

Some of the remaining 12 apostles. Thanks, Les, for this photo.

Ettalong Baptist Newsletter, 26th November 2026

From The Pastor:

The four Sundays leading up to Christmas are known in the traditional Church calendar as Advent. From the earliest of Christian times, Advent has been a season of waiting in eager anticipation of Christ's return. In fact, the traditional church calendar doesn't begin on 1 January, but with the first Sunday of advent. The focus of the traditional church calendar was not the joy of Christmas or the triumph of Easter. Instead, it begins in a place of yearning. We wait with eyes and hearts ready to receive our King, but also looking back, rejoicing in God's faithfulness in coming to us throughout human history.

This advent as we look back to celebrate the birth of Jesus and look forward in anticipation of his return, we want to know afresh the hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus. The one who is our hope, the prince of peace, the source of Good News which brings great joy, and God's love made flesh.

But this advent message is not just for us who know God! A star pointed the wise men to Jesus. This Christmas, you can point people to Jesus too. The One who made the stars knows every person by name. As Christmas approaches, bring the people in your world before him in prayer and consider how you could extend an invitation. Invite them to attend a Christmas service with you. Share a conversation over a meal. Pray for a chance to speak with them about a relationship with Jesus.

You don't need to have all the answers. A simple "Would you like to come with me?" can open a conversation. The God who placed every star in the sky knows every heart in every home in every street. This Advent, join with others across Australia as we pray for our friends, our families and our cities – and consider together who we might invite to explore faith.

Blessings

David

9.30am Sunday Morning Communion Service, 29th of November:

Hope – The Promise of a Saviour, Bible Passage: Isaiah 9:1-7

'Kid's Church' is on during our 9.30am service. All children are welcome!

Melanie, Heather and others will be at the front after the service for anyone who would like prayer.

The service will be livestreamed: https://youtube.com/live/q81wUHN40n4?feature=share

Condolences To Bruce and Debbie Cansdale:

Our condolences go out to Bruce, Debbie and family after the loss of Bruce's mother Alison yesterday.

Christmas Flyers:

Our Christmas Flyers are now available in the church foyer, please take a bundle to share with your family and friends.

Also, if you are able, please take some to drop in letterboxes in your area.

Men's Tuesday Coffee Mornings:

EBC Men's Coffee Morning meet Tuesdays at BBF Woy Woy @ 9.30am. All men are welcome. Thanks. Ian.

Christmas Hamper Donations:

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 at the back of the church. 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

Our Christmas Events are Starting this Sunday 29th November:

- **Sunday 29th November 9.30am: First Sunday in Advent service with communion.**
- **Saturday 5th December, 2.30-4pm: Gingerbread Man Decorating Day.**
- **Sunday 6th December 9.30am: Christmas Family Service with the children from Kids Church.**
  Christmas Carols, Christmas Play and a short message for the whole family.
- **Monday 7th December 6.45pm to 9pm: Women's Gingerbread House Decorating Night.**
  Gingerbread house kits are $47. Phone or text Margy: 044 743 1234 .
  For women this is a great opportunity for you to invite a friend because as well as having a really fun night Anna Davis, our BWSC high school teacher, is giving a short evangelistic Christmas message and she is truly an inspirational speaker.
- **Saturday 12th of December: 5pm Nativity Service & 6pm Christmas Market**
  All money raised at our Christmas Markets will be given to the Ford family in Ukraine. Please sign up to help by writing your name on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Carols In the Stadium Saturday 19th December 2026.**
  This year's special guest is Colin Buchanan.
  Tickets are on sale through Ticketek NOW https://www.carolsinthestadium.com.au/#tickets
  Tickets are $10 for single tickets and $25 for a family ticket (which admits up to 6 people: 2 adults and 4 juniors). Children under two are free.

Ettalong Baptist Men's Christmas Dinner, Saturday 5th December:

This year's men's Christmas dinner will be held 6pm, Saturday 5th December, at YI AN Chinese Restaurant, Woy Woy. $30 Banquet Supreme.

Numbers required by Next Wednesday 2 December. Thanks, Ian Ph: 0411 012 125` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` ` `

Ladies In Fellowship Together: LIFT Christmas BREAKFAST:

Friday 4th December 8.00am. This will be our final LIFT gathering for 2026. We will be meeting at Terrigal Crowne Plaza, where we will enjoy a delicious 'buffet breakfast' As always, all ladies are welcome. Registration is necessary and numbers will be limited to approximately 20. If you wish to attend, please book early with either **Marion: 0401 344\' 814 or Di: 0411 273 124**

COST: $39 for Central Coast residents - to be paid to Di Wagemaker before TOMORROW 27th November.

($40, if you wish to round up the cost and donate to missions)
NB. Please place your payment in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with your name.
Thank you, Marion Edwards

Gingerbread House Making Night, Monday December 7:

All our kits are sold and we have about 100 excited people attending.

Can you help in any of the following ways:

- Part of what makes the night special is our amazing supper. Can you catch up with or ring Margy if you can provide some yummy finger food. She has a list of suggestions. She will also be asking people during the week. We serve a range of sweet and savoury, hot and cold. Food can be brought to church on Sunday, 6 Dec or during the morning of 7 Dec.
- Ian Makepeace and his team will be looking after the kitchen. If there's any men who would like to help Ian let him know.
- We also need help setting up the tables and chairs after morning tea on Sunday, 6 Dec. If you can stay behind after morning tea Margy will have a floor plan so you will know what to do.
- Monday morning from 9.30am on we will be setting up all the things that need to go on all the tables, setting up the kit packs etc.
- If you have any flowers like hydrangeas, Christmas bush, bougainvillea etc on long stems for making up beautiful vases of flowers to put around the room let Margy know, as she no longer has access to the big buckets of flowers she used to get from her old neighbours.
- Almost all of our participants coming to the gingerbread night do not go to any church and have very little awareness of who Jesus is and why we need him. Please be praying for our speaker, Anna Davis, and for all the church volunteers helping on the night that we would be a beacon of light to all our guests. They will all receive an invitation flyer inviting them to come to our Christmas events and it would be so amazing if they accepted our invitation to come to these things. Please pray too that the night will run smoothly and that everyone coming will have a really fun time.

Thank you church family for your help. Margy Gilchrist, 0447431234

Christmas Market 2026:

Our Christmas Market is to be held on Saturday 12th December after the 5pm Family Nativity.

The stalls we are running for this market are:

- BBQ, Craft, Jams and Pickles, Christmas gifts and items plus a cake stall and they will be open from 6pm – 8pm.

The Market will not be as large or as long as our Spring Fair, but we would appreciate it if you could please make us some cales, biscuits or sweet treats for sale. The usual instruction have to go on the food for sale i.e. Date of making or use by date, plus ingredient list.

All funds raised at this Market will go directly to Andrew, Oksana, Willian and Elizabeth Ford, to provide them with some funds if they need to leave the Ukraine in a hurry.

Thank you. For more information, please see Heather.

Skills For Life Fundraising Christmas Event:

DEC - - Secret Santa lunch Thursday 10th December @ Ettalong Diggers Bistro:

To RSVP and for more information please contact: Jean Lynch 0425 749 224 or Diane Harris 0412 291 065

Volunteer Opportunities:

Beth Wykes is retiring from being our Kitchen Coordinator. Caroline Murphy is retiring from being our Funeral Catering Coordinator. We have a need for one or two volunteers to become the ministry leader for each of these important ministries.

Are you interested in being the Kitchen Coordinator for the church Kitchen?

Are you interested in being the Funeral Catering Coordinator?

Job descriptions are available. Please speak with Jimmy Chamberlain, Lynette Tilden, Denise Psaila or David Gilchrist from the Nomination Committee, if you are interested in either of these opportunities to serve.

From Beatrix:

Dear Saints at Ettalong Baptist Church

I spent three weeks on the island of Simunul with my adopted oldest sister after having to miss my niece's wedding the week prior due to visa requirements in Manila. While in Simunul, I met Lloy and engaged in productive discussions with Steven and Grace, who are involved with 35 Verses. I also collaborated with Professor Harimas from Mindanao State University's Research Department. Professor Harimas, who studied in Western Australia, played a significant role in our first Teacher's Camp and is currently on study leave in Manila. During my visit, I distributed a crucial letter from Tom Buursma of World Team Asia to the community and mosque leadership to inform them and secure their permission for the Voice Talent to travel outside the island. The enthusiasm from three imams was particularly encouraging, as they expressed excitement about the selection of Voice Talents. I then travelled to Zamboanga to work closely with Vie Joy, where we recorded two hours of her reading the translation in Central Sama. I will encode this for Faiza from Simunul to review later. Following that, Lynda, our Language Consultant, will assist us with the final drafting and approval. I am energised and optimistic as we approach the final stages of the translation process. Your support is critical; you have prayed and given sacrificially for this ministry, and I deeply appreciate the generous gift you sent to the Mission Office last month. I urge you to continue praying for Faiza as I mentor her and share the gospel with her in a significant and impactful way.

God Bless. Beatrix

EBC's Prayer Groups, All Welcome:

- **Sunday Mornings 8.45 – 9.15am**. A small group of people meet to pray each Sunday morning before the 9.30am service at the **back of the Fellowship Hall** (Downstairs Hall)**.** You are welcome
- **Monday mornings 8.30am to 9.30am in 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 group.** This is held at 10am. Please see Greg or Elizabeth Beckenham to join.
- **Connect Groups.** Please take time to pray as a group. We encourage everyone in the church to join a Connect Group. See Heather Crawford for available groups.
- **Ettalong Baptist Church Prayer Chain. Can We PRAY For You?** Please send your Prayer requests or Praise Points to ettalongbaptistprayerchain@gmail.com, **available 7 days a week.**

Ettalong Baptist Church, Safe Church Team:

To report a child protection concern or incident please contact:

Pastor—David Gilchrist (phone: 0448 431 234) Elder – Jane Keuning (phone: 0425 263 763) or Jean Lynch (phone: 0425 749 224)

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/

Giving:

Our bank details are:

Account Name: Ettalong Baptist Church – Bendigo Bank

BSB Number: 633 000

Account Number: 225 369 099

We encourage you to use Direct Deposit for giving, but you may also give using cash or cheque by placing your offering in the box at the main entrance door to the auditorium.

Your Newsletter Items, Including Photos:

Please send your Newsletter items & photos to: office@ettalongbaptistchurch.org.au by **12.30pm Wednesday.**

If you would like a copy of our weekly Newsletter emailed to you, please send an email to the address above, with your name and email address.

There are printed copies in the foyer, the newsletter is also posted on our Ettalong Baptist Church Website.

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

Saturday 12th December

Family Nativity at 5pm



Christmas Market & BBQ at 6pm – 8pm



Friday 25th December

Christmas Day Service @ 9.30am

JOIN US AT

Ettalong Baptist Church

8 Barrenjoey Road, Ettalong Beach