



CELEBRATE, SHARE AND GROW IN CHRIST

SUNDAY, 27th September 2026, Trinity 17

Ezekiel 18, 1 - 4, 25 - end; Philippians 2, 1 - 13; Matthew 21, 23 - 32

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

10:00 am JOINT BENEFICE SERVICE OF SUNG COMMUNION, St John's Epping (followed by fizz and cake to celebrate Revd Liz Gloyn's ordination as Priest - she will preside at Holy Communion for the first time in this service)

With hymns 103, 739, 621, 725, 650, Anthem – O taste and see, (Vaughan Williams),
Voluntary – Original 'Songs of Praise' (Herbert Chappell)

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

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Monday - Tuesday, St John's Epping

8:45am MORNING PRAYER

Monday - Tuesday, St John's Epping

5:00pm EVENING PRAYER

St John's Church will be closed on 30th September, 1st and 2nd October while new inner porch doors are fitted.

**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 next week (September 29<sup>th</sup>) the church celebrates the feast of Saint Michael and All Angels or Michaelmas.

There is a lot happening at this time of year! John and I have both been in Epping St Johns School this week, sharing assemblies with Year 7 to Year 11 pupils on the theme of 'new beginnings' as their new school term settles in. I led, with our worship band, and a skilled team of volunteers from St Albans Church, a whole 'Prayer and Praise' day to launch the worship themes for the new school years with all the pupils from Year 1 to Year 6. The quiet, reflective time at the church contrasted so well with the exuberant and joy filled whole school worship at school.

We have harvest plans approaching over the horizon and I'm getting intrigued by all the talk of something to do with huge numbers of Christmas trees!

It's a busy time of year. The summer will start to lose its heat, the mornings will become chillier, the clocks will go back, the shape of things around us will change again. There will be new cycles of farming, the start of the new legal year will be marked, historically your debts would have had to be settled at this time, and you should no longer pick the blackberries, apparently, and you might enjoy the Michaelmas daisies bringing colour to fading summer gardens.

In the midst of the closings and openings of this time of year, its good to pause and notice, to pay attention to God's work among us. This weekend we are rejoicing with Liz in her ordination to the priesthood and that particular new beginning. We might also pause and notice where there might be things for each of us to be bold enough to put down and create spaces and opportunities to pick up and explore new vocations.

*O glorious prince St Michael,  
Chief and commander of the heavenly host  
Guardian of our souls  
Servant in the house of the Divine King  
And our admiral conductor  
You who shine with excellence.  
We turn to you with confidence to enable us  
With your gracious protection  
To serve God more and more faithfully every day*

**Kate**

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

Ezekiel 18, 1 – 4, 25 – end. The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Philippians 2, 1 - 13. If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence,

work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21, 23 – 32, When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’ Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?” But if we say, “Of human origin”, we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | For the congregation and parish of All Saints Epping Upland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | For anyone who is fearful of going outside now that darker evenings are with us.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | For all those who are involved in the Epping for Everyone project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | For all pupils and staff at Epping Upland Primary 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. Pray also for Liz as she starts her new role after Ordination as a Priest. |

**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:**

**Those whose anniversary of death occurs during this week: 27<sup>th</sup>**

September, - ;

28<sup>th</sup>, Donald Connolly, Johannes Van Der Zee, Emily King, David Stone; 29<sup>th</sup>, Beatrice Snowden, Robert Griggs, Peter Hammond, Albert Porter, Ronald Green; 30<sup>th</sup>, Charles Puttick, Laurence King, Ann Jones; 1<sup>st</sup> October, Rosina Lee, Florence Pegrum; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jane Snewin, Marjorie Malyon, George Green, Robert Woolhead; 3<sup>rd</sup>, - .

**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

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

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES will be held in the churches of Benefice of the Epping District on:

Sunday 4th October, 11:10 am at Epping Upland & at St Alban's Coopersale

Sunday 11th October, 9:20am at St John's Epping - with church parade.

In each church there will be collections of food which will be passed to the Epping Forest Food Bank to support their provision of support to those in need locally. Donations of dried/tinned foods and toiletries are especially welcome (but no fresh produce please).

NEW MINISTRY PLACEMENT Jessica Wells will be joining us on placement in October as she starts her third year of ministerial training. She is studying part time at the Eastern Region Ministry Course. Jess and her husband Nathan have lived in Roydon, Essex for nearly 20 years, having escaped from

Central London as soon as they could. (Jess grew up in rural Shropshire and Nathan in rural Northern Ireland, so city life was not for them.)

Jess is a barrister, specialising in public international law, public law and shipping law. She intends to continue her legal practice after ordination so will be a self-supporting minister.

In her spare time, Jess enjoys gardening, cycling and jogging.

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 on the following Saturday dates at 12:00 noon:, **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 St John's Church and leave in the box at that back or give to one us. Thank you, Kate and Cathy

**SATURDAY COFFEE CONCERTS** 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.

**REPAIR CAFÉ COMING TO ST JOHN'S!** We're launching a Repair Café at St John's Church during Monday Morning Coffee from 5<sup>th</sup> October 2026. 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. All proceeds will support St John's and Epping Mothers' Union. Headsets are limited, so book early! 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)

**THE NEW BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY.** Steve and Diana started this course on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September** and it continues 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.

**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. 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. To book a place, please contact Rebecca Fricker on [beckirees@hotmail.com](mailto:beckirees@hotmail.com)

**THE CRAFT GROUP** will next be held in St John's will be on 28<sup>th</sup> October from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

**TODAY** Our prayers are also asked for **The REVD DR LIZ GLOYN** who was ordained as Priest yesterday at St Michael's church Westcliff -on Sea, by the Bishop of Bradwell. Liz will continue serve with us in the parishes of the Epping District. She is celebrating Holy Communion for the first time at a special joint Benefice service **TODAY** in St John's at 10:00 am, **followed by cake and fizz**

**THE NEXT TAIZE SERVICE** in St John's will be on 4<sup>th</sup> October at 6:00 pm. If you have never been to a Taize service before, give it a try. It is a quiet reflective service with the opportunity to join in singing simple chants accompanied by the piano, violin, flute and cello.

**SERVICES FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2026, Trinity 18**

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

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

**11:10 am Harvest Festival, All Saints Epping Upland**

**11:10 am Harvest Festival, St Albans's Coopersale**

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

**READINGS:**

**St Johns - Isaiah 5, 1 - 7; Philippians 3, 4b - 14; Matthew 21, 33 - end**

**St Albans - 2 Corinthians 9:6-end, Luke 17:11-19**

## THE ROAD WE'VE TRAVELLED

I found myself asking a question recently.

Where is my testimony?

Perhaps you've asked that too.

We hear stories of dramatic conversions, remarkable answers to prayer or extraordinary encounters with God and quietly wonder, is that what a testimony should look like? If so, where is mine?

God's work is wonderfully varied. For some, it comes in unmistakable turning points; for others like me, in quieter ways that only become clear over time.

Alongside my pastoral care friends, I worship with residents living with dementia at Weald Hall. I often come away happier, more energised and deeply moved.

Yet I've noticed it isn't the feeling itself that stays with me, but the quieter traces of something else.

A little more peace.

A sense of thankfulness.

The fleeting moments when a familiar hymn or prayer lights a resident up from within.

Relief after placing something into God's hands.

A desire to return and serve again.

None of these feels dramatic. Yet they are gentle reminders that God's grace is quietly at work.

Perhaps that is part of what testimony really is. Not simply the story of how we first came to know God, but the ongoing story of how he continues to shape us, often in ways we only recognise when we pause and look back.

Like many people, I spend a lot of time looking down the road, imagining there will come a day when I finally become the person God wants me to be. The road can seem endlessly long, and all I notice are the places where I still fall short. Perhaps God invites us to pause. To turn around and look at the road we've already travelled.

Not to look for perfection- we're unlikely to find it.

We may still lose our patience, worry, struggle to forgive and need to begin again.

But perhaps we might notice something else.

Maybe we pause a little longer before speaking when we would once have reacted.

Perhaps we recover a little more quickly after disappointment.

Or we find ourselves a little kinder.

A little more willing to trust.

A little readier to pray.

A little quicker to show compassion.

Small changes.

Yet perhaps that is often how grace works—not always through dramatic moments, but through God’s patient work within us, quietly shaping our hearts over time.

I’m beginning to discover that God is far more patient with me than I have often been with myself. Perhaps he asks only that I keep walking with him, one step at a time.

Most of us simply show up as we are, with good intentions and a simple prayer: “Lord, help me find a way.” Often, we can only see the next step. Somehow, that has always proved enough.

So, if, like me, you’ve ever wondered where your testimony is, perhaps don’t look only for the extraordinary as confirmation that God is working alongside you.

Pause for a moment.

Look back at the road you’ve travelled.

Not to see how far you still must go, but to notice how far God’s grace has already brought you.

Perhaps your testimony is found not in one extraordinary moment, but in countless ordinary ones in which God has quietly shaped your heart.

One quiet refinement at a time.

**Nerys Williams-Murray 18/09/2026**

~~~~~ **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**