

## WEEKLY UPDATE

**Information about this Weekly Update:** next week will be the last edition of this weekly newsletter and we truly hope that you will be able to join us in church. The Parochial Church Council will discuss recommendations for moving cautiously forward with the removal of restrictions and more details will be available next week. In the meantime, if you are still unable to access our services either online or in person and wish to continue to receive news, please let the office know on the number at the end of this update and we can discuss how we may be able to help.

On Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> July our 9.30am service was led by Sandra Godfrey with bible readings from Exodus and John read by Paul Simmons – see below. The theme for all our services this week was 'Free' with Wim preaching at our 9.30am service. Our choir, Tom, Lesley, Ann, Derek, Eddie and Mary sang To God be the Glory (see below) with organ music from Muriel Mathers.

### First Bible Reading – Exodus 14: 13-31

<sup>13</sup> Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. <sup>14</sup> The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still." <sup>15</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. <sup>16</sup> Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup> I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. <sup>18</sup> The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen." <sup>19</sup> Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, <sup>20</sup> coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long. <sup>21</sup> Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, <sup>22</sup> and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup> The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. <sup>24</sup> During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. <sup>25</sup> He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." <sup>26</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." <sup>27</sup> Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. <sup>28</sup> The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. <sup>29</sup> But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. <sup>30</sup> That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. <sup>31</sup> And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

## Gospel Reading – John 8: 31-38

<sup>31</sup> To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." <sup>33</sup> They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. <sup>37</sup> I know that you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. <sup>38</sup> I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father.<sup>[b]</sup>"

## Hymn: Thou didst leave Thy Throne and Thy Kingly Crown

1 Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,  
When Thou camest to earth for me;  
But in Bethlehem's home was there found  
no room  
For Thy holy nativity.  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
There is room in my heart for Thee.

2 Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,  
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;  
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth,  
And in great humility.  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
There is room in my heart for Thee.

3 The foxes found rest, and the birds their nest  
In the shade of the forest tree;  
But Thy couch was the sod, O Thou Son of

God,  
In the deserts of Galilee.  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
There is room in my heart for Thee.

4 Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word  
That should set Thy people free;  
But with mocking scorn, and with crown of thorn,  
They bore Thee to Calvary.  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
There is room in my heart for Thee.

5 When the heavens shall ring, and the angels sing,  
At Thy coming to victory,  
Let Thy voice call me home, saying "Yet there is room,  
There is room at My side for thee."  
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,  
When Thou comest and callest for me.

## Church Services in July/August

### Sundays:

**On Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> July we will have an Outdoor Joint All-Age Service at 10.30am in the Churchyard**

8.00am Holy Communion Service in church

9.30am Traditional Service with Holy Communion

11.00am All-age Informal Service

### Wednesdays:

10.30am Holy Communion Service

**Morning Prayer** will be said on Tuesday's and Thursday's in church at 9am – do come and join us if you are able.

**Prayer via WhatsApp** on Monday's at 8pm and Friday's at 8am

**Prayers** – if you would like to be included in prayers either via our prayer circle or prayer board, do please get in touch; we would love to pray for you.

**Copthorne Carnival – Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> July – CONFIRMED!**

We will have produce stalls and Teas in the Hub as usual. If you are able to offer any help, baking cakes, providing pickles, preserves and plants or helping to set up/clear away, please contact the office.

**SUMMER at St. John's – from Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> July – Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August**

Activities for all the family each day. For adults there will be a 3-4pm Seminar with tea and cake each day (not Sunday) and on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August, there will be a Seminar with a key-note speaker from 7-8pm. If you would like more details or would like to book a place, please give the office a ring on 01342 712063.

**Church Picnic – Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> August – 12.30pm in the Churchyard**

Bring your picnics, seating/blankets and refreshments and join together with church friends, family and our village for a long-awaited get-together!

Website: [copthornechurch.org](http://copthornechurch.org)

Rev. Wim Mauritz: 01342 457064

Email: [office.copthornechurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.copthornechurch@gmail.com)

Office: 01342 712063