



CELEBRATE, SHARE AND GROW IN CHRIST

SUNDAY, 26th July 2026, Trinity 8

I Kings 3.5-12; Romans 8.26-end; Matthews 13.31-33, 44-52

~~~ SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE FOR THIS WEEK ~~~

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

9:20 am SUNG COMMUNION, St John's Epping

With hymns 595, 698, 806, 348, 421.

11:10 am MORNING WORSHIP, All Saints Epping Upland

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

6:00 pm JOYFUL PRAISE, St John's Epping

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Monday - Wednesday & Friday

8:45am MORNING PRAYER, will not be said publicly this week.

Monday – Thursday

5:00pm EVENING PRAYER, will not be said publicly this week.

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

St John's is usually open daily for private prayer

Except bank Holidays or other special occasions

Please switch your mobile phone to silent mode or switch it off before a Sunday service begins and take time to pray that we may be fully present with each other and with Christ.

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

Over the last week, we have seen another change of leadership at a national level – Andy Burnham is the 7th person to hold the office of Prime Minister in a decade. There are without doubt many challenges facing him as he takes on this national responsibility, and in common with all who have gone before him, part of the calling of all Christian people is to pray for those who lead us.

But, what are we to pray for? Some of the answer can be found in the first reading set for this Sunday from 1 Kings. This part of the Bible is an account of the leaders of God's people, and it describes both what went well, and what did not. Reading these pages tells us of people who fail on the international stage as well as of people who were devoted to their God and ours. We see the complexity of the human condition played out in the accounts of leaders' lives.

Solomon becomes a leader at an early stage of his life. He is devoted to God and seeks to do what is right in God's sight, whilst being aware of his own limitations as a leader. Whilst he is in the place where worship is offered, rather than asking for a great victory or success, he asks that God would give him "a understanding mind" and the "ability to discern between good and evil". Those are pretty good things for us to pray, that God would give to our new Prime Minister so he is able to lead us as a national community into all things which are good. Alongside that let us pray that he also has the ability to understand the circumstances of all who make their home in the United Kingdom, and do know the right thing to do, especially in a role where there are no doubt difficult decisions to be made.

And yet, whatever the future holds, there are some things which I believe are unchanging. One of those is found in the writings which make up the book Romans. To the church, the author writes that nothing, in this world or the next can separate them "from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord". Whether it feels like God is nearby or far away, whether you are expectant for the future or nervous about what lies ahead, may each of us return to that which is at the centre of the Christian faith, this and every week.

**John**

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

1 Kings 3, 5 - 12. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.'

Romans 8, 26 - end. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for

us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13, 31 – 33, 44 – 52. He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

~~~~~ **FOR OUR PRAYERS DURING THE WEEK** ~~~~~

|                  |                                                                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | For the congregation and parish of St John's, Epping.                            |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | For all who work in surgeries and hospitals.                                     |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | That the new government will succeed in helping rough sleepers and the homeless. |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | For all pupils and staff at local schools during the long summer                 |

break, that they will find rest and recuperation.

## **Friday**

For the Ministry Team; 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, David, Rebecca, Sam, Marion, Pam, Lorraine, Jim, Lisa, Lili.

## **Those who have died recently, their family and friends:**

Dorothy Mansfield, Susan Waterman.

## **Those whose anniversary of death occurs during this week:**

26<sup>th</sup> July, Daisy Edmunds, Charles Skeels; 27<sup>th</sup>, Francis Day, Jean Russell, Bernard Lowry, Margaret Brown; 28<sup>th</sup>, Gwendoline Eynon, Charles Sworder, Agnes Edmunds, Elsie Sampson, Neville Redman, Colin Taylor; 29<sup>th</sup>, Edward Hobson, Dennis McGee, Brian Cooper; 30<sup>th</sup>, - ; 31<sup>st</sup>, James Wheeler, Rex Ilott, Kathleen Belverstone; 1<sup>st</sup> August, Alex Everett, Sheila Wootton, Jeffrey Willis.

## **COLLECT for this Sunday.**

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

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

HEART OF EPPING PROJECT update. Sadly, I am writing to share the news that having explored loans and grants, it has not been possible to secure funding to enable the most recent Heart of Epping proposal to continue to completion. Members of the Finance Subcommittee noted with sadness that there are simply not the funds in place, nor the income stream required to support a loan of the size we were seeking. In the autumn, the PCC will be exploring next steps, likely to include assessing our capacity for a smaller extension to the existing St John's house and/or work in and around the church building itself to meet our needs for improved toilets and kitchen facilities alongside meeting rooms.

BEGINNERS BIBLE STUDY Especially for beginners, these sessions might be for you! On Saturday lunchtimes at Kate's Vicarage (9, Seymour Chase CM16 6FE) from 12 noon to 1:00 pm. These will continue on 8th and 22nd August; no need to prepare anything, just come – bring a Bible if you have one. Refreshments will be available.

~~~~~ **FOR YOUR INFORMATION** ~~~~~

**ST CLARE HOSPICE** - spectacular public art trail. Volunteer with '**Lions on the Loose this summer!**' Epping is hosting lions inside the church.

**THE NEW BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY.** Steve and Diana are planning to run this course from 15<sup>th</sup> September for 7 weeks. It is a very good course designed for those who are dealing with bereavement. It is suitable for anyone who has ben bereaved either recently or from some time ago. Please speak to others who might be interested and to Diana or Steve if you feel this course might be helpful.

**CHURCH MICE** Summer Church Mice will be on Thursday 13th August from 10am to 11.30am, older siblings welcome.

**THE CRAFT GROUP** is to be held in St John's will be on 22nd July from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The next meeting will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

**ST JOHN'S TOWER CLOCK** is now working but the chimes are yet to be sorted out.

**ST JOHN'S PORCH DOORS.** The manufacture the doors is proceeding now that we have approved the final drawings. The installation is expected to take place in August.

**'PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING'** We have the opportunity to show this film which is about Climate Change explaining what is happening and why and how we can help reverse some of this. I am showing it on **Sunday 16th August** at 6:00 pm in St John's. Please think about it, talk to your friends and come along. Thanks, Diana Lowry

**EPPING FOREST FOOD BANK** A collection point for the local foodbank is located in St John's Epping. Donations of long-life food are greatly appreciated.

**SATURDAY COFFEE CONCERTS - please note the dates.** The autumn series of coffee concerts n St John's will feature 3 organ recitals – 5<sup>th</sup> Sept, Roger Bluff; 10<sup>th</sup> Oct, Simon Winters; 7<sup>th</sup> Nov, Michael Lukin (Director of Music at Chigwell School). All concerts start at 11:00 am.

**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES** It is only through the sharing of the time and talents of members of our churches that we are able to offer so much to communities we serve. There are a number of opportunities at this time, please speak to a member of the clergy or a Churchwarden if you are interested in exploring them. These are -

**Sacristan at St John's Epping** (which is the person who takes the lead responsibility setting up for Communion services and maintaining stocks of candles, and elements for Holy Communion.

**Church Mice Team Members** (to assist at the weekly Thursday Morning service at St John's Epping for preschool children and their parents and carers, which may include setting up and packing away, supporting the leading of singing, craft activities and/or refreshments.

**REPAIR CAFÉ COMING TO ST JOHN'S!** We're excited to be exploring the launch of a Repair Café at St John's Church. The idea is simple: bring people together to repair broken household items, share practical skills, reduce waste, and build community over a cup of tea or coffee. We're looking for volunteers with repair skills (or a willingness to help in other ways such as welcoming visitors, serving refreshments or administration) as well as anyone interested in supporting the project. If you'd like to find out more or get involved, please contact Natalie ([nkelberman@eppinganglicans.org.uk](mailto:nkelberman@eppinganglicans.org.uk)).

## **GROUPS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT ST JOHN'S**

The separate Sunday groups for children and young people (Little Lambs, Sunday School and Go Gen) are taking a break over the school summer holidays. They will resume on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September**.

## **SERVICES FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2026, Trinity 9**

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

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

**11:10 am Holy Communion, All Saints Epping Upland**

**11:10 am Morning Worship, St Alban's Coopersale**

There will be no evening services in the Team

**READINGS: Isaiah 55.1-5; Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.13-21**

## ~~~~~ CONTACTS, 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 services. Please don't feel any embarrassment to let it pass you by.

It is also possible to donate to church funds in each church of the Benefice using a contactless card.

**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

### BENEFICE OF THE EPPING DISTRICT CONTACT DETAILS

#### Clergy

Revd John Fry: Team Rector - 01992 934355

Rest day, usually Saturday

E-mail: [teamrector@eppinganglicans.org.uk](mailto:teamrector@eppinganglicans.org.uk)

Revd Kate Moore: Team Vicar – 01992 265590

Rest days, usually Thursday/Friday

Email: [teamvicar@eppinganglicans.org.uk](mailto:teamvicar@eppinganglicans.org.uk)

Revd Jessica Bostock: Associate Minister,

E-mail: [jbostock@eppinganglicans.org.uk](mailto:jbostock@eppinganglicans.org.uk)

Revd Dr Liz Gloyn: Curate

E-Mail: [curate@eppinganglicans.org.uk](mailto:curate@eppinganglicans.org.uk)

#### Licensed Lay Ministers

Diana Lowry: 01992 279696

Email: [Dlowry@eppinganglians.org.uk](mailto:Dlowry@eppinganglians.org.uk)

Steve Snooks: 01992 572185

Email: [stevesnooks@hotmail.com](mailto:stevesnooks@hotmail.com)

**Children, Youth and Family Worker,** Emily Townshend: is now on Maternity Leave

**Church Wardens** for St Alban's Coopersale, please contact the Team Office.

For St John's, contact Sara McLean at 07768 106 406, email: [sdmclean@eppinganglicans.org.uk](mailto:sdmclean@eppinganglicans.org.uk)

For All Saint's, contact James Chappell on 07710 171 166 or email [allsaintswarden@eppinganglicans.org.uk](mailto:allsaintswarden@eppinganglicans.org.uk) for James or Nigel Scott.

**Team Administrator:** Lisa Bazzoni - 01992 579935 - E-mail: [teamadmin@eppinganglicans.org.uk](mailto:teamadmin@eppinganglicans.org.uk)

**NEWS items for next week;** Geoff Scanlan - 01992 576550 - E-mail: [rosandgeoff@btinternet.com](mailto: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 Epping for use in church.

**You can follow the churches of the Benefice on Facebook**