

Welcome!

We are so glad you are here with us today. You are especially welcome if you are new to the Church. If you would like more information about us, please take and complete a slip in the Welcome Area and give it to a Steward or a Minister.

Today at St. John's

8:00am	Communion	Reading: 1 Samuel 2:12-36
10:00am	Morning worship	Reading: 1 Samuel 2:12-36 <i>Preacher: Peter Chamberlin</i>
6.30pm	Evening worship	Real Lives Interview <i>Preacher: Peter Chamberlin</i>

Today at Emmanuel Church, Mayford

9:30am	Morning Worship	Reading: 1 Samuel 2:1-11
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Next Week at St John's

8:00am	Communion	Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1- 4:1a
10:00am	Morning Worship	Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1- 4:1a
6:30pm	Evening Worship	Eschatology 4

Next Week at Emmanuel

9:30am	Morning Worship	Reading: 1 Samuel 2:12-36
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Office hours: 9am - 1pm, Mon - Fri
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Events This Week:

Mon 29 th	9:30am	Ladies' Bible group	Church lounge
Tues 30 th	6:00pm 7:00pm 7:45pm 8:00pm	Dangerous Kids Club (Yrs. 3-6) 1Eighty (Yrs. 7-9) iNsight (Yrs. 10-13) Music group rehearsal	Youth Centre Youth Centre Youth Centre Church
Wed 1 st May	10.00am 11:45am 7:45pm	Emmanuel Coffee Morning Daytime Prayer Meeting Parish Prayer Meeting	Emmanuel Emmanuel Church
Thurs 2 nd	9:30am 7:00am	First-steps toddler group Polling Station	Youth Centre Narthex/Lounge

Daytime Prayer Meeting: We're starting a new daytime prayer meeting, on the same day as our evening one. It will be at Emmanuel Church, on the first Wednesday of the month, at 11:45pm. This is immediately after the Emmanuel Coffee morning, which begins at 10am and all are welcome to attend. We hope this will enable some of you who can't get out easily in the evening, and those who live in and around Mayford, to join in the important work of prayer. **Begins THIS WEEK – 1st May.**

Ladies who Breakfast: Start your weekend well on **May 11th from 8.30-9.30am** by joining us in the Narthex to listen to a short podcast whilst enjoying a continental-style breakfast. **Book your place** by contacting Jo, chamberlin.joanna@gmail.com or signing up in the welcome area **by 6th May**

Save the date: Church family picnics: We'd love you to join us for an informal picnic on the Lye (and maybe a game of rounders!) from approx. 12pm on **9th June and 14th July**. Bring your own picnic/rugs

SGP Prayers: Trinity church, Liphook. Give thanks for a good time away as a family in Keswick at the IPC Spring Getaway; for continued stability as a church, and for a recent appointment of new deacons. Please pray for the church weekend at home where John Samuel will preach; for growing commitment to the local church; for commitment to evangelism and mission in our communities, particularly Liphook; and for encouragement in their work.

Giving to Church: Donations options, if you would like to make a gift to our church: *Donation boxes for cash or cheques located at the back of the church and in the welcome area. Card Reader available as well.*

Online Transfers – Our Bank details are on the side of the donation boxes.

Standing order for regular gifts – forms are in the welcome area.

Leave a gift in your Will – speak to clergy/treasurer. (Information on legacies available in the welcome area.) Please consider gift-aiding your donations as well

Hearing Loop in church – We are considering upgrading the hearing loop system in church. If you are a current user, could you please speak to Glyn/Peter so they can gather opinions about the various options.

There are so many groups that run during the week here at St John's, groups for all ages. One that has probably flown under the radar is our wonderful First Steps baby and toddler group. First Steps is run in the youth centre hall by myself and a small cluster of volunteers. It is a group that is open to the community and it caters to all carers. Our group runs as an open play space to children as young as new-born right up until the age of 3/4. We have an hour of free play with fresh homemade cake (thank you to the lovely ladies who bake each week) and coffee/tea and plenty of snacks for children. Children then have a chance to hear a bible story or go through a bible-based series like "Creation" or "Thank You God for...". We love that we can freely open up God's word and not shy away from biblical truth to a group of young children and their non-Christian carers.

After making a craft, we enjoy a space to dance and sing our favourite nursery rhymes and even get a chance to teach some songs we sing in church! We love when Robin brings in his guitar, tuba or even parachute! The children have a blast! However, what we love most about our group is the connections we can form with the families and children that come through our doors. We can chat and get to know all the carers and therefore hopefully plant a seed in guiding them towards a relationship with the Lord Jesus. It is the biggest form of outreach that St John's runs and I am in awe of the numbers that have grown, up to 28 children, each week! We are busy! Praise God!!

Having said that, it would be wonderful to see more families in our church attend with their little ones. Put yourself in a non-Christian carer's shoes. There's nothing quite like chatting to someone who is in the same boat as you. It would be even better if that someone could help you spark that curiosity in the gospel and living a life for Jesus who promises love and everlasting salvation. So, this is a call to all families in the church with children under the age of 5! Your regular attendance could play a deep impact in the life of a family who does not yet know the Lord.

Also, a plea to anyone who is free to help us run the group and volunteer on our team. God willing, the church could open a second group on a different morning (we are certainly heading that way). Our group is such a chaotically wonderful space and we just love the carers and children who come and be a part of it each week. If you feel a pull to join in as a volunteer, please do come chat to me!

Kim Phillips

Collect for This Sunday

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our mind's good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Gluten free wafers are available for communicants. Non-alcoholic alternative is available during communion.

*Someone from our Prayer Ministry Team (with **blue lanyards**) will be available after the 10am service to pray with those who would like prayer.*

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Mary Kirkman, is available for advice or to talk through concerns relating to safeguarding.

Tel 07763 456015 or email: **safeguarding@stjohnswoking.uk**

Recordings of our livestreamed services are available on our website.