



CELEBRATE, SHARE AND GROW IN CHRIST

SUNDAY, 13th September 2026, Trinity 15

**Romans 14.7-9; Matthew 3.13-17 (St John's)
Genesis 50, 15 - 21; Romans 14, 1 - 12; Matthew 18, 21 - 35**

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

9:20 am UPFRONT SERVICE FOR ALL AGES with Baptism of Christian Sampson, St John's Epping (with the band, hymns – 766, 785, 510, 805).

11:10 am HOLY COMMUNION, All Saints Epping Upland

11:10 am HOLY COMMUNION with Baptism of Otis Sainsbury-Hyde, St Alban's Coopersale

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

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Monday - Wednesday, 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

Thursday, 10:00 am, CHURCH MICE, 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** ~~~~~

On Tuesday this week, the Church observed the festival of the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In some ways, this is a rather peculiar festival. Unlike the Annunciation (25<sup>th</sup> March) or Mary's visit to Elizabeth (31<sup>st</sup> May), Mary's birth is not recorded in the bible. Her parents are not mentioned, although the second century Gospel of James gives their names as Anne and Joachim. I have some fondness for this proto-holy family; my natal church is St. Anne's, which meant that I found out who St. Anne rather earlier than I suspect most people do.

Birth is a powerful symbol as well as being an important (perhaps the most important!) life event. John wrote in last week's reflection about different kinds of life, and the new life that can come from change. I'm struck by how many different kinds of new life are springing up around me – pupils beginning a new school, undergraduates about to start a new university, my curacy cohort preparing to be ordained as priests in God's church, people coming to be baptised into a new life in Christ. That new life is a joy.

Yet it's worth acknowledging that new life can be frightening and scary too. Certainly at the time that Mary was born, the arrival of a new baby could bring death as much as it could bring life. Other kinds of change, of allowing an old season of life to end and a new one to begin, can also bring complicated emotions. That can be especially hard when others assume we must be pleased about the change. As Christians, we live on God's time, not our own; that means things can go both faster and slower than we had planned ourselves.

Handing ourselves over to God means we entrust ourselves to the one who made us and loves us without condition, and who wants what is good and life-giving for us. So if you find yourself facing something which looks as unsettling as it is hopeful, know that God goes with us as we make the long and sometimes challenging journey towards the people God made us to be.

Liz

~~~~ READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY ~~~~  
ST JOHNS

Romans 14.7-9

7 We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Matthew 3.13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved,^a with whom I am well pleased.

ALL SAINT'S AND ST ALBAN'S

Genesis 50, 15 - 21. Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Romans 14, 1 - 12. Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain,

and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Matthew 18, 21 - 35. Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

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

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | For the congregation and parish of St John's Epping.                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | For anyone who is mentally or physically disabled and those who care for them.                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | For all those who have found a place of safety from natural disasters, war or oppression.                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | For all pupils and staff at Epping St John's School                                                                                                                                                               |
| <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, Norah.

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

Fred Syrdal.

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

13<sup>th</sup> Sept, Anne Lane, Alice Lewis, Ian Monk; 14<sup>th</sup>, Herbert Creed, Francis Sampson, Charles Toseland, Norman Lansdown-Davis; 15<sup>th</sup>, Norman Saville, John Mynott, Edith Luck, Paul Beard, Kathleen Cook; 16<sup>th</sup>, Daphne Corbyn, Iris Silwood, John Edwards; 17<sup>th</sup>, Emma Walker, Dennis Tyson, Maurice Williams; 18<sup>th</sup>, Harriet Cumber, Nellie Booth, John Haywood, Edward Fenner, Kathleen Loy; 19<sup>th</sup>, Vincent Smith, Pam Bailes.

**COLLECT for this Sunday.**

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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

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

CONFIRMATION and ADULT BAPTISM PREPARATION A service of Confirmation (led by a Bishop) is an opportunity to publicly commit to following Jesus Christ in the Christian faith. For those baptised as children, this service is an invitation for people to affirm promises made on their behalf. For adults wishing to make a profession of faith, Confirmation is a part of that journey along with Baptism, which can take place either beforehand or in the same service.

There are two opportunities for Confirmation in the autumn, one on Sunday 1st November in the afternoon at St Lawrence Blackmore, and usually another on Sunday 22nd November in Chelmsford Cathedral. A preparation course will be offered, at a time and place to suit those interested, and there will be separate groups for adults and teenagers. To express an interest at this stage or to find out more please speak to any of the clergy; otherwise please book in with Lisa in the Team Office by email to teamadmin@eppinganglicans.org.uk

BIBLE STUDY GROUP we will continue to meet next term on the following Saturday dates at 12:00 noon: **September 19th, October 3rd, October 24th, November 14th, December 12th**. You are very welcome to the vicarage at 9 Seymour Chase for any of the sessions. There will be refreshments provided.

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

**TREE FESTIVAL** - it's that time of year **AGAIN!** We would welcome donations of bottles and gifts for the tombola and recycled gifts for the gift stall. Please bring to Church and leave in the box at that back or give to one us. Thank you, Kate and Cathy

**CASH COLLECTIONS IN CHURCH** Please ensure that any coins donated are not foreign currency. We have had quite a lot recently at St John's and coins are not accepted at the bank.

**SATURDAY COFFEE CONCERTS** - please note the dates. The autumn series of coffee concerts in St John's will feature organ recitals – 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.

**ST CLARE HOSPICE** – our spectacular public art trail ‘Lions on the Loose this summer!’ has ended but each of our lions will be auctioned off in September and all of the money raised will go towards providing the much needed care at our hospice.

**CHURCHES TOGETHER** AGM and Autumn Planning Meeting, Tuesday 15th September 7:30pm, The Box, St John's Road. All invited to find out how God is working through Christians in partnership in our town, and if there might be a role for you over the next year. An opportunity to reflect on what God has done for our churches and town over the last year, thanking Him for all his blessings and exploring what God is calling us to work with Him on over the next year. Kate Collin

**REPAIR CAFÉ COMING TO ST JOHN'S!** We're 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).

**SILENT DISCO AT ST JOHN'S!** We are hosting a Silent Disco on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, with a family session from 5:30 – 7:00 pm and an adult-only (18+) session from 7:30 – 9:30 pm. Put on your wireless headphones, choose from three channels of music selected by a live DJ and dance the evening away! Tickets are £10 for adults and £7 for children, with refreshments available to buy on the night. Tickets can be purchased direct from Natalie in St John's on Sundays or online (booking fee applies):

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1998753038142?aff=oddttdtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1998753038142?aff=oddttdtcreator)

All proceeds will support St John's and Epping Mothers' Union. Headsets are limited, so book early!

**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.

**ST JOHN'S PORCH DOORS.** This project has resumed and installation is now due until September, it has been confirmed.

**EPPING FOR PEACE WORKSHOP: Encountering Difference and Disagreement (with Love and Peace) - Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2026**

**11:00 am – 2:30 pm.** Epping Quakers and St John's are working together to create opportunities for promoting peace and understanding in Epping, starting with this workshop offered by the Quaker Peacebuilding Team at the Quaker Meeting House. This workshop has been designed to help us start to be able to speak more confidently with those whose opinions we may find hard to understand, or differ wildly from our own, but in a way that enables us to stay connected to our truth and engaged with the other person. There are 30 places available for this session. Our intention is for this event to be a safe space. To book a place, please contact Rebecca Fricker on [beckirees@hotmail.com](mailto:beckirees@hotmail.com) St John's will be holding another event later in the year - we welcome suggestions from others as to future initiatives we can work together on.

## **FORTHCOMING ORDINATIONS**

**JOSHUA TOWNSEND**, who was on placement with us last year is to be ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Chelmsford in Chelmsford Cathedral at 11:00 am today (13th September) and will then serve his curacy in Rayleigh parish. Please pray for him, his family and the churches in which he will serve. Our prayers are also asked for **The REVD DR LIZ GLOYN** who will be ordained as Priest at 10:30 am on Saturday 26th September at St Michael's church Westcliff -on Sea, at a service led by the Bishop of Bradwell, and will continue serve with us in the parishes of the Epping District. She will celebrate Holy Communion for the first time at a special joint Benefice service to be held in St John's at 10:00 am on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September. A bring and share lunch will follow this service.

## **BELL RINGING COMPETITION**

St John's Epping is delighted to be able to host the South West Essex Bell Ringing Competition on 19th September, from 10.00am until 3.00pm. There are 7 bands that have entered to competition from around South Essex and East London, all of whom will have been practising for weeks in the hope of winning., Epping Bell Ringers are no exception, we too have been practising to get our ringing perfect on the day. We hope to do well, but we expect some stiff competition. As a result, the bells will be ringing out across the town during that day.

## **SERVICES FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026, Trinity 16**

**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 Holy Communion, St Alban's Coopersale**

**1pm Baptism of Maddox & Robert Moore, St John's Epping**

**6:00 pm Sunday @ Six, St John's Epping**

### **READINGS:**

**Jonah 3, 10 – 4, end; Philippians 1, 21 - end; Matthew 20, 1 – 16**

~~~~~ **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. (Please no foreign coins as the bank will not accept them)

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 online at www.parishgiving.org.uk 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**