

## Reading: Esther 1 and 2 1-9 17-18

The book of Esther is set during the reign of Xerxes, King of Persia (486-465BC). It contains the account of the origin of the annual Jewish holiday and feast of Purim. This records the moment in the history of the Jewish people when they were able to turn the tables on those who wanted to destroy them. It opens with King Xerxes, who at the age of 35 had inherited a vast empire which included modern day Iran, Iraq, Egypt, and Ethiopia as well as parts of India, giving a lavish banquet for all his nobles and officials to display the great wealth of his Kingdom. The banquet lasted 180 days after which he held a further banquet of 7 days for all the population of his capital city, Susa. On the final day of this banquet when 'spirits were high from wine' he ordered that his Queen Vashti (culturally men and women entertained separately) be brought before the people wearing her royal crown so that he could display her beauty 'for she was lovely to look at'. But Queen Vashti refused to come. The King was furious and burned with anger and had her henceforth banished from his presence for ever.

2 Later when King Xerxes' fury had subsided, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what he had decreed about her. 2 Then the king's personal attendants proposed, "Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king. 3 Let the king appoint commissioners in every province of his realm to bring all these beautiful young women into the harem at the citadel of Susa. Let them be placed under the care of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women; and let beauty treatments be given to them. 4 Then let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This advice appealed to the king, and he followed it. 5 Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, named Mordecai son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, 6 who had been carried into exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, among those taken captive with Jehoiachin king of Judah. 7 Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This young woman, who was also known as Esther, had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died. 8 When the king's order and edict had been proclaimed, many young women were brought to the citadel of Susa and put under the care of Hegai. Esther also was taken to the king's palace and entrusted to Hegai, who had charge of the harem. 9 She pleased him and won his favour. Immediately he provided her with her beauty treatments and special food. He assigned to her seven female attendants selected from the king's palace and moved her and her attendants into the best place in the harem. 17 Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. 18 And the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials. He proclaimed a holiday throughout the provinces and distributed gifts with royal liberality.

### Financial Giving

If you would like to give to the work of Holy Trinity, do join the Planned Giving Scheme, please pick up a form from the Foyer. If you wish to make a cash contribution and are a

### Staff contacts

**Vicar**  
**Rev Stephen Walker**  
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**Church Administrator**  
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**Holy Trinity** welcome  
TEWKESBURY  
MEET GOD • FIND LIFE • MAKE FRIENDS

to Holy Trinity

Welcome to Holy Trinity. If this is your first visit to Holy Trinity, or if you have recently joined us, we'd just like to say how great it is to have you with us. We are a church full of people who are trying to live lives that reflect Jesus and would be so pleased if you would consider joining with us.

Please don't go away today without touching base. You can do that by filling in one of the 'Welcome Cards' in the foyer and joining us for refreshments after the service in the Hall. All the information on our church family life is on our website.

We look forward to getting to know you.

**With our blessing, Stephen and Sharon Walker**



**Sunday 1st September**  
**10am Morning Worship**

Step Up Sunday  
**Stephen Walker**  
Esther: God at work

**Sunday 8th September**  
**10am Morning Worship**

**Stephen Walker:**  
Esther: The rise of evil

**6.30pm The Gathering**  
**Sophie Tugwell**



TJC is back! Primary school aged children are invited to join the groups in the Hall. This week is Week 1.

### Core Values

**ALL INVOLVED,**  
**BECOMING DISCIPLES,**  
**CREATING COMMUNITY,**  
**DOING EVANGELISM,**  
**ENCOUNTERING GOD**

### Looking for a Life Group?

Speak to Steve or Joy Pegg to find your nearest group for friendship, fellowship and discipleship during the week

### PARENTS

Kindly please note, once the church service and TJC have finished, you are responsible for your children's supervision and safety. Thanks

Office hours: Monday—Thursday 9am to 2.30pm

Email: [office@trinitytewkesbury.org.uk](mailto:office@trinitytewkesbury.org.uk)

Website: [trinitytewkesbury.org.uk](http://trinitytewkesbury.org.uk)

Twitter: @HolyTewkesbury

Facebook: HolyTrinityChurchTewkesbury

Wi-Fi is available upon request



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## Weekly Events

<b>Mondays</b>	<b>Life Group</b>	10.30am
<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>Youth Life Groups, School Years 7-13</b> (Term time only)	7.00-9.00pm
	<b>Music &amp; Movement Group</b> (back in September)	10.30-11.30am
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	10.00am
	<b>Holy Communion</b>	10.30am
	<b>Life Groups</b>	7.30pm
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>Smarties - for parents &amp; carers of pre-school children</b> (Term time only)	10.15- 11.45am
	<b>Life Groups</b>	7.30pm
<b>Fridays</b>	<b>Life Group</b>	10.30am

### Looking for the monthly church calendar of events?

Check it out on the church website: [trinitytewkesbury.org.uk/calendar/month](http://trinitytewkesbury.org.uk/calendar/month) or there are some printed in the foyer.

### Music and Movement will return on Tuesday 3rd September

Music and Movement will return on Tuesday 3rd September at 10.30am in Room 2. Please speak to Marg Carver if you want to know more.

### Raising Faith Course starting Monday 9th September, 7.30pm

Whether you are a mum, dad, carer, grandparent or church leader – we all want our children to grow up to be healthy and happy, but do we ever think about how we can help them grow up to love God?

Sometimes we don't know where to start or what will work in the busyness of everyday life. We've got a bunch of stuff to help you, wherever you are on the journey. See Lucy if you are interested in the 6 week course starting in September.



### 'Sing a New Song to the Lord' - Saturday 21 September, 10am-4pm

This fun singing workshop, led by singing teacher and voice coach Sue Perks, explores the wonderful gift of singing. Four sessions will blend the theory, theology and practice of singing. The day can be tailored to meet the needs of those attending and everyone, from all musical backgrounds and experience, is welcome. £40 (lunch included). For further information, contact Sue and to book contact Harnhill Christian Centre <https://www.harnhillcentre.org.uk/38/Make-a-Booking>



### Our Mission Partner for September is Release International

See the Mission Board for the full update and prayer points for this month on the Mission Noticeboard in the Foyer. Why not subscribe to their Link Letters? Use the link <https://releaseinternational.org/contact/> to subscribe to their updates.

### Alpha Course Wednesday 18th September 7.30pm

The next Alpha Course will be starting soon. Please consider and pray about who you might like to invite to attend the first evening on 18th September. Further details: Stephen and Sharon Walker.



### Holy Trinity Art Exhibition 2019, Wednesday 9th – Sunday 13th October

An invitation to all individuals and groups in Holy Trinity, to exhibit reflecting faith and the glory of God in His world. There are forms in the Foyer with further information. Contact Jean Herrick or Cath Folkes.

### Family Quiz Time and Great Trinity Bake Off Friday 20th September 7.30pm-9.30pm

Join in the fun and exercise your general knowledge at our Family Quiz and Bake Off in aid of our X-Act drama group. Maximum of 5 people per team and for ages 7+. Adults are £5 each with under 16s free! For more information contact Lucy Betts.



### Thank you!



Sam thanks everyone for their help at Operation Clean Up following their time at Soul Survivor. Rachael Elliott also thanks everyone who took a box of toys to clean for the new term at Smarties.

### New Life Group just for Mums! - Mum's Alone

Mum's Alone will be starting on Saturday 7th September for mums to come and join a Life Group. This will be initially on a trial basis to be reviewed at half-term. Meeting in the Small Room at the Old Mission Hall 8-10am for fellowship, bible study and prayer. Bring your breakfast but not your babies! More information contact Joy Pegg

