



CELEBRATE, SHARE AND GROW IN CHRIST

SUNDAY, 23rd August 2026, Trinity 12

Isaiah 51.1-6; Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20

~~~ 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 507, 775, 806, 712, 510.

11:10 am MORNING WORSHIP, All Saints Epping Upland

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

1pm Baptism of CeCe Lane, St John's Epping

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

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Monday - Wednesday & Friday – St John's Epping

8:45am MORNING PRAYER,

Monday – Thursday – St John's Epping

5:00pm EVENING PRAYER,

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** ~~~~~

As many of you know, I love the sunshine and hot weather, but I have to admit there have been a couple of times over the summer when even I have struggled with the relentless heat. My garden is suffering as I am being a good girl and racing about with buckets but cannot seem to water with the same effectiveness that I could with the hose.

Many trees in the forest are also showing the effects of drought, leaves are starting to turn scorched and brown as the trees conserve their vital water reserves by withdrawing moisture from their extremities and dropping their leaves to concentrate on any seeds and fruit in order to ensure the continuation of the species.

What has made me sad, though is the strip of forest that I drive through pretty much every day which sits over the tunnel, just before you come to the cricket ground coming from Loughton. This narrow belt of trees started turning brown weeks ago, long before the rest of the forest even started to feel the effects of the lack of rain, and there are two reasons for this. Firstly, the tunnel which was excavated beneath them has disrupted the water table at that point, and secondly, the pilings and infrastructure of the tunnel are preventing the roots from penetrating deep enough to be able to source adequate water for their needs. This is a salutary lesson for us all.

If we don't give ourselves a strong root system, then how are we going to reach the Living Water? If we choose not to grow and stretch ourselves, to overcome difficulties and grow around them, to persevere even when we come across large obstacles and hard terrain, then how can we reach that water and bear fruit? Strong, deep roots come from prayer, scripture, worship and gratitude. In the midst of moaning about the weather do we realise how lucky we really are and give thanks for that? Great wines come from vines that have to dig really deeply for water, that are put under stress and have to work hard to grow their fruit in tough conditions. Our faith is the same, we will bear the best fruit by putting down good strong roots even when, or perhaps because, the terrain is tough. The Sower knows a thing or two, so persevere, even when it's hot and hard, focus on what will allow you to reach your goals, and, above all, keep your eyes on God. Stay cool, love, Jessica

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

Isaiah 51, 1 - 6. Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Romans 12, 1 – 8. I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16, 13 - 20. Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and

on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | For the congregation and parish of St Alban's Coopersale.                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | For all people badly affected by the continued warm and dry weather.                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | For everyone whose work or home life is influenced by excessive demands on their time and relaxation.                                                                                                             |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | For all pupils and staff at local schools during the long summer break, that they will find rest and recuperation.                                                                                                |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 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, Jim, Lisa, Eden.

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

Dorothy Mansfield, Susan Waterman.

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

23<sup>rd</sup> Aug, Hilda Davis, Arthur Merritt, Sylvia Hemington, Jenny Sowerby, Marian McDonald; 24<sup>th</sup>, Phyllis Whiffen; 25<sup>th</sup>, Kathleen Lee, Olive Sly, Ivy Spanswick; 26<sup>th</sup>, Barbara Shand, Alfred Robbins, Vincent Smith, Kenneth Whaley, Stanley Scull, Ann Brookes, Grace Gough; 27<sup>th</sup>, Leonard Matthew, Thomas Crouch, Gwendoline Wilson, Prudence Graves, Lisa Gardiner; 28<sup>th</sup>, Edith Flack, Stanley Blomfield, Susan Perry; 29<sup>th</sup>, Alice Smith, Peter Randall.

## **COLLECT for this Sunday.**

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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

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

SUNDAY 30th AUGUST As would be our usual practice for a 5th Sunday of the month, all the churches of the Epping District will be coming together for a joint Communion service at 10:00 am at St John's.

Our Guest Preacher will be the Very Revd Paul Kennington (formerly Dean of Montreal and Interim Dean of Chelmsford).

Following the Team Service, there will be a bring and share lunch in the House gardens run by the Mothers Union. See the notice in the church for more details, especially about what you should bring and letting St John's MU know.

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

**PEOPLES EMERGENCY BRIEFING** - Thank you to everyone who attended this on 16th August - please continue to spread the word and encourage people to sign a petition asking parliament to discuss showing the film on Prime Time TV. If you were unable to attend but would like to see the film, please go to: <https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map> where it will tell you where and when other venues will be hosting. Events are currently planned at Theydon Bois and Loughton, and new screenings are being scheduled by local organisations around the country. Please speak to Diana Lowry for further information.

## **EPPING MINI FESTIVAL**

The Coffee Concert on September 5 is part of the **Epping Mini Festival** organised by the new Epping Town Partnership. Also on Saturday 5 September there's a Volunteer Fair and entertainment in the High St and on Sunday 6 September 3pm Proms on the Green. Other activities are planned. Please support the Festival.

**ST CLARE HOSPICE** - spectacular public art trail 'Lions on the Loose this summer!' Epping is now hosting lions inside St John's Church until 10th September. Each of our lions will be auctioned off at the end of the summer and all of the money raised will go towards providing the much needed care at our hospice.

**THE NEW BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY.** Steve and Diana are planning to run this course from **Wednesday 16<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 been 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 (please note the date change).

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

**SATURDAY COFFEE CONCERTS - please note the dates.** The autumn series of coffee concerts in 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 Chapel Music at Chigwell School).  
All concerts start at 11:00 am.

**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).

**EPHING 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. There is a Job vacancy with Foodbank. Part-time & paid, more details on: <https://eppingforest.foodbank.org.uk/2026/07/22/were-hiring-2/>

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

**ST JOHN'S PORCH DOORS.** This project has been delayed and installation is not now due until possibly September, but this will be confirmed later.

**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, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2026, Trinity 13**

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

**10:00 am TEAM SERVICE, St John's Epping followed by bring and share lunch.**

Our Guest Preacher will be the Very Revd Paul Kennington (formerly Dean of Montreal and Interim Dean of Chelmsford) .

**6:00 pm** No evening service.

**READINGS:**

**Jeremiah 15.16-18; Romans 12.9-18; Matthew 16.21-28**

## ~~~~~ 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**