



**epping
team ministry** **NEWS**

CELEBRATE, SHARE AND GROW IN CHRIST

Sunday, 11th January 2026, Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42.1-9; Acts 10.34-43; Matthew 3.13-end

----- SERVICES IN THE TEAM FOR THIS WEEK -----

SUNDAY

8:00 am BCP HOLY COMMUNION, St John's Epping
9:20 am CHRISTINGLE, St John's Epping
11:10 am PARISH COMMUNION, All Saints Epping Upland
11:00 am HOLY COMMUNION, St Alban's Coopersale
4:00 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

This is held during school term times: Contact Kate Collin on 07951484805
or email kate.collin212@gmail.com

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

The Reflection is on the following page

**Please consider switching your mobile phone to silent mode or switching it off before a
Sunday service begins and taking a moment to pray
that we may all be fully present with each other and with Christ.**

----- FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM -----

"Take it off, take it off" the crowd cry in unison at the person on stage, encouraged by the host in a pretty bold choice of suit. After some more encouragement, a key part of the performers costume is removed to gasps from the audience.

To regular viewers of ITV this scenario might be familiar, it being the moment of unmasking at the end of each episode of the Masked Singer, when the identity of celebrity hiding under the incredibly detailed costume is revealed. This moment of revelation is what the whole show is heading towards as we discover who "Puffer Fish", "Bushbaby" or "Viking" really are.

In the season of Epiphany (which begun last week and continues until Candlemas day on 2nd February), the Gospel readings lead us on a similar journey of revelation as the identity of the child born of Mary is revealed. Last Sunday, this was symbolised through the gifts the Wise Men brought when they followed the star as Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh tells us of the holy King who will give of his life. This week, our focus is on the Baptism of Jesus, where the now man Jesus comes to John the Baptist to undergo this particular religious ritual. The key moment comes after the ceremony is completed when the voice is heard from heaven saying "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased". Jesus is the individual in history who shares both humanity and Divinity, the "mask" has been removed, and the mystery at the heart of the Christian faith is beginning to be made known.

Much like those who came to follow Jesus Christ in those earliest days, there is potential for each of us to understand more of Him with every week that passes. There will be a number of opportunities to do that in the year ahead, for example Lent courses, the Pilgrim Course (which is usually part of the preparation offered for adult baptism or Confirmation) and the course exploring the Bible at St John's starting soon, in addition to the opportunity for encountered Jesus week by week in our services of worship.

May I wish you all every blessing for 2026, and it is my prayer that we may know Jesus nearer this year as we continue to Celebrate, Share and Grow in Christ.

John

----- READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY -----

Isaiah 42, 1 - 9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Acts 10, 34 - 43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Matthew 3, 13 - end

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

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

Monday For the congregation and parish of **St John's Epping**

Tuesday We give thanks for the Christians we know who had to come to this country for safety, have received permission to stay and have found homes and work.

Wednesday For people of Venezuela, that they may be safe and benefit from the current situation there.

Thursday For all pupils and staff of Epping St John's 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, Ted Owen, Sam Chard, Marion Joslin, Carole.

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:

Vivien Danzey, Henry Nowak, Ruby Fry.

Those whose anniversary of death occurs during this week:

11th January 2026, Frederick Snewin, Mary Anthony, Violet Barham, Alan Stewart, Ronald Pocock, Jennifer Bocking, Joan Sullivan, Dennis Flack; 12th, Albert Jeffrey, Dennis Lockwood, Judy Nicholson; 13th, Walter Wood, Mary Wilson, Albert Liddard, Joan Monk, Margaret Foulds, Harry Mann, Peter McQueen-Reilly; 14th, Eliza Reynolds, Grace Harrison, Andrea Wright; 15th, Agnes Allen, Gwendoline Kingsman, Harry Pegrum, Dorothy Walter, Les Jones, John Woods; 16th, Cecil Ellis, Brice Pitt; 17th, Anna Hart, Crispus Cottis, David Charles, Alice Law, Ivy Bibby, John Cottle, George Mulkay, Iris McAleese, Hilda Seward, Peggy Lewin.

COLLECT for this Sunday.

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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** -----

**SUNDAY 11th JANUARY in St John's - Choral Evensong for Epiphany
at 4:00 pm**

Introit:,O men from the fields (Arnold Cooke)

Responses: Winters

Psalm 47

Mag. & Nunc. (Moeran in D)

Anthem: Lo! Star-led Chiefs (William Crotch)

Organ voluntary: Marche des Rois Mages Dubois

THE NEW BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY Steve and Diana will be running this from **14th January 2026** in **St John's** church from 10:30 am - noon. It is designed for anyone who feels they would benefit from support in their bereavement. Sessions involve 2 films, group discussion, homemade cake and coffee. The course is designed for anyone, not just church goers. Please speak to Diana, email her, for more information.

CRAFT GROUP next meet in **St John's** on **28th January 2026**, 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

MINDFUL ART is a free painting session **in St John's** church from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The next session is Monday **12th January 2026**.

HYMN BOOKS AT ST JOHN'S are now in use, but should you wish to receive a copy of the hymns by email to enable you to vary the size of the text yourself, please contact Lisa in the Team Office, but large print copies are available – please ask.

LOST PROPERTY AT ST JOHN'S A large amount of lost property has accumulated at **St John's** - please do check the box at the back of the church, items remaining in the New Year will be donated to charity shops. Also, a sum of cash was handed in after the Advent Carol Service, if you think it might be yours please speak to Revd John - if it is not claimed before the end of the month, it will be added to church funds.

TAIZE SERVICE in St John's the next one will be on **1st February 2026**.

----- **FROM THE TEAM RECTOR** -----

SERVICES FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 18th January 2026, Epiphany 2

8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP) at **St John's** Epping

9:20 am Sung Communion at **St John's** Epping

11:10 am Holy Communion at **St Alban's** Coopersale

11:00 am Parish Communion at **All Saints** Epping Upland

6:00 pm No evening service in the Team

READINGS: Isaiah 49.1-7; 1 Corinthians 1.1-9; John 1.29-42

SUPPORTING THOSE LIVING IN THE BELL. The local Care4Calais group are very grateful for clothes donated to the residents at the Bell Hotel, and also for some suited for the families at the Phoenix in North Weald. Further donations of clothing, particularly small and medium sized items, are welcome. The collection box for clothes is in **St John's** Church.

WARM COATS- Do you have a spare, warm winter coat in good condition ? If so would you consider donating it and adding it to the coat rail? This is now in place in **St John's** Church porch. Many thanks in advance! (Pastoral Care Team)

CHRISTINGLE SERVICES In the Epping Team, Christingle services are being held in January, **TODAY** at 9:20 am at **St John's** (to mark the Baptism of Christ) and on **Sunday 25th January 2026** at **Epping Upland**, (to mark Candlemas).

----- **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 to church by bank transfer; the sort codes and account numbers are listed here:

St Alban's 20-29-86, Account: 50776459

St John's 20-29-86, Account: 50357219

All Saints 60-07-39, Account 50236520

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
LLMs	Diana Lowry: 01992 279696 Email: dianalowryepp@gmail.com
	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