



CELEBRATE, SHARE AND GROW IN CHRIST

12th October 2025, Trinity 17

2 Kings 5.1-3, 7-15c; 2 Timothy 2.8-15; Luke 17.11-19

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The readings this week reminded me of an RE project I was set soon after I had started secondary school, requiring us to write up a biography of a religious figure. My RE teacher was somewhat taken aback when, for reasons lost in the mist of time, I settled on Father Damien of Moloka'i (1840-1889), now properly St. Damien following his beatification in 2009. Father Damien was a Catholic priest from Belgium who worked as a missionary in Hawai'i. In 1873, he was the first volunteer to join a community of people with leprosy at Kalaupapa, placed under medical quarantine. Father Damien stayed with the community until his own death from leprosy, working with the local authorities to improve the lives and strengthen the faith of the people there despite their illness. He remained alongside them when many stayed away, frightened of catching leprosy themselves.

While the behaviour of European missionaries in the 1800s often caused more harm than good, I remain moved by Father Damien's choice to go to Moloka'i voluntarily. Effective treatment for leprosy is now available, but the necessary drugs were not in circulation until the 1940s. For Father Damien, as for the people in two of the readings set for this Sunday, leprosy was an untreatable, long-lasting and disabling disease, with a number of unpleasant and very visible symptoms. It would have been easy to let someone else volunteer.

The passages from both 2 Kings and Luke depict people with leprosy being healed and finding in that healing a new knowledge of God. But healing is in God's gift, not ours. Sometimes, when faced with a sickness of body or spirit which is long-lasting and unrelenting, new knowledge of God comes from enduring companionship, like that of Brother Damien. I wonder what that might look like for us as a society – to be present in those places of deep hurt, and to remain alongside them in loving faith and service, even as we tend our own wounds.

Liz

~~~~~ **SERVICES IN THE TEAM FOR THIS WEEK** ~~~~~

**SUNDAY**

**8:00 am BCP HOLY COMMUNION, St John's Epping**

**9:20 am HARVEST FESTIVAL followed by Baptisms, St John's Epping**

**Bible readings: Philippians 4.4-9; John 6.25-35**

**11:10 am HOLY COMMUNION, St Alban's Coopersale**

**11:10 am PARISH COMMUNION, All Saints Epping Upland**

**6:00 pm CHORAL EVENSONG , St John's Epping**

**MONDAY**

**8:45 am MORNING PRAYER, St John's Epping**

**TUESDAY**

**8:45 am MORNING PRAYER, St John's Epping**

**9:30 am HOLY COMMUNION, St John's Epping**

**THURSDAY**

**10:00 am CHURCH MICE, St John's Epping**

Contact Kate Collin on 07951 484805 or email [kate.collin212@gmail.com](mailto:kate.collin212@gmail.com).

**ST JOHN'S IS OPEN DAILY FOR PRIVATE PRAYER,**  
except Bank Holidays or other specific occasions.

**READINGS NEXT WEEK, Trinity 18, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

**Genesis 32.22-31; 2 Timothy 3.14-4.5; Luke 18.1-18**

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**PRAYER FOR THE HEART OF EPPING PROJECT.** The PCC of St John's Epping will be meeting tomorrow to consider the next steps in the Heart of Epping project. Our Team Rector has written a prayer; please consider using this daily before then as our leaders in Christ seek to discern God's call for the church.

**Almighty God; who gave to George Bodley a vision to design a church building for Epping which proclaimed your glory, give to your people who worship You at St John's the faith to build on what has gone before, the wisdom to discern Your will for the future and the boldness to bring it to good effect. on the One foundation, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

~~~~~ READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY ~~~~~

2 KINGS 5, 1 – 3, 7 – 15c

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, 'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.'

When the king of Israel read the letter Naaman had brought him, he tore his clothes and said, 'Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.'

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, 'Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.' So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.' But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, 'I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?' He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, 'Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, "Wash, and be clean"?' So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, 'Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.'

LUKE 17, 11 - 19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

HARVEST FESTIVAL READINGS 2025

PHILIPPIANS 4, 4 – 9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

JOHN 6, 25 – 35

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." ' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

-----FOR OUR PRAYERS DURING THE WEEK -----

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| Monday | For the congregation and parish of St Alban's Coopersale . |
| Tuesday | For those who volunteer in the Epping Foodbank and for those who are dependent on the foodbank. |
| Wednesday | For success in the negotiations about the war in Gaza. |
| Thursday | For all pupils and teachers of Coopersale Primary School. |
| Friday | For the Ministry Team, especially for our Rector; for all who contribute to, or lead, our services: for those who lead our meetings, those who carry out 'behind the scenes' activities and those who help fundraising in the Team churches. |

Those who are sick and for whom prayers have been asked:

Graham, June, Caroline, Harriet Breen, David, Jean Goldsmith, Rebecca Salmon, Bobby Campbell, Ted Owen.

Please note that names will appear here for a short time only, unless the request to the Team Office is repeated.

Those who have died recently, their family and friends:

Christopher Dean, Catherine Bancroft.

Those whose anniversary of death occurs during this week:

12th October, Florence Vigor; 13th, Ellen Dale; 14th, Vera Wilding, James Knight; 15th, Phyllis Wood; 16th, Albert Elson, Alfred Kemp, John Law, Rose Thomas, Alan Gough, Victor Tredgett; 17th, Frederick Clark, Pearl Cole, Hazel Hill, Aileen Robertson; 18th, Emily Wright.

COLLECT for this Sunday.

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

----- **FOR YOUR INFORMATION** -----

HARVEST CHORAL EVENSONG in St John's today at 6:00 pm

Introit: Deo gratias (Byrd)

Responses: Joanna Forbes-L'Estrange

Mag. & Nunc: Stanford in G

Anthem: Praise, o praise (Martin How)

Voluntary: Intermezzo from Symphony no.6 (Widor)

CRAFT GROUP next meetings are in **St John's** on **22nd October 2025 (note corrected date)** and **26th November**, 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

MINDFUL ART A free painting session in **St John's** church from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm every 2nd Monday of the month – **Next session 13th October**.

FOODBANK COLLECTION POINT in St John's. There is a **desperate need** of items to give our support to those that are in need and use the Epping service. Ask Roger Lowry for the list of '**URGENT most needed**' shopping.

HEATERS FOR SALE as used in St John's. Some electric heaters are for sale. The black patio heaters are £9.77 each (3 available) and the fan heaters are £22.50 each (5 available). See Nick Wold.

ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL. We are now collecting wrapped gifts, for the children's lucky dip. If you can help, please bring in small wrapped gifts,

labelled, boy or girl, and leave at the back of Church. Thank you all so much for your support. Thanks, Kate and Cathy

OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS. Please note that the old phone number (01992 575570) and email (office@eppinganglicans.org.uk) are now disconnected. The correct details are on the back page.

A CHANGE OF OFFICE HOURS will start from 6th October 2025:
Monday 9:00 - 12:30, Tues, Wed, Thurs, 9:00 – 12:00, Friday 9:00 - 12:30.

FUNERAL at Epping Upland. The funeral of Christopher Dean will be held in All Saints on 16th October 2-25 at 2:00 pm.

THE MAINTENANCE MORNING in St John's on 4th October completed 5 tasks giving a saving of about £270 at a basic rate of £15 per hour. Thanks you all who attended.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **FROM THE TEAM RECTOR** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

SERVICES FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 19th October 2025 Trinity 18

8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP) at **St John's** Epping
9:20 am Sung Communion with at **St John's** Epping
11:10 am Parish Communion at **All Saints** Epping Upland
11:10 am Holy Communion **St Alban's** Coopersale
1:00 pm Baptism of Maeva Jones at **St John's** Epping
6:00 pm No Service at **St John's** Epping

HARVEST FESTIVAL service will end today, **Sunday 12th October**, at 9:20am at St John's Epping - with church parade.

The collection will go to the Epping Food Bank to support their provision of food to those in poverty locally. Donations can be such as dried/tinned foods and toiletries (but no fresh produce).

SUPPORTING THOSE LIVING IN THE BELL. The local Care4Calais group are extremely grateful for the clothes donated to give to the residents at the Bell Hotel, and also for some items better suited for the families and children at the Phoenix in North Weald. Any further donations of clothing, in particular small and medium sized items, will be most welcome. The collection box for donations is in **St John's** Church.

THE PASTORAL CARE TEAM would like to draw your attention to the following invitation from the Mayor of Epping who has chosen Dementia Awareness as her project for the year. Janet Whitehouse writes "During my year as Mayor of Epping I'm aiming to raise awareness and understanding of dementia. I'd like to invite you to a Dementia Awareness session developed and led by the Alzheimer's Society. The next sessions are on Friday 31st October, noon – 1;30 pm or 2:00 – 3:30 pm at Epping Hall, St John's Rd. For information and to book please contact Janet Whitehouse.(janet.whitehouse7@gmail.com or 01992 560289. Revd. John Fry and Jo Waller

~~~~~ PLEDGED GIVING AND COLLECTIONS ~~~~~

There are many ways to financially support the mission and ministry of the parishes. We are grateful for the many ways and forms of giving which express our shared worship of Christ.

COLLECTIONS IN SUNDAY SERVICES: A cash collection is taken at Sunday and midweek services. Please don't feel any embarrassment to let it pass you by.

PARISH GIVING SCHEME (PGS): Similar to direct debit payments but set up an account by calling PGS on 0333 002 1271 providing your bank details plus your church PGS code which is:

Epping Upland, All Saints-0806-08029

Epping, St John the Baptist-0806-08028

Coopersale, St Alban the Martyr-0806-08027

BACS: You can give by bank transfer as follows:

All Saints Epping Upland, 60-07-39 50236520

St Johns Parochial Church Council, 20-29-86 50357219

St Alban Parochial Church Council, 20-29-86 50776459

EPPING TEAM MINISTRY CONTACT DETAILS

Team Clergy **Revd John Fry:** Team Rector 01992 934355
E-mail: teamrector@eppinganglicans.org.uk

Revd Jessica Bostock: Associate Minister,
3 Sundays a month and Mondays.
E-mail: jessicabostock@yahoo.co.uk

Dr Liz Gloyn: Curate,
E-mail: _curate@eppinganglicans.org.uk

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| LLMs | Diana Lowry:
Email: lowryepp@gmail.com | 01992 279696 |
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Steve Snooks: 01992 572185
Email: stevesnooks@hotmail.com

Team Pastoral Assistant, Jo Waller:
Email: jo.waller37@btinternet .com

Children, Youth and Family Worker, Emily Townshend:
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.
E-mail: cyf@eppinganglicans.org.uk

Church Wardens for **Epping Upland** and **Coopersale**, please contact the Team Office.
For **St John's**, contact **Marian Winters** at 07790 532570, email marianwinters@aol.com or **Sara McLean** at 07768 106406, email sdmclean@virginmedia.com

Team Administrator: Lisa Bazzoni 01992 579935
E-mail: teamadmin@eppinganglicans.org.uk

NEWS items for next week; **Geoff Scanlan** 01992 576550
E-mail: rosandgeoff@btinternet.com

Please send us any prayer requests, or if you would like someone to pray for you.

St John's has a 'T' loop: please ask for help if you need it.

MOBILITY AIDS are at the back of **St John's** for use in church.

You can follow **St John's, All Saints** and **St Alban's** on **Facebook**

WE ARE A MEMBER OF VOLUNTARY ACTION EPPING FOREST