

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, or scan the QR code, also in the Welcome Area.

Collect for Easter Sunday

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in Him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with Him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen

Today at St. John's

8.00am	Communion	Reading: 1 Peter 1:3:5 <i>Preacher: Glyn Lucas</i>
10:00am	All-Age service	Reading: 1 Peter 1:3:5 <i>Preacher: Glyn Lucas</i>
6:30pm	Easter Praise	Reading: 1 Corinthians 15 <i>Preacher: Peter Chamberlin</i>

Today at Emmanuel

(Emmanuel service times will change to 4pm from April 27th, 2025)

9:30am	Morning Worship	Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-22 <i>Preacher: Rob Bennett</i>
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Events This Week:

Tues 22 nd	8:00pm	Music group rehearsal	Church
Wed 23 rd	10.00am	Men's Bible group	Church lounge
	7:15pm	Homegroup in church	Church lounge
Thurs 24 th	9:30am	First-steps toddler group	Youth Centre
Sun 27 th	8.00am	Communion: Hebrews 8:1-13 & Luke 24:13-27	St John's
	9.30am	Morning Worship: Hebrews 8:1-13 & Luke 24:13-27	Emmanuel
	10.00am	Morning Worship: Hebrews 8:1-13 & Luke 24:13-27	St John's
	6.30pm	Evening Worship: What does the Bible say about Angels?	St John's

Thank you to those who worked so hard over the past couple of weeks in preparation for our Easter services and events.

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.

Financial need: If you know of anyone who is in need of financial help, please speak to clergy or the church wardens as they have access to small charitable grants which could help.

SGP Prayers: Pray for all churches as they prepare for the Easter services and activities, and that good contacts would be made and the gospel would be shared clearly.

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.



EDGE Coffee mornings – Every Tuesday – term-time only: Meet the team, have a cuppa, and encourage young people to learn life skills.
(EDGE hire out our Small Halls. They work with young people outside the standard education system).

At Easter we have the very best news to celebrate. No other religion or worldview can offer anything remotely like the Christian hope which is ours through the resurrection of Jesus our Lord!

Confucius focused on living a virtuous life and believed that focussing on the afterlife was futile, as little is or can be known about it. That is not the Christian hope: The LORD has revealed to us the reality of judgement, the resurrection, heaven (the new creation) and hell. And Jesus' resurrection shows us a glimpse of the future that can be ours through faith in him.

The Hindu expects that after death their soul will be reincarnated many hundreds or millions of times, perhaps into a better existence (a more privileged human position?) or perhaps into one that is worse (a slug?), according to their 'karma'. That is not the Christian hope: Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgement (Hebrews 9:27) – there are no second, hundredth or millionth chances. In any case, judgement will not be based on our 'performance' in this life but on God's grace to us in Christ!


The Buddhist hopes to be dissolved, like a drop of water, back into the ocean of the universe; to lose their personal identity and existence, and to become 'one' with everything. That, is not the Christian hope. The Bible teaches that we will all be raised physically, as individuals with personhood continuous with who we are today!

The Muslim expects that after death there will be resurrection of the body before judgement which will be based on the weighing of good deeds against bad, and entry into paradise for those who Allah admits. That is not the Christian hope: in Christ there is certainty that the penalty for sin has been paid for all who believe and trust in Him – the resurrection confirms that His sacrifice is accepted, His victory won, and so we have certainty, not just a vague hopeful wish, that heaven will be ours.

The atheist hopes (in the words of James Watson) for 'a good lunch'.¹ There is nothing to hope for beyond the grave. We are just clusters of matter, behaving according to the principles of the forces of physics, the impulses of our inner chemistry, and the urges of our biology. But there is nothing more, whether good or bad, once our bodies crumble to dust. That is not the Christian hope. In Christ we have a hope which endures beyond the grave, giving meaning to the present, and a joyful expectation for the future. Wherever you look around the world, you will find nothing to compare with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life of all who trust in Christ, which Jesus' resurrection confirms for us.

Peter

¹ Richard Dawkins reports a conversation with scientist James Watson in 'The God Delusion' like this: "'Watson retorted: 'Well I don't think we're *for* anything. We're just products of evolution. You can say, "Gee, your life must be pretty bleak if you don't think there's a purpose." But I'm anticipating having a good lunch.' We did have a good lunch, too."

<i>Someone from our Prayer Ministry Team (with blue lanyards) will be available after the 10am service to pray with those who would like prayer.</i>	
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	
St. John the Baptist Church Church Road, St. John's, Woking GU21 7QN  like/groups/stjohnswoking	Office hours: 9am-1pm, Mon-Fri office@stjohnswoking.uk Tel: 01483 377477