

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

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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

Parish Services Today

8am	St. John's	Communion (BCP)	Isaiah 63:7-14 Hebrews 13:20-25 <i>Preacher: Glyn Lucas</i>
10am	St. John's	Morning Worship	
4pm	Emmanuel	Afternoon Worship	
6.30pm	St. John's	Evening Worship	How to answer difficult questions about our faith! <i>Preacher: Glyn Lucas</i>

Parish Services Next Week (Aug 3rd)

8am	St. John's	Communion (BCP)	<i>Daniel 1:1-1:21</i>
10am	St. John's	Morning Worship	
4pm	Emmanuel	Communion	

Recordings of our livestreamed services are available on our website

www.stjohnswoking.uk

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

Events This Week:

Mon 28 th	9:30am	Ladies' Bible group	Church lounge
Tues 29 th	8:00pm	Music Rehearsal	Church
Wed 30 th	10.00am 7:45pm	Men's Bible Study Homegroup in church	Church lounge Church

No 6:30pm services in August. The service will resume on **Sunday, 7th September.**

Sunday, 10th August: Bring-your-Own-Picnic on the Lye after the 10am church service.

Sunday, 24th August: Service on the Lye, followed by Church Picnic.

26th-29th August: Holiday Club

Keith Bridges' funeral will be held on Tuesday, Aug 12th, 11:30am at St. John's Church.

Pray for Peter, George, and our youth who are at Christian camps and conventions this weekend.

Small Junk needed for Holiday Club activity: We need small cardboard boxes, tubes, bottles etc. for junk modelling for holiday club. Please could you bring to church and leave outside the small halls/church office in the allocated box. **Please can all materials be clean and NOT from nut-based products.** We DO NOT need large boxes.

Men's Summer Book Group: If you'd like to join the book group, please order a copy of "Living to Please the Lord" by Lee Gatiss. We'll meet on the evening of **Thursday 21st August** to discuss it. Contact Peter (peter@stjohnswoking.uk) to say you're coming.

St John's Karaoke and Cocktails - Friday 10th October - 7.30-10.30pm: Following the success of St John's Gin and Jazz evening a few years ago, we are hosting a similar event in October. The event is the perfect opportunity to invite friends and family from outside the church community for a fun and relaxed evening of good company, tasty food, homemade entertainment and a little gospel message. The church will be transformed into a sophisticated setting with an onsite bar providing fresh cocktails and mocktails. Ticket information will follow but please put this date in your diary, pick up some 'save the date' flyers from the Welcome Area and give these out to potential guests. Any questions or if you are willing to help with tasks for the event, please contact Lys Price: lys@stjohnswoking.uk

Please be mindful of our neighbours' access while parking for services. We suggest using the church car park and Vicarage drive first, and then the Lye or St John's Road as an overflow.



Yateley Baptist Church: Pray that we would be equipped as a Church and that those who attend with us who aren't members yet, would be encouraged to join us. Pray for our new families and non-Christians who have been attending our Family Service. Pray that over the summer, our young people will be led to read the Bible and come to faith in Christ!

Just a few days into the school holidays, it's maybe a little early for the whining voices to begin. But if you're a parent, au-pair, or looking after grandchildren, you'll know exactly what I'm talking about.

In the history of the human race, boredom is practically brand new – less than three hundred years old. The English word 'boredom' did not appear until the 1850s, and its parent noun 'bore' ("he is such a bore") only appeared 100 years earlier. Boredom is easy to identify, but difficult to define. It's a feeling of frustration, weariness and lack of energy. Feeling bored indicates that you are not fulfilled by the activity you are occupied by. You desire to be busy with something more engaging and meaningful.

In his eye-opening book "The Tech-wise Family", Andy Crouch observes that 'boredom' is first described by mid-18th century nobles – some of the first people not to do manual work, or to cook food – the people whose lives were served by others. Could it be that widespread boredom is not a symptom of life in general, but specifically of modern life? Today life has been made easy by gadgets and ready meals. We have more leisure time than people living in any other era. And in that leisure time we are bombarded by podcasts, radio, TV and internet, it is not a lack of entertainment or time for leisure which causes boredom, but the presence of so many distractions. The very technology which promises to release us from boredom is actually making it worse.

As a parent I have a choice. In the moment of boredom, should I resort to a screen to pacify my restless children? Often the fast-moving bright colours allow us to prepare dinner or hang out the washing. And in an evening should we sit down to watch that screen ourselves (if we aren't distracted from it by the smaller one in our pockets)? What will be the cost? The effect of the screen is to saturate our senses, and rob us of the ability to take delight in the simple things of life. Could boredom be a warning sign – "that our capacity for wonder and delight, contemplation and attention, real play and fruitful work, has been dangerously depleted?" (Tech-wise Family, p146) In a world full of wonders – from the stars in the night sky, to the insects in your back garden – in which there is music, and art, and an endless supply of people to meet and places to explore – how can we possibly be bored? The LORD created us in His image, to have dominion over creation – is that not a task full of meaning, enough to energise us all?

Would we not be better off finding delight in absorbing creative work and serving others, just as he does?

When we live as He has made us, in line with the grain of the universe, we're less likely to suffer splinters. So, how could you alter your plans for this week, to live according to His design, and avoid the deadly disease of boredom?

Peter

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.



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