



CELEBRATE, SHARE AND GROW IN CHRIST

SUNDAY, 4th October 2026, Trinity 18

**Isaiah 5, 1 - 7; Philippians 3, 4b - 14; Matthew 21, 33 – end
(St Alban's and All Saints: 2 Corinthians 9, 6 – end; Luke 17, 11 – 19)**

~~~ 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 421, 696, 291 (pt 2, omit *), 451, 604, Anthem "A Gaelic Blessing" *John Rutter*
and Voluntary "Fuga from Sonata No. 2" *Mendelssohn*.

11:10 am HARVEST FESTIVAL, All Saints Epping Upland

11:10 am HARVEST FESTIVAL, St Alban's Coopersale

6:00 pm SUNDAY @ SIX, Taize Service, St John's Epping

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Monday - Wednesday, St John's Epping

8:45 am MORNING PRAYER

Monday - Thursday, St John's Epping

5:00 pm 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** ~~~~~

Today at St John's we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mothers' Union and their work to support family life, and at All Saints and St Alban's it is Harvest Sunday. Both services have thankfulness at their heart, and also prayer for an end to hardship, whether that is lack of food or safety or even lack of a home at all. But like all prayer, praying for these things is dangerous because God might be nudging each of us to be part of the answer to these prayers. Churches across the world are places where the hungry are fed and the gift of a safe and loving community can be found by and for people of all ages. Maybe it is because these themes have been in my thoughts that this week, I was particularly struck by some words which were shared with me. Whilst the exact authorship is unknown, and they focus particularly on the challenges there can be for those who share a home with young children, there is wisdom in them for all of us.

*If your kids are loud, please still come to church.*

*If you're running late because getting everyone out the door was a battle, please still come to church.*

*If your toddler won't sit still, please still come to church.*

*If your baby needs to eat, please still come to church.*

*If your child asks questions at the least convenient time, please still come to church.*

*If someone cries, drops a toy, needs a snack, or has to make their third trip to the bathroom, please still come to church.*

*If your child doesn't know all the words, all the prayers, or exactly when to sit and stand, please still come to church.*

*If you feel like you spent the entire service managing your children and heard approximately 12% of the sermon, please still come to church.*

*If Sunday morning feels messy instead of peaceful, please still come to church.*

*If you're worried your children are distracting the people around you, please still come to church.*

*Because children do not learn how to be part of the Church by staying home until they can sit quiet: they learn by being here; they learn the hymns and songs by hearing us sing them. They learn the prayers by hearing us pray them; they learn to worship by watching us worship. They learn that church is home because we make room for them here; the wiggles, dropped toys, crying babies, and little voices are not interruptions to the life of the Church. They are evidence that the Church is alive.*

So, this Sunday, let us together give thanks for signs of life we see all around us – both in our churches and in the world which God has made. Let us celebrate the goodness of God in creation seen in the food which the earth brings forth and also in the family of the church into which all are welcome.

**John**

PS – Don't forget one way we can express our thankfulness for the goodness of God is to bring donations of food (tinned or long life) to our Harvest services – these will be passed to the Epping Forest Food Bank as they support any in need in our local community.

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

**Isaiah 5, 1 - 7.** Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

**Philippians 3, 4b - 14.** If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

**Matthew 21, 33 - end,** 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-

tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"?'

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.' When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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**2 Corinthians 9.6-end** The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

**Luke 17.11-19** On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was

healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan.

Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

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

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| Monday | For the congregation and parish of St John's Epping |
| Tuesday | For anyone who is fearful of going outside now that darker evenings are with us. |
| Wednesday | For all those who are Pastoral Carers and those who visit the housebound and care homes. |
| Thursday | For those we know who have moved away. |
| 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. 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: 5th October, Julia Sapsford, Louisa Milne, Alfred Archer; 5th, John Sullivan, Jeffrey Dellow, Audrey Briggs; 6th, Florence Trewman, Annie Barlow, Oscar Pritchard, Lilian Green; 7th, Ronald Brazier, Violet Archer, Gerald Kent; 8th, Elizabeth, Joslin, Atherton Knowles, Mary Newell, Martin Foskett, Mildred Saltmarsh; 9th, Charles Mortlock, Katherine Swarder; 10th, Mabel Ratcliffe, Ethel Fenner, Catherine Bancroft.

COLLECT for this Sunday. Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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** ~~~~~

**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.

If you wish to be Confirmed on 22nd November please make contact with a member of the team by the end of this week. 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](mailto:teamadmin@eppinganglicans.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.

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

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES will be held in the churches of Benefice of the Epping District: **Today, 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).

TREE FESTIVAL. 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 – 10th Oct, Simon Winters; 7th 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 5th 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).

THE NEW BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY. Steve and Diana started this course on **Wednesday 16th 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.

THE CRAFT GROUP will next be held in St John's will be on 21st October from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. (Note new date).

THE NEXT TAIZE SERVICE in St John's is today 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.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMMUNITY DAY: 11:00 am-5:00 pm, Saturday 10th October, Civic Offices, Epping. The event, organised by the Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership and Epping Forest & Brentwood Independent Advisory Group for Essex Police, will bring together local communities for a day of culture, learning and connection. The programme features cultural performances, community speakers, information stalls, health and wellbeing information, arts and crafts activities, and refreshments. The event aims to provide an inclusive and welcoming space for everyone to come together and celebrate the contributions, achievements and experiences of Black communities. To book your ticket and find out more, visit <https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/black-history-month-community-day/>

SERVICES FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 11th October 2026, Trinity 19

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

9:20 am Harvest Festival, 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 Choral Evensong, St John's Epping

READINGS: Isaiah 25.1-9; Philippians 4.1-9; Matthew 22.1-14

~~~~~ **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