

## Reading: Esther 3:1-15

After these events, King Xerxes honoured Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honour higher than that of all the other nobles. <sup>2</sup>All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honour to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honour. <sup>3</sup>Then the royal officials at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's command?" <sup>4</sup>Day after day they spoke to him but he refused to comply. Therefore they told Haman about it to see whether Mordecai's behaviour would be tolerated, for he had told them he was a Jew.

<sup>5</sup>When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honour, he was enraged. <sup>6</sup>Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes.

<sup>7</sup>In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, the pur (that is, the lot) was cast in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar.

<sup>8</sup>Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them. <sup>9</sup>If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents of silver to the king's administrators for the royal treasury."

<sup>10</sup>So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. <sup>11</sup>"Keep the money," the king said to Haman, "and do with the people as you please."

<sup>12</sup>Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned. They wrote out in the script of each province and in the language of each people all Haman's orders to the king's satraps, the governors of the various provinces and the nobles of the various peoples. These were written in the name of King Xerxes himself and sealed with his own ring. <sup>13</sup>Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.

<sup>14</sup>A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so they would be ready for that day.

<sup>15</sup>The couriers went out, spurred on by the king's command, and the edict was issued in the citadel of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was bewildered.

### 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 taxpayer, please ask for a Gift Aid envelope.

### Staff contacts

#### Vicar

**Rev Stephen Walker**  
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#### Youth Pastor

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### Children & Families Worker

#### Lucy Betts

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#### Church Administrator

**Rachel Hargreave**  
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# Holy Trinity

TEWKESBURY

MEET GOD • FIND LIFE • MAKE FRIENDS

## welcome

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

Stephen Walker:

Esther: The rise of evil

**6.30pm The Gathering**  
Sophie Tugwell

**Sunday 15th September**  
**10am Morning Worship**

Stephen Walker

**3pm Sunday @ 3**



Trinity Junior Church

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>	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.

### Polite Request

If you borrow any item from anywhere in the church, please put it back where you found it when you have finished. It causes frustration to other church users when items are redistributed.



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

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? We've got a bunch of stuff to help you, wherever you are on the journey. See Lucy today, if you are interested in attending the course.



### Deanery Vacancies

The Deanery is the group of parish Churches in our local area (Tewkesbury, Ashchurch, Winchcombe and Bishops Cleeve plus numerous villages round about). We meet together to support each other in mission. To assist us in our meetings (just 3 or 4 times a year) we need the support from members of our churches to fulfil certain roles:

**Lay Chair** of the meetings of clergy and parish reps

**Treasurer**

**Parish Share Officer** (to oversee the contributions that each church makes to the Diocese)

**Secretary** to record the minutes of the meetings

If anyone would like to know more about these positions please speak (or contact) Stephen Walker.

### Our Mission Partner for September is Release International

Our Mission Partner for September is Release International, an organisation that grew out of the life and ministry of Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand. R.I. acts as a bridge to help us engage with fellow Christians who are suffering persecution; our own church focus is primarily towards the Christians of Pakistan. See the Mission Board in the Foyer for further information, or contact [info@releaseinternational.org](mailto:info@releaseinternational.org). 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.



### 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.



### Transform, starting Monday 16th September, 6-7pm, Old Mission Hall

A healthy mind and body group for ladies. For those struggling with body image and bound by an unhealthy relationship with eating.

#### Key verses

Romans 12:2a - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

1 Peter 2:9a - But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession

#### We believe:

1. Our identity is not dependant on how we look or how much we eat
2. God does not want us to struggle with body image and eating issues
3. Our minds and bodies can be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit

#### Meetings:

- All ladies welcome - do not need to be on a diet to come!
- Typical session:
  - Chat and refreshments with optional weigh in
  - Bible verse and thought for the week
  - Discussion and sharing
  - Prayer – waiting on the Holy Spirit

For more information, contact Jo Davies.

