



*Thanks, Les, for the photo of the Women's Gingerbread House Making Night*

## Ettalong Baptist Church Newsletter, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### From The Pastor:

This Sunday is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent and in our 9.30am service we start our Advent series, "Let Earth Receive Her King." We will be using artwork for the sermon slides provided by Crossover Australia.

Why should we want a King? There have been so many monarchs and leaders who fail. So many people are oppressed by leaders rather than blessed by leaders. Although we may be suspicious of all authority there is a King who comes to save. Jesus brings peace; not just an internal experience of calmness, but peace with God, a deep and profound truth, from which our internal experiences and much more flow.

At SHOUT!! on Sunday afternoon we will be hearing about a part of the Christmas Story we don't often talk about, "Jesus Was A Refugee" from Matthew 2:13-23. We are also having water games so kids, come ready to get wet!

Don't forget Saturday week '13<sup>th</sup>', is our Family Nativity Service followed by our Christmas Market. Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to help with our Christmas Market. There are still plenty of opportunities to volunteer, so please write your name on the sign-up lists in the Downstairs Hall. See Liz Edminson to find out more, 0428 384 685.

Blessings

Pastor David Gilchrist

### 9.30am Sunday Morning Communion Service, 7<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am:

Topic: Who Wants A King Anyway? (The king of Hope and Peace)

Bible Passage: Isaiah 9:1-7

Greg, Elizabeth and others will be at the front after the service for anyone who wants prayer.

The service will be livestreamed at: <https://youtube.com/live/Su05yFMTPQ0?feature=share>

### SHOUT!! from 3.30pm:

SHOUT!! is our all-age service. Join us for afternoon tea, activities for the children and worship. Topic this week: Jesus was a Refugee.

**This week is our final SHOUT!! for 2025, please join us for Christmas themed afternoon tea, please bring a plate of Christmas food. We will also be having water fun, so wear swimmers and bring a towel and change of clothes.**

## Christmas Flyers to share, Are Available in The Church Foyer Now:

Please grab a bundle of flyers to hand out to you family, friends and neighbours, and If you are able, please do a letter box drop in your area. Thank you all.

## Christmas Hampers:

This year Ettalong Baptist Church will again be putting together hampers and we need your nominations for people who would appreciate a hamper, or a small gift bag.

The names of people you nominate to receive a hamper can be either because of their current financial circumstances, or simply because they need a gesture of love this Christmas. Nominees can be members of our church, or neighbours and friends we know. They can be young and old. Please pray asking that God will lay on your heart the name of those who should receive a hamper.

Please donate items for the hampers. Place your gifts under the Christmas tree in the Church Auditorium. Alternatively, your financial gift will be very much appreciated. You can give it electronically, with the reference Hampers, or in cash, with Hampers clearly marked on your donation, or see David Gilchrist.

Thanks for your help with our hampers. Pastor David

## Angel Tree Gifts:

**It is NOW time to donate to Angel Tree Gifts** – Gifts to families of parents in NSW Correctional Facilities. Please see Linda Strapps for more information.

## LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) Breakfast @ Crowne Plaza:

- **Where:** Crowne Plaza Terrigal
- **When:** **Tomorrow Friday 5th December at 8.00am.**
- **Transport:** Carpool from the church at 7.30am.
- **Payment:** Individually on the day. \$39 (locals). Proof of Central Coast residency may be needed.

We will be meeting at the church at 7.30am to carpool. If you haven't already arranged a lift and are unsure, please contact Marion.

Looking forward to seeing everyone bright and early on Friday 5th, ready to enjoy a great time of fellowship as well as an amazing breakfast. 😊

For info. Marion 0401 344 814 or Di. 0411 273 124

## Men's Christmas @ YI AN Woy Woy, Saturday 6th December at 6pm:

The men's fellowship Christmas dinner will be held Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December, at 6pm. The venue will be YI AN Chinese Restaurant, Woy Woy. \$32.00 banquet. **RSVP by Wednesday 3rd December.** For information contact Ian Makepeace.ph: 0411 012 125

## Christmas Market: Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December @ 6pm - 8pm:

**Following the annual Family Nativity Service. Please be praying for our Christmas Market.**

Ways you can be involved:

- Make craft gifts or baked items to sell.
- Help with the sausage sizzle.
- Join the roster for our 'Prayer Tent', or help out with our 'Hope Tree/Wall'.
- Help with setting up, packing up and help welcome people and watch the gates.

Please add your name to the signup sheets on the notice board in the downstairs hall or contact Jimmy or Liz with questions or ideas. Or email [lizedminson@hotmail.com](mailto:lizedminson@hotmail.com).

To contribute towards the cost of making things via online banking using the reference "CM costs" or place cash in a marked envelope in the offering box. Liz & Jimmy (Finance Team)

## Tickets Sales for Carols in the Stadium, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December:

Carols in the stadium is the first ever combined Carols event organised by the Christian Churches of the Central Coast.

Tickets are \$10 or \$25 for a family (2 adults 4 junior). Buy tickets through Ticketek. The church office is able to purchase tickets for anyone from EBC planning to attend Carols.

Carols at 5.30pm – 9.00pm.

## Notice from Beth – 2026 Church Calendar – Kitchen Roster:

1. The 2026 church calendar is being prepared so if you or your group has any changes, additions or deletions that need to be made, please email the office or let Beth know. Mobile 0431 749 743.
2. Everyone enjoys the time of fellowship over a cuppa after church on a Sunday morning. There is a roster in place that allows this to happen, and it is being compiled now for next year. If you would like to be part of the set-up or clean-up roster, please see Beth.

Thanks Beth

## Samaritans Purse Christmas Boxes for 2026

A date for your diary – 9am 16/01/2026. If you would like to help with the pre-packing of the Spring Fair Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, you will be most welcome to come on that day. I know, we've only just finished 2025! See Heather Crawford if interested.

## Ministry Of Leftovers - Christmas/New Year Hours:

MOL will be closing from 18<sup>th</sup> December and will reopen Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026. This will allow all our wonderful volunteers to have a well-deserved break.

## Ettalong Baptist Church Office:

EBC Office will be closing at 12.30pm on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> December and we reopen on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

## Thank you For Your Prayers:

I would like to thank everyone in our church family who prayed over our Women's Gingerbread House Making night. Thank you to the many volunteers who served on the night, who supplied supper, who helped decorate the room, who cleaned up afterwards, who prayed for those women who were coming and for those who prayed for me as the organiser. The room was filled with such joy and Lea spoke so beautifully and the women were so thankful for the wonderful night they had.

This is one of many messages I received through the week:

*"Thank you so much to you and all who help & put this wonderful event together. This is my third year and each year is special and the joy in the room filled with happy faces and lovely decorations along with the prizes and the feel of love. The gingerbread house will definitely be enjoyed by my grandchildren."*

## Free Tempo Terrific Concerts, this Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December:

Tempo Terrific Band are giving a free concert in The Hive at Erina Fair this Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December. There will be two brackets of music from 11.00-11.45am, and 12.15-1pm.

Lots of film music, musicals and other well-known tunes. Kids welcome to see up close how music is played, including junior drummers who are welcome to watch Tempo's amazing drummer Dave in action! Blessings, Meg.

## Skills for Life Visit to The Art Gallery:

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026** – To help raise money for Mango Tree Academy in Kenya, Skills for Life are planning a visit to the Art Gallery. See Les Baker for details and to RSVP. Phone: 0412 866 513

## EBC's Prayer Groups, All Welcome:

- **Sunday Mornings 8.45 – 9.15am. Sunday morning before the 9.30am service at the back of the Downstairs Hall.** You are welcome to join them.
- **Monday mornings 8.30am to 9.30am in the HILL HALL.** This prayer gathering is a time of praising the Lord and dedicating the week's ministries and the guidance of the Church to the glory of God.
- **Tuesday Zoom Prayer groups.** These are held at 10am and 7pm. Please see Greg or Elizabeth Beckenham to join. **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, is the last Zoom Prayer group for 2025.**

## Ettalong Baptist Church Prayer Chain:

- If you would like prayer, please send your request to: [ettalongbaptistprayerchain@gmail.com](mailto:ettalongbaptistprayerchain@gmail.com)

## Find Important Church Documents on our Website:

You can download and print documents or simply read and fill in documents online!

<https://ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au/documents/>

## Ettalong Baptist Church, Safe Church Team:

To report a child protection concern or incident please contact: Pastor—David Gilchrist (phone: 0448 431 234) or Jean Lynch (phone:0425 749 224)

## Giving:

### Our bank details are:

Account Name: Ettalong Baptist Church – Bendigo Bank

BSB Number: 633 000

Account Number: 225 369 099

You may also give cash or cheque by placing your offering in the box next to the main entrance door in the church auditorium.

## Newsletter Items:

Please send your Newsletter items to Lynette at: [office@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au](mailto:office@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au) by 12.30pm Wednesdays. Thank you.

## Unsubscribe / Subscribe:

If you wish to no longer receive this newsletter by snail mail, please let the church office know.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter by email, please reply ALL to this email with the word **UNSUBSCRIBE** and we will remove you from this email list.

*Christmas*

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**Saturday 13th December**  
**Family Nativity @ 5pm**



**Christmas Market & BBQ**  
**@ 6pm – 8pm**



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**Thursday 25th December**  
**Christmas Day Service @ 9.30am**  
JOIN US AT  
Ettalong Baptist Church  
8 Barrenjoey Road, Ettalong Beach  
'The Church at the roundabout'