depression or anxiety.
- † The MediaServe team and Suzy as they produce & distribute Christian literature around the world.
- † Our Youth [Fearless] and Children's Work [Kingdom Kids]
- † New people / families at church
- † Our Family Support Project [Foodbank]
- † Empower [Men] and Real Women
- † Cell Groups Leaders & those who attend
- † Elim Missionaries around the world especially John and Rachel in Paraguay
- † Church leaders: Alan, Eileen & Ricardo.
- † Church treasurer & church finances

**ALSO**, if you have a prayer request for the prayer chain, please contact **Debbie** on: **07557917866**

VERSE for the WEEK:  
Zechariah 14:9



## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK...

### Tuesday

**11am** Morning Communion  
[Church Lounge]

### Thursday

**7.30pm** Worship Group practice

### Friday

**7pm** Church Finance Meeting  
[Church Lounge]  
**[By Invitation Only]**

### Next Sunday

**10.30am** Morning communion  
and Celebration Sunday

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December @ 6pm**  
Church Christmas Meal [Hall]  
*[more details to follow]*
- **Sun 15<sup>th</sup> December @ 1030am**  
All-Age Christmas Service
- **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December @6.30pm**  
Church Christmas Concert by  
Candlelight
- **Wed 25<sup>th</sup> December @ 10 - 11am**  
Christmas Day service

## 2025 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- **Saturday January 4<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm**  
New Year Party [Church Hall]
- **Bank Holiday Weekend Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> - Mon 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025**  
*Moorlands Church Weekend Away* [More details to follow]

## QUOTE for the WEEK:

*'The STORY of Christmas is the story of GOD'S relentless love FOR us'. [Max Lucado]*



## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

If you have been attending *ECC* for *three months* & would like to come into membership, then please see Pastor

## FAMILY SUPPORT

If you or someone you know needs food, then please see *Graham or Debbie* or contact *Graham* on *07952294407* or *Debs* *07557917866* for more details. Also, we are always in need for more food or money to help with the Family Support. Thanks. *Pastor*

## URGENT NOTICE FOR MIDGET

### [Under 4's]

We still need helpers to help look after the children during the sermon. If you can help with this work, please let me know. Thanks. *Pastor*

## TALKING HEADS

Talking Heads Coffee Morning meets *fortnightly* on Tues from 11am in the upstairs lounge

## PASTORAL CARE

*Carmen's* contact number is **07766 453137** if you need to contact her.

## SAFETY NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS

Please make sure your children are not left unattended during the service to avoid any unnecessary accidents. Thanks. *Pastor*

## HOLY COMMUNION

is every other Tuesday @11am  
[In Church Hall. All welcome.]

## HOME COMMUNION

is available to anyone who wants it. Please see Pastor Steve

**Be Vigilant** Please ensure all your valuables especially ladies with handbags] are with you at all times. We maybe a trusting church but we still need to be vigilant. *Pastor*

**CELL GROUPS.** If you are interested in joining a Cell Group, please speak to Pastor or a Cell Group Leader or take a leaflet from the back table.

## TALENT SPOTTING

If you would like to use your talents for the glory of God [i.e., IT, music, hospitality] please talk to **Pastor Steve**

## GIFT AID SCHEME

If you are a taxpayer, then it's in the church's interest for you to sign up and become part of the Gift Aid Scheme. It doesn't cost you anything but makes a **HUGE difference financially** to the church. If you are not in the G.A.S then please see **Peter Dennison** [church treasurer] for more details. Many thanks. *Pastor*

<b>PASTOR</b>	REV. STEVE GUNN
<b>CHURCH LEADERS</b>	ALAN KEEN EILEEN KOPPOE RICARDO NEVES
<b>TREASURER</b>	PETER DENNISON
<b>SECRETARY</b>	DIANE WARNER
<b>PASTOR'S CONTACT DETAILS</b>	
Telephone	01793 531776
Mobile	07984 185209
Email	<a href="mailto:canarygunn@aol.com">canarygunn@aol.com</a>
<b>Church Website</b>	<a href="http://www.elimswindon.org">www.elimswindon.org</a>



## I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

Throughout life there are many decisions that need to be made whether it's: *at work, at home, at school or college, booking a holiday, making dinner, what TV programme to watch, what to wear, what bus to catch or what supermarket to go to and the big one, how many Weetabix do I have for breakfast? etc.* And although some decisions are easier to make than others, decisions have to be made. Today Katherine is following in a very long line of people who have also made a decision, a decision to follow Jesus Christ, but not just a decision but an incredible response to God's call on their lives. But of course, it's not just a decision for today, it's a decision for life. When anyone goes through the waters of Baptism and declare their love for Christ then that decision should be forever. Sadly, that's not always the case, and so my baptism challenge to Katherine and for anyone who has ever committed their lives to Jesus, is to continue remaining loyal to the decision you made to your Lord, whether that was on your Baptism Day, at a confirmation service or other. In other words, keep going in your Christian faith because and after all, on that momentous occasion when you gave your life to Jesus and 'died to yourself' and 'became a new creation in Christ', you declared emphatically: *'I Have Decided to Follow Jesus'* and as this amazing song continues, *'no turning back, no turning back'*. Furthermore, Katherine, your baptism today is the beginning of an incredible journey with your Lord, but remember, that whatever life throws at you make sure you, and as this same song continues, *'keep looking to the Cross before you'* because that will be your inspiration *for every day* and that applies to all of us this morning who love the Lord. Jesus Blessings. *Pastor Steve*

**REFLECTION** How has your *act of obedience* to follow Jesus impacted your life since? How can your salvation stir you more passionately to share your faith with others?

**MEDITATION** What areas in your life need attention? Even when we make a decision to follow Jesus, we are still tainted by the world. Where do you need to 'take the plunge' to keep your relationship healthy and right with God?

**ACTION** Katherine is getting baptised to show her commitment to Christ. What will you do to show your commitment or re-commitment to your Lord?



### CHRISTMAS JOKE TIME

- Which one of Santa's reindeers have the best moves? **Dancer**
- What did one cranberry say to the other? **Tis the season to be jelly**



**ELIM** is part of the world-wide **Pentecostal Movement** that traditionally emphasises the Foursquare Gospel. This is a commitment to sound preaching and teaching that proclaims Jesus Christ as **'Lord and Saviour, Healer, Baptiser in the Holy Spirit and Coming King'**.