



**epping**  
team ministry

**NEWS**

**CELEBRATE, SHARE AND GROW IN CHRIST**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025, Advent 4  
to  
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026, Epiphany**



**A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE**

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **SERVICES IN THE TEAM FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Readings for Advent 4: Isaiah 7.10-16; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-end**

<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP), St John's Epping</b>
<b>9:20 am</b>	<b>Sung Communion, St John's Epping</b> with hymns 83, 88, 589, 79, 86, Anthem (Lo, how a Rose e'er Blooming, <i>Praetorius</i> ) and Voluntary (Ave Maria, <i>Brahms</i> edited by Gower)
<b>11:10 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion, St Alban's Coopersale</b>
<b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>Carol Service, All Saints Epping Upland</b>
<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Nine Lessons and Carols, St John's Epping</b>

**MONDAY 22nd December**

<b>8:45 am</b>	<b>MORNING PRAYER, St John's Epping</b>
----------------	---

**TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

<b>8:45 am</b>	<b>MORNING PRAYER, St John's Epping</b>
<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>HOLY COMMUNION, St John's Epping</b>

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Today (Sunday 21st Dec) is the Fourth Sunday in Advent and the theme of this last week in Advent is LOVE. We light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath and during these four weeks we have been called to reflect on the love that the birth of Jesus Christ brings to the world. The four candles on the wreath symbolise the message of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

This question kept coming to mind – Is reflecting and connecting to the spiritual significance of Advent making a difference as to how some of us are allowing Jesus even more deeply into our hearts, to influence and transform how we relate to each other even more? Just thinking about Sunday mornings in church- how easy it is for some of us to greet our friends and our buddies- to have a good catch-up, but perhaps more difficult and maybe feels sacrificial to connect with people we don't know so well or at all, someone outside of our 'group'. Have we noticed the newcomer that now no longer attends? Are we curious why this might be and why this has actually happened? And, of course, we are also called to reflect on God's love that comes down at Christmastide in the form of His Son the Babe Jesus versus worldly love.

The Gospel reading today has a focus on Joseph and here I cannot put it better than the Archdeacon of Southend in her reflection when she talks about how Joseph could have publicly shamed Mary but he doesn't; he turned aside from the positional power he enjoyed even before the angelic visit and decides not to subject her to public shame, with kindness and compassion in the service of love.

**Continued**

The Venerable Sue Lucas reminds us of our Diocesan values of kindness, gentleness, mutual respect and humility. She goes on to say 'So if in this season of preparation, we can practise intentionally showing kindness in thought, and word and deed; and to sit lightly to our power - this is, in a small yet perhaps significant way, quietly but insistently speaking up, with Joseph, for kindness in a public space which is often febrile, angry and unkind.' Amen

Jo

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **READINGS FOR TODAY** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Isaiah 7, 10 - 16**

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

**Romans 1, 1 - 7**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 1, 18 - end**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

**Continued**

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

### **Collect for today**

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

---

## **~ ~ ~ ~ ~ SERVICES FOR WEDNESDAY 24th DECEMBER ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

**Christmas Eve Readings: Isaiah 52.7-10; Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14**

<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Crib Service at St John's</b>
<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>First Communion of Christmas at Coopersale</b>
<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>First Communion of Christmas at Epping Upland</b>
<b>11:30 pm</b>	<b>"Midnight Mass" at St John's</b>

## **~ ~ ~ ~ ~ READINGS FOR TODAY ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

### **Isaiah 52, 7 – 10**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

### **Hebrews 1, 1 – 4**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

### **John 1, 1 – 14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**Continued**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

### **Collect for today**

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; 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

---

## **~ ~ ~ ~ ~ SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS DAY ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

**Readings: Isaiah 62.6-end; Titus 3.4-7; Luke 2.1-20**

### **THURSDAY**

**8:30 am**

**Holy Communion (BCP), St John's Epping**

**10:00 am**

**Christmas Day Communion (Team Service), St John's**

With hymns 65, 72, 82, 60. 78 (omit \* verses) and Postlude  
(*'Fantasia on @Adseste Fidelis'*, David Blackwell)

## **~ ~ ~ ~ ~ READINGS FOR TODAY ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

### **Isaiah 62, 6 - end**

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.'

They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.'

**Continued**

**Titus 3, 4 – 7**

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, 5he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Luke 2, 1 - 20**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Collect for today**

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **SERVICES FOR SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Christmas 1 Readings: Isaiah 63.7-9; Hebrews 2.10-end; Matthew 2.13-end**

**SUNDAY**

**8:00 am**                      **Holy Communion (BCP) at St John's**  
**10:00 am**                      **Sung Communion (Team Service) at St John's**  
With hymns 83, 88, 589, 79, 86.

**There will not be any other services in the Team during this week**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**THANK HEAVENS FOR ANGELS WHO SHOW US THE WILL OF GOD**

The flight of a family into Egypt (Mary, Jesus and Joseph), and then to return under an angel's instructions, is a reminder that God is always present with His people to guard against disaster. In this situation Herod massacred many small children and he wanted to kill Jesus too. An angel warned Joseph to leave Israel because Herod was intending to kill his son. Herod died and so Joseph, Mary and Jesus returned to Israel. I believe in angels, don't you? They are a little like miracles, difficult to spot and you are never quite sure if you have encountered one or not. A survey by (SJS) showed that 50% of the congregations in our three churches did believe in angels and about the same number in miracles. Angels have always existed, they have a hierarchy and two are mentioned specifically by name, the archangel's Michael and Gabriel. Angels are servants and messengers of God and so therefore obedient unto Him. Just imagine what would have happened to humanity if Herod had succeeded, killed Jesus and cleared the way for the dominion of darkness. Without Jesus we would have no faith, no belief, no hope, no goodness, no love and no salvation. Where would be the *truth* of God upon which we base our behaviour? Why would we be willing to go the extra mile for another, be aware of the suffering of others and the need to create fruits from the love of God to help serve others? Thank you, angels, for warning Jesus of a death threat and bringing Him to us.

**Amen** Steve

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **READINGS FOR TODAY** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Isaiah 63.7-9**

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their saviour in all their distress.

**Continued**

It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

### **Hebrews 2.10-end**

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

And again, 'I will put my trust in him.'

And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.'

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

### **Matthew 2.13-end**

#### **The Escape to Egypt**

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

#### **The Massacre of the Infants**

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

#### **The Return from Egypt**

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that



what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

### **Collect for today**

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

---

## **~ ~ ~ ~ ~ SERVICES FOR SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

**Epiphany Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12**

### **SUNDAY**

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

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

With Hymns 94, 95, 103, 18, 72; Anthem (Coventry Carol, traditional).

**11:10 am PARISH COMMUNION, All Saints Epping Upland**

**11:10 am MORNING WORSHIP, St Alban's Coopersale**

### **MONDAY**

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

### **TUESDAY**

**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**

The last Church Mice for 2025 will be this week (18<sup>th</sup> December) and the first for 2026 will be 8<sup>th</sup> January.

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

## **~ ~ ~ ~ ~ FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

I have always rather liked this Sunday's reading from Isaiah. Reaching the end of his promises to the people of Israel, the prophet foretells that the glory of the Lord will shine upon them, their children will return to them, the wealth of the nations will be brought to them... and they shall be covered with a multitude of camels. Blessings come in many shapes and sizes.

**Continued**

You may be feeling a little as if you have been covered in camels in the aftermath of Christmas and New Year. You may be feeling heavy weariness at the thought of returning to the post-festive world. But this week's readings remind us that, even as we put away the tinsel and the crib, Christ remains with us in all that we are and all that we do. Christmas is only the start of the journey which Jesus invites us to take with Him; the festival of Epiphany celebrates that fundamental change in how we as Christians understand the world now that we know Christ is in it. In the week ahead, I hope we can hold on to the mystery revealed in the manger, and the grace of God incarnate in a tiny baby.

- Liz

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **READINGS FOR TODAY** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Isaiah 60.1-6**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

**Ephesians 3.1-12**

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

## **Matthew 2.1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## **Collect for today**

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory 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.

---

## **~ ~ ~ ~ ~ FOR OUR PRAYERS DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Monday</b>    | For the congregations and parishes of all the churches in the Epping Team.   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | For peace in the world and the end of hunger.  |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | for all those that we know who haven't found Christ yet, that they may do so during 2026.  |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | For all pupils and staff of the schools in our parishes, that they may have a relaxing holiday time.   |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 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, Ted Owen, 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:**

Basil Corea, Emma Macisz-Lawrence Vivien Danzey.

**Those whose anniversary of death occurs during this week:**

21<sup>st</sup> December, Phyllis Bass; 22<sup>nd</sup>, Pat Daly, Rose Baker; 23<sup>rd</sup>, James Lawson, Sylvia Kilburn, Muriel Avis; 24<sup>th</sup>, Francis Griggs; Jessie Hoy, Phyl Brown, Dorothy Parker, Victor Gliddon, William Smith; 25<sup>th</sup>, Arthur Rowley, John Gregory, Harld Thake, Arthur Pearce, James Dodd, David Allen; 26<sup>th</sup>, Christopher Warner, Terry Bacon; 27<sup>th</sup>, Frederick Corbyn, Laurence Eldred, Kenneth Edwards; 28<sup>th</sup>, Martha Lovell, Robert Leamon, Francis Smith, Ruth Page; 29<sup>th</sup>, Roland Dodd, Alfred Gascoigne, Marjorie Smith; 30<sup>th</sup>, Leonard Thorne; 31<sup>st</sup>, Beryl Harvest, Joyce Hallam, Nan Northam, Winifred Sidell, Edith Hyde; 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026, Georgina creed, Irene Grundy, Gladys Clarke, Evelyn Whitbread, Richard Holmes, James Angel, Elizabeth Whiffen, Robert Mayes; 2<sup>nd</sup>, William Perry, Maureen Lamb, George Clarke, Edward Collins, Charles Fisher, John Foulds, George Moore; 3<sup>rd</sup>, George Reynolds, Joan Lancaster, Albert Webb, Elsa Smith, Gertrude Leamon, Harry Littlewood, George Smith, Chief Nicholas Igwe, Sandra Rive; 4<sup>th</sup>, Geraldine Grimshaw, Frederick Millard, Margaret Lewis, Charles Chisholm, Elizabeth Shimmen; 5<sup>th</sup>, Roger Moore, Hugh Williams, Florence Marjoram; 6<sup>th</sup>, Marguerite Audsley, Elizabeth Gregson, Joyce Baker, 7<sup>th</sup>, Florence Jacques, Peggy Shade, Margaret Bowman; 8<sup>th</sup>, Elsie Chapman, Mary Rogers, Harry Radford, Robert Baden-Powell; 9<sup>th</sup>, Phyllis Duncan, Millicent Freeman, John Firman, Terence Wauer, Doris Edwards; 10<sup>th</sup>, Robin Elwes, Anthony Goddard, Betty Stokes.

---

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

**ST JOHN'S CHILDRENS' GROUPS** This Sunday (21<sup>st</sup> December) will be the final Sunday for children's groups over the Christmas period. Groups will return on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Thanks, Emily

**CHURCH MICE in St John's church on Thursdays** will resume on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**THE NEW BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY** Steve and Diana will be running this from 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 in **St John's** church from 10:30 am - noon. It is designed for anyone who feels they would benefit from support in their bereavement. Sessions involve 2 films, group discussion, homemade cake and coffee. The course is designed for anyone, not just church goers. Please speak to Diana for more information.

**CRAFT GROUP** next meet in **St John's** on **28th January 2026**, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

**MINDFUL ART** is a free painting session in **St John's** church from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The next session is Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**THE CRIB SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE in St John's** After the 9:20 am service at St John's on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, we will be doing a dress rehearsal for the Crib Service to be held on Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm. If your child has a part in the Crib Service it would be great to see them there. If they're not able to attend then please let me know. Thanks, Emily

**HYMN BOOKS AT ST JOHN'S** are now in use, but should you wish to receive a copy of the hymns by email to enable you to vary the size of the text yourself, please contact Lisa in the Team Office, but large print copies are available – please ask.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026, to set out at 1:30 pm, maximum 2.5 miles. Start at Skips Corner, North Weald (just up from School Green Lane crossing lights on the High Road). Park in SGL or Thornhill. Come dressed for cold and wet; wellies recommended. Bring hot drinks & nibbles. Children & dogs on leads welcome. Voluntary donation to Heart of Epping project. Roger Lowry 07962813240

**ST JOHN'S MAINTENANCE MORNINGS** will not be held in January and not until further notice.

**NEXT NEWS** The next NEWS will issued for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Please send any items for inclusion by Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Thanks, Geoff

---

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

**SERVICES for 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026, The Baptism of Christ**

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

**9:20 am** Christingle at **St John's** Epping

**11:10 am** Parish Communion at **All Saints** Epping Upland

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

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

**Readings:** Isaiah 42.1-9; Acts 10.34-43; Matthew 3.13-end

**SUPPORTING THOSE LIVING IN THE BELL.** The local Care4Calais group are very grateful for clothes donated to the residents at the Bell Hotel, and also for some suited for the families at the Phoenix in North Weald. Further donations of clothing, particularly small and medium sized items, are welcome. The collection box for clothes is in **St John's** Church.

**WARM COATS-** Do you have a spare, warm winter coat in good condition ? If so would you consider donating it and adding it to the coat rail? This is now in place in **St John's** Church porch. Many thanks in advance! (Pastoral Care Team)

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICES** In the Epping Team, Christingle services will be held in January, on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026** at 9:20 am at **St John's** (to mark the Baptism of Christ) and on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026** at **Epping Upland** (to mark Candlemas).

**LOST PROPERTY AT ST JOHN'S** A large amount of lost property has accumulated at **St John's** - please do check the box at the back of the church, items remaining in the New Year will be donated to charity shops.

Also, a sum of cash was handed in after the Advent Carol Service, if you think it might be yours please speak to Revd John - if it is not claimed before the end of the month, it will be added to church funds.

**TEAM OFFICE HOURS** The Team Office will be closed for Christmas from Tuesday 23rd December and reopen on Monday 5th January 2026.

---

## ----- 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

**EPPING TEAM MINISTRY CONTACT DETAILS**

**Team Clergy**    **Revd John Fry:** Team Rector    01992 934355  
E-mail: [teamrector@eppinganglicans.org.uk](mailto:teamrector@eppinganglicans.org.uk)

**Revd Jessica Bostock:** Associate Minister,  
3 Sundays a month and Mondays.  
E-mail: [jessicabostock@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jessicabostock@yahoo.co.uk)

**Dr Liz Gloyn:** Curate,  
E-mail: [curate@eppinganglicans.org.uk](mailto:curate@eppinganglicans.org.uk)

LLMs	<b>Diana Lowry:</b> Email: lowryepp@gmail.com	01992 279696
------	--	--------------

**Steve Snooks:** 01992 572185  
Email: [stevesnooks@hotmail.com](mailto:stevesnooks@hotmail.com)

**Team Pastoral Assistant, Jo Waller:**  
Email: jo.waller37@btinternet .com

**Children, Youth and Family Worker, Emily Townshend:**  
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday  
E-mail: [cyf@eppinganglicans.org.uk](mailto:cyf@eppinganglicans.org.uk)

**Church Wardens** for **Epping Upland** and **Coopersale**, please contact the Team Office.

For **St John's**, contact **Marian Winters** at 07790 532570, email [marianwinters@aol.com](mailto:marianwinters@aol.com) or **Sara McLean** at 07768 106406, email [sdmclean@virginmedia.com](mailto:sdmclean@virginmedia.com)

**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** for use in church.

You can follow **St John's**, **All Saints** and **St Alban's** on **Facebook**

**WE ARE A MEMBER OF VOLUNTARY ACTION EPPING FOREST**