epping team ministry NEWS

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

CELEBRATE, SHARE AND GROW IN CHRIST

SUNDAY, 8th NOVEMBER 2026, Remembrance Day

Amos 5.18-24; 1 Thessalonians 4.13-end; Matthew 25.1-13

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP), St John's Epping
10:30 am Remembrance Sunday Service, with groups for children and young people and hymns 746, 725, 358, 164, 578 (Vs. 1), **St John's Epping**
10:45 am Remembrance Sunday Service, All Saints Epping Upland
10:50 am Remembrance Sunday Service, St Albans's Coopersale
3:00 pm Civic Remembrance Service with the Royal British Legion, 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 ~~~~~~~~~~

IS YOUR FAITH ALIVE?

Have you ever wondered about how alive or active your faith is? Or have you become concerned that your faith feels absent, possibly weak or even dim? You are not alone, God could be asking you to check in with your faith journey. Let's assume you are tired and feel your faith has burnout. Fear not because God can do much with a few smouldering embers. Ask yourself a fundamental question, are you spiritually ready to meet Christ? Are you ready for death like alas all those souls in the first world war trenches and many others? Sigfried Sassoon wrote a poem about being in the trenches and how the feelings of a young soldier changed from the joy of fighting for his country to an over whelming glumness summed up in a few lines:

I knew a simple soldier boy
Who grinned at life in empty joy,
And whistled early with the lark.
In winter trenches, cowed and glum,
(He finished his life so not to be numb.) (paraphrased)

Oil in the parable of the "ten bridesmaids" is the Holy Spirit helping us to be spiritually ready for Jesus now and on His return, five bridesmaids alas were not, so they panicked trying to find more oil. The lamps radiate our faith, but they do need oil, the Holy Spirit to shine brightly. If your oil should run out then we won't know if Jesus has returned, because the Holy Spirit is absent. Finding more oil is by our inner spiritual readiness, which itself is rejuvenated by our waiting in readiness for Jesus to return. What a wonderful gift God's Spirit is, which He gives freely to us, we don't earn such grace, nor can we buy it. Therefore, not knowing when Jesus will return is a blessing which helps us to receive the Holy Spirit, so our oil is replenished to welcome God into our shining lives of faith.

Amen, Steve

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

Amos 5, 18 - 24. Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake.
Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?
I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

1 Thessalonians 4, 13 - 18. But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Matthew 25, 1 - 13. Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

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

Monday	For the congregation and parish of All Saints, Epping Upland
Tuesday	For anyone beginning to feel the cold, that they will find sufficient warmth.
Wednesday	For all those who we know that are expecting changes in their lives, that they may find a way through with relief and consolation.
Thursday	For the pupils and staff at Epping Upland Primary School.
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.

Those who are sick and for whom prayers have been asked: June, Caroline, Harriet, David, Rebecca, Sam, Marion, Pam, Jim, Lisa, Eden, Norah Graham, Valerie.

Those who have died recently, their family and friends:

Those whose anniversary of death occurs during this week: 8th November, Helen Barker; 9th, Percy Francis, Louise Stapleton, John Goldsmith, Tyrell Shaw; 10th, Kate Potter, James Knight, Marjorie Speakman, Thomas Hughes, Simon Guest; 11th, Grace Sullivan, Charlotte Williams, Cyril Hutchins, Albert Belverstone, Mary Kidby, Trevor Steer, Cliff Tredgett, Fay Miller, Miles Furlong; 12th, Roland Dodd; 13th, Annie Newell, Lilian Toseland, George Tokley, Thomas Hard, Ada Foster; 14th, Caroline Silwood, Thomas Monckton, Edgar Gould, Clifford Gilson, David Crocombe, Paul Hopkins.

COLLECT for this Sunday.

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
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 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

DELVING DEEPER DAY WITH THE BISHOP OF BRADWELL. Next Wednesday 11th November from 10:30 am – 3:00 pm, Bishop Adam will be leading a day at Mulberry House Ongar. The day will start with a short time of worship songs with Gary Wilder. There will be a short act of Remembrance at 11am and then Bishop Adam will speak on: The inner life - honesty and poetry. What do you say to God when you pray? How do you feel in that moment of total exposure?
The image of the man and woman walking with God in the cool of the day is a picture of friendship, communication, and peace. That image and style of prayer is one that we, the Church, are encouraged to participate in.
Bishop Adam has written on the inner life and uses poetry to help bring clarity in his own prayer. Come and reflect on what that might mean for you.
You can see more details and how to book on can be found at :
https://nationwidechristiantrust.com/events-and-training/delving-deeper

HEALING SERVICE – 6:00 pm on SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER. This evening service at St John's will be a said service with the opportunity for any who wish it to receive healing prayer and/or anointing with oil. There has long been a tradition of seeking God in prayer for wholeness in body, mind and spirit and the practice of anointing as a sign and symbol of the presence of the Spirit on that healing journey. Our approach to this ministry in the Benefice is inspired by the work of the Guild of Health and St Raphael, if you would like to explore about this please do explore their website. A good place to begin is https://gohealth.org.uk/about-us/our-faith/our-theology/

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

THE INEQE INDEPENDENT SAFEGUARDING AUDIT – share your views.
The Independent Safeguarding organisation INEQE will be auditing safeguarding across the Diocese of Chelmsford in February. It is part of a Church of England wide

series of audits to help ensure dioceses and cathedrals are doing everything they can to create environments where people feel safe, valued and respected in our church communities.
Ahead of the Chelmsford Diocese audit they are asking people to take part in a short survey. This is anonymous and confidential, and the results go straight to INEQE. It is also very straightforward to complete. It's really important that they hear from as many people as possible in our church communities, so please do take a short time to share your views before the survey closes at 11:30pm on 8th December.
There are different versions of the survey for different groups of people. If you belong to more than one group, please fill out a survey for each group you belong to. The surveys for Chelmsford Diocese can be accessed online by visiting ineqe.com/churchofengland/chelmsford/

BIBLE STUDY GROUP we will continue to meet on the following Saturday dates at 12:00 noon: **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.

EPPING FOR PEACE WORKSHOP: Alternatives to Violence Project, 15th 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. 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

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

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

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

SATURDAY COFFEE CONCERTS The autumn series of coffee concerts concludes in **St John's** on 7th November. Coffee is served from10:30 am and the concerts start at 11:00 am. See also the poster outside the church.

SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2026 in St John's Church, a concert by Harlow Chorus of Mozart's Great Mass and Vesperae Solennes. Tickets via their website.

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. The 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.

CHRISTMAS MEMORY TRAIN Wednesday 2nd December at 10:30 am. Free ride on the Epping-Ongar Railway for Epping Forest residents with dementia or mild cognitive impairment and a friend, family member or carer. Tickets are available from 2nd November 2026, phone 01992 564226 (10:00 am-4:00 pm). The train travels from North Weald to Ongar, then to Coopersale and back to North Weald. A light lunch is served on the train. Any questions? Contact Karen Murray on 077893 72196 or email to: kmurray@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

REPAIR CAFÉ in ST JOHN'S. The next sessions are on 11th January and 6th February 2027. If you'd like to find out more or get involved, please contact Natalie (nkelberman@eppinganglicans.org.uk).

NEWS for Sunday 15th November 2026 Please note that, as I will be away, any NEWS items should be sent to Lisa in the Team Office before next Thursday. Thanks, Geoff

SERVICES FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 15th November 2026, Second before Advent

8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP), St John's Epping
9:20 am Sung Communion with groups for children and young people.
11:10 am Holy Communion, All Saints Epping Upland
11:10 am Holy Communion, St Alban's Coopersale
6:00 pm Healing Service

READINGS:
Zephaniah 1.7, 12-end; 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-30

~~~~~~ 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 934 355
Rest day, usually Saturday
E-mail: teamrector@eppinganglicans.org.uk

Revd Kate Moore: Team Vicar – 01992 265 590
Rest days, usually Friday/Saturday
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

Dr Diana Lowry: 01992 279 696
Email: Dlowry@eppinganglians.org.uk
Dr Steve Snooks: 01992 572 185
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 579 935 - E-mail: teamadmin@eppinganglicans.org.uk
NEWS items for next week: Geoff Scanlan - 01992 576 550 - E-mail: rosandgeoff@btinternet.com
Website Enquiries: Richard Mortimer – Email: rmortimer@eppinganglicans.org.uk

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