



CELEBRATE, SHARE AND GROW IN CHRIST

SUNDAY, 25th October 2026, Bible Sunday

Nehemiah 8, 1 - 4a, 8-12; Colossians 3, 12 - 17; Matthew 24, 30 - 35

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

THE CLOCKS HAVE CHANGED !

A reminder - the clocks go back an hour this Sunday, 25th October.

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

9:20 am Sung Communion with groups for children and young people and with Baptisms of Sherice and Kaila Edwards-Courtier, with hymns 769, 9 (omit *), 589, 727, 489, anthem *I give you a new commandment* (Peter Aston) and voluntary *Procession of the Mastersingers* (Richard Wagner), **St John's Epping**

11:10 am Holy Communion, All Saints Epping Upland

11:10 am Holy Communion, St Albans's Coopersale

6:00 pm No services

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Monday - Wednesday, St John's Epping

8:45 am MORNING PRAYER

Monday - Wednesday, St John's Epping

5:00 pm 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** ~~~~~

We celebrate Bible Sunday this week, and it is a particularly important year to do so: 2026 is the 500th anniversary of William Tyndale's English New Testament. It's impossible to overestimate how important Tyndale has been for Christian life in the English-speaking world. He lived in an era when the printing press had just been invented, and Martin Luther had published a translation of the New Testament into German. Tyndale wanted to follow in Luther's footsteps – but legally he was not able to do so without a bishop's authorisation. When Tyndale sought such an authorisation from the Bishop of London, the bishop refused.

Tyndale did not let this stop him, moving to Germany to pursue his project. He completed his translation of the New Testament in Cologne, and then had it printed in Worms, a city on the Rhine, in 1526. He then learned Hebrew and began a translation of the Old Testament; sadly, his move to Antwerp meant the project was never completed. In Belgium, Protestant ideas were treated as heretical; Tyndale was executed on the grounds of heresy in 1536.

Tyndale gave us the very first translation of the New Testament into English, and as such it became hugely influential – he had to make up new words in English to capture words which had up to that point always been expressed in ancient Greek, and gave us phrases we still use today. 'Salt of the earth', 'writing on the wall', 'scapegoat' and 'peacemaker' all come from Tyndale.

If you're inclined to micro-pilgrimages, it happens that we are excellently placed to visit two of the three surviving copies of the 1526 New Testament – one is held in the British Library, and a partial copy is at St. Paul's.

But however fascinating the history may get, whatever interesting exhibits you may visit or curious articles you may read, do not lose sight of the fact that William Tyndale was so moved by his deep desire to let each person encounter the word of God in their own language that he was willing to lay down his life to spread the good news. We continue to be enriched by his commitment to spreading the Gospel – and this, too, is the Living Word of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

**- Liz**

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

Nehemiah 8, - 4a, 8 - 12. All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.' So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.' And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

Colossians 3, 12 - 17. As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Matthew 24, 30 - 35. Jesus said to his disciples, 'The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see "the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven" with power and great

glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

~~~~~ **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 feels threatened or scared when out-and-about.                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | For all those caught up in natural disasters, accidents or events out of their control.                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | For the 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:** June, Caroline, Harriet, David, Rebecca, Sam, Marion, Pam, Jim, Lisa, Eden, Norah Graham.

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

**Those whose anniversary of death occurs during this week:** 25<sup>th</sup> October, Florence Roberts; 26<sup>th</sup>, Herbert Francis, Kathleen Knight, Edith Whitehouse, Lilian Davis, Norman Mundy, Lilian Somerville, Gina Johnson; 27<sup>th</sup>, Aline Wythes, Alice Newell, Arthur Graves, Deryck Hare, James Kirtley; 28<sup>th</sup>, Allan Church, Daniel Sidell; 29<sup>th</sup>, Francis Keiller, William Knight; 30<sup>th</sup>, Charles Newell, Alfred Booth, Derk Hart, Peter Hill, Terence Simkins, Sylvia Green; 31<sup>st</sup>, Leslie Syms, Frederick Burton, Brenda Everett.

**COLLECT for this Sunday.**

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our

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 AND TEAM VICAR** ~ ~ ~

**REMEMBERING THOSE WE HAVE LOVED** There is a special quiet, reflective service at 4:00 pm on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November at St John's to remember in God's presence a loved one who has died. It will comprise hymns, Bible readings, and an opportunity to light a candle as an act of prayer. The service takes place annually in the Benefice of the Epping District on the first Sunday in November around All Saints Day and All Souls Day.

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** On Remembrance Sunday (8<sup>th</sup> November) there will be a special pattern of services. Holy Communion will be celebrated at St John's at 8:00 am as usual. Later in the day Remembrance Sunday services will be held at 10:30 am at St John's Epping and at 10:45 am at St Alban's Coopersale and All Saints Epping Upland. There will be a Civic Remembrance service in partnership with Royal British Legion held at St John's Epping at 3:00 pm to which all are invited as we gather for this significant day in our national life.

**COURSE IN CHRISTIAN STUDIES (CCS)** The CCS course is an 2-year discipleship programme which has been run for many years in the Diocese of Chelmsford. It is an opportunity to explore the Christian faith in more depth than is possible on Sunday mornings. The first year embraces Foundations in Theology and the second year Foundations in Ministry. The aim of the course is to deepen each student's faith through studying the Bible, Church traditions and Doctrine as well as exploring where God might be calling each one in the future. A group will be running in St John's on Tuesday evenings from January 2027. To find out more, please speak to any member of the ministry team or visit: <https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/vocations-and-discipleship/discipleship/course-in-christian-studies>

**VOLUNTARY ACTION EPPING FOREST** VAEF has its origins as the Council for Voluntary Services for the Epping Forest District. Originally it was a membership body, with a Board drawn from voluntary groups across the District but this changed and there is now a Board of Trustees with no specific affiliations. In recent times it has become known for delivering a range of services: Community Clubs for people at risk of loneliness, support for people with Learning Disabilities, Benefits advice and guidance and Men's Sheds. In

addition, it stepped up to play a significant role during the COVID period, the Ukrainian resettlement campaign and the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

It is currently considering its future priorities in order to develop a strategy around both continuing to develop services for people in need and also providing wider support for the Voluntary sector, which it continues to do, but with very limited funding. The Board recognises the need for more expertise and energy to be brought in to support our future development. In particular there is a lack Trustees with real marketing and business development experience and a gap for Trustees with lived experience of the types of issues we seek to address.

New Trustees do not need any experience of this type of role, or any management position. Meetings are held quarterly but encourage all Trustees to join one of our sub committees (usually held on- line) and to visit some of the services being delivered.

If anyone is interested in taking up this role please contact the Chair, David Tetlow on [dtetlow@vaef.org.uk](mailto:dtetlow@vaef.org.uk)

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

**EPPING FOR PEACE WORKSHOP:** Alternatives to Violence Project, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2:00 – 5:00 pm, St. John's Epping.

St. John's and Epping Quakers continue to work together to create opportunities for promoting promote peace and understanding in Epping. This workshop is delivered by the Alternatives to Violence Project, who are committed to a world where everyone has the courage and capacity to manage conflict non-violently. The workshop will explore the themes of conflict resolution and transformation alongside empathy and trust. We are initially making 20 places available for this session and have capacity to add more if there is enough interest. Our intention is for this event to be a safe space, so we are advertising it within our communities; we welcome attendees who you are able to invite directly and in confidence. To book a place, please contact: Rev. Dr. Liz Gloyn on [curate@eppinganglicans.org.uk](mailto:curate@eppinganglicans.org.uk).

At the request of her family, I am able to share the news that **Margaret Sylvia Bale** died on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2026. She had been a regular at Monday Morning Coffee in St John's until the end of last year.

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

The new porch doors in St John's will now open automatically and sense anyone moving towards them from either side.

SATURDAY COFFEE CONCERTS The autumn series of coffee concerts concludes in **St John's** on 7th November. Coffee is served from 10:30 am and the concerts start at 11:00 am. See also the poster outside the church.

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

REPAIR CAFÉ COMING TO ST JOHN'S! We launched a Repair Café at **St John's Church** during Monday Morning Coffee on 5th October 2026 and these will continue on 2nd November,, 11th January and 6th February. If you'd like to find out more or get involved, please contact Natalie (nkelberman@eppinganglicans.org.uk).

NATIONAL EMERGENCY BRIEFING. Those of you who came to this, and all who signed the petition, will be pleased to know that Parliament will be debating whether this should be shown on mainstream TV, on 16th November 2026. NEB is a timely warning about how climate change is already affecting us and what we can do about it which is why we want it discussed in parliament. as Christians caring for Creation is the Fifth Mark of Mission. Please pray for a positive outcome.

SERVICES FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 1st November 2026, All Saints

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

9:20 am Sung Communion with groups for children and young people,
St John's Epping

11:10 am Holy Communion, All Saints Epping Upland

11:10 am Holy Communion, St Albans's Coopersale

4:00 pm Remembering those we have loved; a service for All Souls Day.

READINGS:

Revelation 7, 9 - end; 1 John 3, 1 - 3; Matthew 5, 1 - 12

~~~~~ **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](http://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

Revd Kate Moore: Team Vicar – 01992 265590

Rest days, usually Thursday/Friday

Email: teamvicar@eppinganglicans.org.uk

Revd Jessica Bostock: Associate Minister,

E-mail: jbostock@eppinganglicans.org.uk

Revd Dr Liz Gloyn: Curate

E-Mail: curate@eppinganglicans.org.uk

Licensed Lay Ministers

Diana Lowry: 01992 279696

Email: Dlowry@eppinganglians.org.uk

Steve Snooks: 01992 572185

Email: 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

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

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 Epping for use in church.

You can follow the churches of the Benefice on Facebook