



epping
team ministry

NEWS

CELEBRATE, SHARE AND GROW IN CHRIST

Sunday, 1st March 2026, Lent 2

Genesis 12.1-4a; Romans 4.1-5, 13-17; John 3.1-17

SUNDAY

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

9:20 am SUNG COMMUNION, St John's Epping

With hymns 791 (omit *), 4, 748, 135, 593i (omit *), Anthem (Turn thy face from my sins, *Thomas Attwood*) and Voluntary (Prelude and fugue in C minor, *J S Bach*)

11:10 am PARISH COMMUNION, All Saints Epping Upland

11:00 am MORNING WORSHIP, St Alban's Coopersale

No evening service in the Team today

MONDAY

8:45 am MORNING PRAYER, St John's Epping

12:00 noon LENT COURSE, St John's Epping

TUESDAY

10:00 am EXPLORING THE BIBLE, St John's House Epping

7:30 pm LENT COURSE, St John's House Epping

7:30 pm 'PCC Tonight' training course, St Alban's Coopersale

WEDNESDAY

8:45 am MORNING PRAYER, St John's Epping

9:30 am HOLY COMMUNION, St John's Epping

THURSDAY

10:00 am CHURCH MICE, St John's Epping

This is held during school term times: Contact Kate Collin on 07951484805 or email kate.collin212@gmail.com

ST JOHN'S IS USUALLY OPEN DAILY FOR PRIVATE PRAYER,
except Bank Holidays or other specific occasions.

Please consider switching your mobile phone to silent mode or switching it off before a Sunday service begins and taking a moment to pray that we may all be fully present with each other and with Christ.

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

Genesis 12, 1 – 4a

The Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Romans 4, 1 - 5 and 13 – 17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

John 3, 1 – 17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you”, and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.” ’ Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.” ’ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! for it is written, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.” ’ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without

being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above. "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

----- **FOR OUR PRAYERS DURING THE WEEK** -----

- Monday** For the congregation and parish of **St Alban's Coopersale**.
Tuesday For all people indirectly affected by the decisions of others, even if these are not in their best interest.
Wednesday For everyone planning marriage or baptism in one of The team churches this year.
Thursday For all pupils and staff of Coopersale Primary School.
Friday For the Ministry Team, especially for our Rector; 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 Breen, David, Jean Goldsmith, Rebecca Salmon, Sam Chard, Marion Joslin.

Please note that names will appear here for a short time only, unless the request to the Team Office is repeated.

Those who have died recently, their family and friends:

Carole Whitting, Pauline Langman.

Those whose anniversary of death occurs during this week:

1st March, Margaret Moggridge, Gladys Knight; 2nd, Hugh Swarder, Mary Williams, David St Clair ; 3rd, Arthur Wheeler, Tony Harvey; 4th, John Sains, Annette Hambleton, William Porter, Richard Tudor; 5th, Fanny Swarder, Rosina Warren, Frederick Pocock; Winnie Peachment; 6th, John Silwood,

Geoff Scott, Geoffrey Taylor, Doris Jolly, Leonard Pithers, Christopher Trussell, William Bailes: Hugh Sworder, Michael Ashley, Tom Webby, Dorothy Seymour, Beryl Cuthbert.

COLLECT for this Sunday. Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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

COLLECT for this Sunday.

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

----- **FOR YOUR INFORMATION** -----

THE CRAFT GROUP will be held in St John's on **25th March** and **29th April** 2026 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

ST JOHN'S SUNG EVENSONG, 8th March 2026. Responses: Ebdon, Magnificat & Nunc dimittis: Holman in F minor, Anthem: Wash me thoroughly (S.S. Wesley), Voluntary: Fugue in G minor (Dupré)

LENT GROUPS This year, the beginning of Lent marks the beginning of a season of 100 days of prayer in the Diocese of Chelmsford and this year, there is an invitation in the Epping Team to join one of two study groups taking place. 9 See the front page of the NEWS). Both groups will be exploring the journey of Jesus' disciples on the Emmaus road, where uncertainty, loss and resurrection were part of their experience.

POETRY AND FAITH IN LENT - with the Bishop of Bradwell. Epping Forest and Ongar Deanery will be hosting Bishop Adam for a series of talks during Lent on faith and poetry. The series will take place at **St John's Church, Loughton** on Mondays **9th, 16th and 23rd March** at 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided. There is the option to join online by visiting @StJohnsLoughton on Facebook and YouTube.

REYNOLDS SERMON The Reynolds Sermon is an annual event held at **St John's** Epping, continuing a tradition began many years ago of inviting a preacher to come and speak to the parish on a topic of interest (and is paid £1 for doing so as part of this historic tradition). This year the event will be held on Wednesday **25th March** at 7:30 pm

and the speaker will be the **Rev'd Will Rose-Moore** who is a priest and theologian, currently serving as Assistant Curate at St John the Baptist, Loughton. Will is the author of *Unravelling Biblical Masculinities* (2022) and editor of *For Nothing is Hidden: Masculinities and Trauma in Church and Theology* (2026). The topic of the sermon will be based on his book

Boys Will Be Boys? Exploring Masculinity in the Bible and Christian Faith

In this sermon, we will explore what masculinity is (or what masculinities are) and why being aware of what it means to be a man is important for our Christian faith - not only how we engage with one another, but how we encounter God and the Bible.

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

SERVICES FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 8th March 2026, Lent 3

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

9:20 am UpFront, **St John's** Epping

11:10 am Holy Communion, **St Alban's** Coopersale

11:00 am Parish Communion, **All Saints** Epping Upland

4:00 pm Choral Evensong **St John's** Epping

READINGS: Exodus 17.1-17; Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42

THINKING OF JOINING THE PCC? Anyone interested in exploring this opportunity is invited to join existing PCC members at a series of training sessions entitled "PCC Tonight"; - the next session will take place this Tuesday, **3rd March** at **St Alban's Coopersale** and the final session on Tuesday **10th March** at **All Saints Epping Upland** (both at 7.30pm).

APCMs St John's Yearbook is now being compiled - please write an article about your group; use Word or PDF format and send your articles via email to me at brant714@btinternet.com, by **20th March**.

St John's APCM will be after the 9:20 am service on Sunday **26th April**

St Alban's APCM will be after the 11:10 am service on **Sunday 3rd May. All Saints** APCM will be after the 11:10 am service on **Sunday 17th May**.

LIVE STREAMING AT ST JOHN'S Following a period of prayer and consultation by the live stream working group of the PCC, it has been determined that our future online offering will be a live stream of the midweek service. This has not been an easy decision, consideration was given to balance the needs of those who can no longer attend services in church alongside our responsibilities for Safeguarding and data protection.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY - Event Vergers St John's needed to support the hire of the building to external groups. They open and close the church for private events, stay on site/around for the duration of the event, support hirers with use of sound system (if required), and other practical matters and ensure that the church building is returned to its usual state at the end of the hire. Ideally Event

vergers are first aid trained, or be willing to be trained. They are paid £60 for the first 4 hours and £15 for each extra hour beyond that. To find out more, please contact the churchwardens (Sara McLean or Marian Winters) or the Team Rector.

RECTOR'S REST DAY. Please note that, from now on, John will usually take Saturday off as his rest day.

----- PLEDGED 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.

COLLECTIONS IN SUNDAY SERVICES: A cash collection is taken at Sunday and midweek services. Please don't feel any embarrassment to let it pass you by.

PARISH GIVING SCHEME (PGS): Similar to direct debit payments but set up an account by calling PGS on 0333 002 1271 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

