

Welcome!

We are so glad you are here with us today. We 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 God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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: 1 Samuel 10:17-27 <i>Preacher: Peter Chamberlin</i>
10:00am	Morning Worship	Reading: 1 Samuel 10:17-27 <i>Preacher: Peter Chamberlin</i>
6:30pm	Communion	Reading: Psalm 114 <i>Preacher: Glyn Lucas</i>

Today at Emmanuel

9:30am	Morning Worship	Reading: 1 Samuel 9:1-24; 1 Samuel 9:25-10:16 <i>Preacher: Glyn Lucas</i>
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Events This Week:

Mon 13 th	9:30am	Ladies' Bible group	Church lounge
Tues 14 th	6:00pm	Dangerous Kids Club (7-10s)	Youth Centre
	7:15pm	Youth groups (11-18s)	Youth Centre
	8:00pm	Music group rehearsal	Church
	8:00pm	PCC Meeting	Church lounge
Wed 15 th	10.00am	Men's Bible group	Church lounge
	2:30pm	Knit&Natter	Emmanuel
	7:45pm	Homegroup in church	Church lounge
Thurs 16 th	9:30am	First-steps toddler group	Youth Centre
	7.45pm	Christianity Explored	
Sunday, 19th	8.00am	Communion: 1 Samuel 11	St John's
	9.30am	Morning Worship: 1 Samuel 10:17-27	Emmanuel
	10.00am	Communion: 1 Samuel 11	St John's
	6.30pm	Evening Worship: Psalm 115	St John's

Dates for the diary:

Ladies' breakfast: Saturday, Jan 25th (*see below*)

Men's Games evening: Friday, Jan 31st and Mar 14th (*see below*)

Church working party: Saturdays, Feb 8th and March 8th

Christianity Explored: Thursdays 7:45pm.

Who? Why? So what? Come and meet the man who changed history.

Email: glyn@stjohnswoking.uk

Prayer leaders' workshop: Peter is running an hour-long workshop on **Monday 20th January** exploring how to lead our Sunday prayers well. It is aimed at those who already lead prayers in church, or who would be interested in doing so, but not currently on the Rota. The workshops will run at **11:30am and 8pm** in the lounge. Please get in touch with Peter if you are interested in attending either session, even if you can't make the time/date.

Ladies who Breakfast: A new year brings mixed feelings - hope, disappointment, weariness, enthusiasm, all of the above! However we feel, we can be sure that our loving and unchanging God has big plans for us and for his church in 2025. Join us for a time of encouragement and discussion on **Saturday January 25th, 8:30-9:45am** as we reflect on 2024 and look forward to 2025 over a continental breakfast. Book your place by signing-up in the welcome area or by contacting Jo Chamberlin (chamberlin.joanna@gmail.com) by 22nd January.

£3 payable on the day.

Men's Games evenings – Friday 31st January & Friday 14th March

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.

Coffee Rotas The coffee rotas are still desperately short of people, which makes it more difficult for those serving already. Please consider joining! No existing barista skills required – full training/mentorship available, and the rota can be arranged so that not everyone has to arrive early to set up: help is required more to serve and clear up. Please speak to the Chandlers or to the church office to find out more.

SGP Prayers for all churches: Pray for conversations to be fruitful; for courses to point people clearly to Jesus; for the Spirit to be at work softening hard hearts and bringing forth real faith in Christ.

Jam Jars: Please help yourself to jam jars in the welcome area if you are a jam or a marmalade maker!

What is the Electoral Roll and why should I be bothered?

12th January

2025 is one of those years where every church is required to tear up their electoral roll and begin again. But what exactly is the electoral roll and why is it important – surely coming regularly to St. John's is quite enough!

Of course, the simple answer to that is yes... ..and no!

Being part of the family of worshippers at St John's really ought to mean more than attending week-by-week. As those committed to serving Christ, our aim should be to serve one another. Jesus himself put a huge emphasis on serving – he left the splendour of heaven to serve us through his death. He symbolised this through the washing of his disciples' feet, the night before he was crucified. As followers, we're not only called to serve, but we're adopted into a spiritual family of all believers. As those committed to God's people here at St. John's our desire ought to be to put our name to that commitment.

But serving one another goes beyond simply being on a list, the list brings with it an entitlement to act together in the service of Christ. It's a requirement for anyone wishing to join the PCC or vote for someone else to join the PCC. More than that, it entitles our church family to be represented on synods in the broader church.

The way it works is that the PCC are there to support and help make decisions about the running of the parish. Representatives are also then elected to the Deanery Synod (the group of local churches) and also the Diocesan Synod, (all the churches in the Guildford Diocese) and can then be elected to represent the Diocese on the General Synod for the whole of the Anglican Communion.

Now I know what you're thinking.... *'How awful, who would want to do any of that!'* But we ought to see it as a responsibility and privilege that we can have a part in the direction and work of the whole Church of England. Sadly, I think evangelical parishes have for far too long, taken a very low view of getting involved in church politics and as a result we're now complaining that the church has lost its way! I wonder how we would answer that question in glory when we're asked what part we played in holding the church to account?

However, there's also a pastoral element to being included on the roll. It demonstrates a desire to come under the care of the church family and its leadership. So, over the next few weeks, please will make time to complete an electoral roll form; it's a mild annoyance in the big scheme of life. We're planning on making the process as easy as possible even putting aside time to complete the form during some of our services.

This year may be the first time you've been eligible to join, maybe you're new, maybe you recently moved, maybe you live outside the parish but are now a regular attender, or perhaps you've recently turned 16!

Let's demonstrate our commitment to each other and to the wider church, but most of all our commitment to Christ our King as we go about this task with thankfulness.

Huge thanks, Glyn

Sermon Notes

Are you new to St. John's church? We would love to get your name and contact number. This QR code will take you to a secure online form.



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

Gluten free wafers and a non-alcoholic alternative are available for communicants: please ask the administering clergy.

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.

St. John the Baptist Church

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