

**EPHING TEAM MINISTRY CONTACT DETAILS:**

**Team Office:** 01992 575570.

E-mail: office@eppinganglicans.org.uk

**Team Administrator:** 01992 579935

E-mail: teamadmin@eppinganglicans.org.uk

**Team Clergy** Revd Olivia Maxfield-Coote: 01992 275802

E-mail: olivia.maxfield-coote@cantab.net

Revd Jessica Bostock:

E-mail: jessicabostock@yahoo.co.uk

**Please send us any prayer requests.**

**NEWS** items for next week; Geoff Scanlan, 01992 576550

E-mail: rosandgeoff@btinternet.com

**(Items for inclusion before noon on Wednesdays, please)**

**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** on **Facebook**, also **Twitter**  
**@eppingchurch**

You can follow **All Saints** on **Facebook** and **Twitter**  
**@allsaintsupland**

You can follow **ST Albans** on **Facebook**

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



**SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023, ADVENT 2**

**ISAIAH 40.1-11 and MARK 1.1-8**

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

**Bringing peace and Love**

The Second Sunday of Advent is a time when we remember the prophets, and also the love and peace that emanate from God. Prophets in the Old Testament came from many different backgrounds and included five women among them, very unusual for the time. They were all chosen by God to deliver 'the Word of the Lord', often in difficult circumstances to people who did not wish to listen. They spoke to God's people in their particular situation but some are also quoted in the Gospels as part of the 'proof' that Jesus is 'he who is to come'. One of the prophets, Isaiah, wrote this: 'He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.' (Isaiah 2:4)

What a wonderful picture that is and so far from the world that we are living in: but as Christians we should not lose hope. We should seek peace and love in our own relationships because it is personal relationships that help to build society, and peace and love that help build a just society. On Wednesday we looked at Mary's journey to see Elizabeth after she had been told that she would give birth to the Son of God. After she had been greeted by Elizabeth she sang a hymn of praise called the Magnificat: this includes addressing the social realities of her time and offering a word of prophetic hope. In it she prepares us for how God's world would look if He controlled everything directly. But God's way is to use us to spread love and peace from Him to those we meet.

So as we prepare for the birth of the Prince of Peace, may we continue to have hope in our loving God and His plan of salvation for all. And hold on to that hope even when all looks so desperate and far from how the world should be.

**Diana**

~~~~~ SERVICES TODAY & THIS WEEK ~~~~~

**SUNDAY**

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

This service is held 'in person' and is also live over Zoom, using this link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82090663514?pwd=WXFvbEtsSVFkOWRlK1JGeGF4SFdsZz09>, or call: 0203 051 2874. Meeting ID: 820 9066 3514, Passcode: 060959

**9:20 am CHRISTINGLE UPFRONT, St John's Epping**

Except for **UpFront** services, this service is held 'in person' and is also live over Facebook or YouTube: you can join us using these links,:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXb5XnQLZkleRYZaI\\_6zbRw/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXb5XnQLZkleRYZaI_6zbRw/videos)  
<https://www.facebook.com/eppingchurchUK/>

**10:00 am SUNDAY SERVICE, St Andrew's North Weald**

This is held in the Church Hall, North Weald Church.

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

**4:00 pm NATIVITY and CAROL SERVICE, St Alban's Coopersale**

There will be no morning service.

**6:00 pm, PRAYER AND PRAISE, St John's Epping**

**MONDAY & WEDNESDAY, MORNING PRAYER, 8:30 am**

These services are held 'in person' in **St John's, Epping**

**WEDNESDAY, HOLY COMMUNION, St John's Epping.**

This service is held 'in person' and you can join us using the Facebook and YouTube links above.

**THURSDAY, CHURCH MICE, St John's Epping.**

Contact Kate Collin on 07951484805 or email [kate.collin212@gmail.com](mailto:kate.collin212@gmail.com)

**ST JOHN'S CHURCH IS OPEN DAILY FOR PRIVATE PRAYER.**

We will ensure that the Lady Chapel is kept safe and open daily for prayer.

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK,  
SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER 2023, ADVENT 3  
ISAIAH 40.1-11 and MARK 1.1-8**

~~~~~ PLEDGED GIVING AND COLLECTIONS ~~~~~

**Giving to the Church by Text** You can give a one-off donation by Text. To do so please text 70450 with the words EPPINGCHURCH followed by the amount you wish to give, e.g. '**EPPINGCHURCH10**' to give £10. All money received in this way will be shared between our three churches.

**The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)** This is similar to paying by direct debit. You can set up an account by calling the PGS on: 0333 002 1271. You will need to provide your bank details and it will speed up the process if you can give them your church's PGS code:

**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    Epping #

**All Saints** 20-29-86, Account: 60359106    Epping Upland #

***For '#', please use 'Parochial Church Council'***

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Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

**ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL** Thank you to Jacqui and everyone who helped to set up and strip down the Christmas Tree Festival and to all the volunteers who helped to run it over the weekend in quite cold conditions!

A gold ring was found during the church clean up following the Tree Festival last Monday. If you think you may have lost such a ring please see Nick Wold or Jacqui Mortimer.

**BOILER ISSUES- ST JOHN'S.** Unfortunately, we have had a major flooding issue in the boiler room, leading to the need for boiler repairs. The Fabric Committee are providing short-term alternative heating arrangements but there are limited options consistent with H & S and the available electrical power in the church. Therefore, please do consider wearing warm clothing to church. It is unlikely that the boiler situation will be resolved until the New Year, although an improved form of temporary heating has been approved by the Diocese.

**ST JOHN'S COAT RAIL.** Many of you will have noticed the Coat Rail is back in the porch. We would be grateful if coats aren't left in church, but just add it/them to the Coat Rail. Many thanks in anticipation! Jo (Pastoral Assistant).

**NEXT WEEK** we will have a visiting preacher at 9:20 am St John's and 11:10 am in St Alban's: the Rev'd Tim Goodbody, the Diocesan Director of Ordinands.

## Isaiah 40.1-11

### God's People Are Comforted

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

## Mark 1.1-8

### The Proclamation of John the Baptist

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

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

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | For the congregation and parish of <b>All Saints</b> Epping Upland.                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | For all who are overwhelmed by preparations for Christmas, that they may find some peace.                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | For refugees around the world and those who are being moved on, that they may be safe.                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | For the pupils and staff of Epping Green Primary School.                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Friday</b>    | For our ministry team as they work with fewer ordained clergy in the team, and all who contribute to our services, those who lead our various activities, fund raise or volunteer for the activities in our churches. |

### **Those who are sick and for whom prayers have been asked:**

Amanda, Brian Evans, Gary, Carole Whitting, Graham, Rosie, Tim, Jan, Jan Ross, Jane Williams, Ruth Graves, Marion, Matthew, Judith, Graham, Harrison, Dorothy, June, Maria.

### **Those who have died recently, their family and friends:**

Mary Froud, Barbara Watson, Beryl Morse.

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

10<sup>th</sup> December, Frederick Pritchard, Alice Forrest, Edmund King, Vera Flack, David Nagle, Vera Griffiths; 11<sup>th</sup>, Philip Whittome, Sally Macpherson, Dorothy Purkiss, Cyril Crabb; 12<sup>th</sup>, Robert Rolfe, David Goulding, Herbert Griffiths; 13<sup>th</sup>, Ernest Wythes, Henry Silwood, Dennis Coote, Dennis Ramshaw; 14<sup>th</sup>, Ernest Jones, George Creed, Victor Johnson, Ruth Benjamin; 15<sup>th</sup>, Eliza Butler, Margaret Whiffen, John Roberts; 16<sup>th</sup>, Norman Tredgett, Doris Collop, Sandra Allerton-Austin.

## **COLLECT FOR 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023, ADVENT 2**

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.  
Amen

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

**ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** There is still time to contribute to the floral displays planned for the end of Advent. We will be collecting after the Sunday morning services on 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> December. The Flower Guild rely on your generosity for festivals, as our eight arrangers self-fund the Church flowers the rest of the year. Thank you.

**MINDFUL PAINTING AND CRAFT GROUP** These will not meet in December. There will be a Mindful Art session in **St John's** church on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and the next joint meeting will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**DECEMBER COMPLINE** There will be Compline & address, on 3 different journeys associated with the Christmas story, on 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December on Zoom, at 8:00 pm. Use the link code for the 8:00 am Sunday service to join these Zoom sessions at home.

**MAINTENANCE MORNINGS AT ST JOHN'S** We are planning to hold the first quarterly cleaning day of **2024** In **January** (date to be confirmed) when the task of sanding the floors will be undertaken. More information will follow.

**EPPING CHORUS** Their popular Christmas concert 'Christmas Reflections' returns on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm in **St John's** Church. The seasonal music includes works by Handel, Mendelssohn, John Rutter and Rod Elms together with traditional carols. Entry is free with a retiring collection for choir funds.

**EPPING TEAM MINISTRY CHRISTMAS CARDS** are available in church for distribution.