

Reading: Esther 4:9-17

Esther - The drama unfolds..

So far we have seen how Esther, the young Jewish woman, became Queen to King Xerxes, ruler of the Persian Empire in 479 BC. Meanwhile, Mordecai, Esther's older cousin, has become a government official and during his tenure, foiled a plot to assassinate the King. However instead of being promoted for this act of loyalty, Haman, an ambitious and self serving official, is appointed as Prime Minister. When Mordecai refuses to bow in reverence to him, Haman becomes furious and determines to destroy Mordecai and all the Jews throughout the empire.

To accomplish his vengeful deed, Haman deceives King Xerxes and persuades him to issue an edict condemning all Jews to death. Mordecai gets word to Queen Esther to inform her of this edict and urges her to use her influence with the King to have it overturned. However, Esther knows that no one can come before the King unless they have first been summoned, his Queen included. The penalty for such an act is death, unless the King extends his gold sceptre and spares her life. Esther finds herself in a quandary. What should she do? Should she risk her life to try to save her people by persuading the King to overturn the edict or enjoy her privileged position and hope that her identity as a Jew will remain a secret so that she can survive the purge. Dilemmas and Decisions! Chapter 4 records the exchange of dialogue between Esther in the Palace and Mordecai in distress, clothed in sackcloth and ashes at the King's gate. Hathach is Esther's servant who passes the messages between them as Mordecai urges Esther to use her position to save the Jewish people.

⁹ Hathach went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰ Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, ¹¹ "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold sceptre to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

¹² When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, ¹³ he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

¹⁷ So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

**This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God**

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

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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 15th September
10am Morning Worship
Stephen Walker

3pm Sunday @ 3

Sunday 22nd September
10am Holy Communion
Jo Davies



TJC is back! Primary school aged children are invited to join the groups in the Hall. This week is Week 2.

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

Website: trinitytewkesbury.org.uk

Twitter: @HolyTewkesbury

Facebook: HolyTrinityChurchTewkesbury

Wi-Fi is available upon request



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Weekly Events

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

Looking for the monthly church calendar of events?

Check it out on the church website: trinityteewkesbury.org.uk/calendar/month

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.



Thank you!

Stephen and Alison Cirel would like to express their thanks for the cards and prayers on the safe arrival of baby James.

Soup Lunch

Sunday 13th October

Ladies Breakfast

Saturday 19 October, 9am

Hot Topics

Tuesday 12th November

Abba Tribute Night

Friday 22nd November 7pm



More details on each to follow soon!



Cheltenham's Inclusive Gospel Choir

Pamoja Choir

Founded in 2015, Pamoja Choir is a thriving Choir and begins its new term on 19th September 2019. We meet in the Salvation Army Church in

Cheltenham at 7.30pm on Thursdays. We are delighted to welcome Bean Baker as our new Musical Director. Some of you may have met him and his band at New Wine or Soul Survivor events. We do 2 events per term and everyone is welcome to our Choir. Please keep the date free for Saturday 7th December when we will have a concert at Holy Trinity Tewkesbury and we will be raising money for a local charity, details will come later.

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. 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 Alpha Course is starting next week. 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! Get your tickets today from 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.

