

**Welcome!**

We are so glad you are here with us today. We especially welcome those who 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.

**Collect for This Sunday**

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

**Today at St. John's**

8:00am	Communion	Reading: Psalm 104
10.00am	All Age (Harvest Day)	Reading: Psalm 104 <i>Preacher: Glyn Lucas</i>
6:30pm	Evening Worship	Prayer for cross-cultural evangelism

**Today at Emmanuel**

9:30am	Morning Worship	Reading: Revelation 17:1-18; Exodus 33:12-34:7
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**Next week at St John's**

8.00am	Communion	Reading: Numbers 13:1-3, 17-33 Revelation 18:1-24
10.00am	Morning Worship	Reading: Numbers 13:1-3, 17-33 Revelation 18:1-24
6.30pm	Evening Worship	Real Lives: Interview

**Next week at Emmanuel**

9:30am	Communion	Reading: Psalm 104
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### ***Events This Week:***

Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Ladies' Bible group	Church lounge
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup>	2:30pm	Pastoral Support Group	Church
	6:00pm	Dangerous Kids Club (7-10s)	Youth Centre
	7:15pm	Youth groups (11-18s)	Youth Centre
	8:00pm	Music group rehearsal	Church
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	Emmanuel Coffee Morning	Emmanuel
	11:30am	Daytime Prayer meeting	Emmanuel
	7:45pm	<b>Parish Prayer meeting</b>	Church
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:30am	First-steps toddler group	Youth Centre
	10:30am	Grieving hearts group	Church lounge
	2:30pm	Thursday fellowship	Church lounge

A vacancy has arisen for the post of **churchwarden** for the remainder of the period until our APCM next spring. An election will be held on **6<sup>th</sup> October**, during the 10am service. Nomination forms, which also set out eligibility criteria, are available in the Welcome Area. Speak to Glyn, Peter or Rich for more information.

**Real Lives: Back by popular demand at 6:30 on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October.** Peter will be interviewing Mark Sankey, Becky Stacey, and Oli Barwick about working life as a Christian in their respective professions. It promises to be a very encouraging evening - join us if you can!

**Men's Games evening: 11<sup>th</sup> Oct at 8pm** - Would you like an opportunity to get to know other men at church? Would you like an easy invitation for a friend or neighbour to meet a few other Christian men? Do you know any of the 1/3 of men in the UK who report regularly feeling lonely? The men's games evening is a free, 'youth group' style drop-in for men. Who knows how the Lord may use the friendships that develop? Contact Peter with any questions. Arrive 15 mins early to help us set-up.

**17<sup>th</sup> Oct – CAMEO (2:30pm) - Refreshments and Visiting Speaker.**

**Choir for Remembrance Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November:** We are getting the choir back together to sing in the service on Remembrance Sunday. All welcome. Please e-mail or speak to Robin if you are interested. [robin@stjohnswoking.uk](mailto:robin@stjohnswoking.uk). Rehearsals will be: Sunday 27th October - 2:30pm and Thursday 7th November - 8pm.

**Homegroup books:** The book of Revelation is now available for homegroups. Please contact the office for a copy.

**Pledge for AM's house.** If you have pledged to donate an amount for this project, it would be helpful if you could please now pay it either by cheque, or directly into the church bank account (speak to the office if assistance is required); now that the building work is progressing, we are making regular payments to the builders.

**SGP Prayers: Christ Church, Virginia Water:** Pray for new staff starting this September, Josh (Youth, Students and Worship Pastor) & Abi (Intern). Pray they settle in well and flourish in their roles. Pray for new students arriving at Royal Holloway, and that we can support the CU well and warmly welcome students who join us this term. Pray for growth of our evening service that more may regularly attend and be nourished at our informal service.

A few weeks ago, our treasurer provided us with a helpful reminder of the financial position of the church. Since then, a few people have reviewed their regular giving to the church and I'm so grateful for that. We remain amazed at the one-off giving by many people that has enabled us to start work on necessary improvements to the Associate Ministers home, but our regular giving is still an on-going concern.

As a reminder, it costs us about £900 every day to keep the doors open at church and to maintain our giving to mission partners. As a church we are also ensuring that the £119K we pay to the diocese goes to gospel work we are happy to support.

From conversations with a few people, I think there is a hurdle for some new givers who are reluctant to commit to monthly giving because they are embarrassed by what others may perceive to be a small amount. If you are in that category, I would like to say, that all giving is a welcome and vital part of our worship. Only one person knows how much people give and that's the person who looks after our planned giving. None of the clergy or leadership team know who gives, or how much they give.

This harvest, can I encourage you to review your giving or the possibility of giving? If 100 people gave about the cost of Costa coffee each week, we would cover this year's deficit. Below is the summary of the detail our treasurer provided for us to consider:

Results for the first six months of 2024 are as follows:

<b>Income</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>Costs</b>	<b>£000</b>
From the congregation (inc tax reclaims but not YM contributions)	141	Parish share	60
Letting and other income	25	Clergy	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>	Missionary support	22
		Children and youth	14
		Buildings and Services	23
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>3</b>	Administration	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>169</b>

**This means our costs exceed our income by roughly £500 per month.** Our costs are roughly £15,000 (8%) below target but this has only been achieved through very strict cost control and saying no to all new initiatives. However, total income is also below its target by £25,000 (12%) for these six months. Letting income is actually exceeding target, so inward giving by the congregation is down by £28,000 or 16%. Continual deficits are not sustainable, so if inward giving does not significantly increase, we will need to cut back on activities and services.

If you have recently joined the church, have not reviewed your giving for some time, or do not give to the church at all, please think prayerfully about this. It's important that we put our money where our heart is!

If you would like information on how to give, our bank details, how the tax reclaim works, or information about legacies, please pick up a leaflet by the donation boxes (back of church and in the Welcome Area), see the table in the Welcome Area, look on our website, or speak to Alison in the office or to Tony, our treasurer.

## Sermon Notes

*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](mailto:safeguarding@stjohnswoking.uk)

*Recordings of our livestreamed services are available on our website.*