

## 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

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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)	Exodus 19 Hebrews: 12:18-29 Preacher: Glyn Lucas
10am	St. John's	Morning Worship	
4pm	Emmanuel	Communion	
6.30pm	St. John's	Evening Worship	Interview with SASRA (Soldiers and Aviators Scripture Readers Association)

## Parish Services Next Week (July 13<sup>th</sup>)

8am	St. John's	Communion (BCP)	<i>Deuteronomy 31:1-8</i> <i>Hebrews 13:1-6</i>
10am	St. John's	Morning Worship	
4pm	Emmanuel	Afternoon Worship	
6:30pm	St. John's	Communion	The Lord's Prayer

Recordings of our livestreamed services are available on our website [www.stjohnswoking.uk](http://www.stjohnswoking.uk)  
Someone from our Prayer Ministry Team (with *blue lanyards*) will be available after the 10am service to talk 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)

### ***Events This Week:***

Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Ladies' Bible group	Church lounge
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup>	6:00pm 7:15pm 8:00pm	Dangerous Kids Club (7-10s) Youth groups (11-18s) Music Rehearsal	Youth Centre Youth Centre Church
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am 7:45pm	Men's Bible Study Homegroup in church	Church lounge Church
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:30am	First-Steps toddler group	Youth Centre

### **Dates for your diary:**

**CAMEO: Thursday 17th July, 11am-2pm.** Meet at Heather Farm, Horsell, GU21 4XY. Coffee and chat followed by a short, medium or longer one hour walk. Lunch around 12.30pm, self-paying. Contact Duncan and Kate Rawson for more details if required. No need to book in or sign up, just turn up on the day.

**Men's Games Evening – July 18<sup>th</sup> 8pm-9:30pm.**

**No 6:30pm services in August.**

The service will resume on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September.**

**Don't our front doors look great? Huge thanks to Rowan and Lisa Alderton for doing an excellent job of repainting them, and to Linda for arranging to have it done.**

**Men's Summer Book Group:** Calling all men! Please join us this summer reading a good Christian book. You could take it on holiday with you for some spiritual refreshment. Mark the evening of **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Aug** in your diary – we'll be discussing what we've read and how it's encouraged us. "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another". Ephesians 5:10 instructs us to "find out what pleases the Lord." Lee Gatiss took this command seriously and has written a wonderfully insightful book called "Living to please the Lord". It's slim and easy to read, and well worth your time. Contact Peter ([peter@stjohnswoking.uk](mailto:peter@stjohnswoking.uk)) and we'll order copies (less than £10 each).



**SGP Prayers:** This week, our own church is the focus for the partnership's prayers! Give praise and be encouraged that other churches locally are praying for us!

**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.

Engrained in the 21<sup>st</sup> century mindset is the belief you can't know anything for definite. Of course, this isn't true, we know from experience cause and effect, we know actions have consequences. This is true at a personal and a scientific level. Alongside this, we have a moral compass, knowing instinctively right from wrong – even when we choose to ignore it. For example, we know instinctively that harming someone deliberately, is wrong!

The problem is our culture finds many ways to obscure truth and make wrong things feel right, or presents us with obscure examples of how wrong things can appear reasonable, or right things unreasonable. This has the effect of clouding our judgement and makes us doubt right from wrong. Proverbs 14:12 reminds us, *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."*

The Apostle Paul wrote to the churches in Colosse: *"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ."* Over the centuries, the church has come under attack for its stand on issues of morality and yet it's been able to stand firm with a robust and clear call to God's Word. However, in the past 25 years, what previous centuries have failed to do, our culture has manged. Accomplished through decisive undermining of God's Word, not from the outside, but from within the church itself, achieved by cleverly twisting God's word! We have witnessed this within the Church of England which, through poor leadership, has allowed the vital foundation of faith to be corroded and damaged. The evidence of this can be seen in the way people now argue over teaching we've understood for centuries and yet now believe we can reinterpret in a way no reasonable person would ever have considered credible.

These would be dangerous times but for one unchangeable fact, since God never changes, neither does his revelation to us! God's Word may well be hard to hear, say things we would rather not hear, but this isn't a good reason to reinterpret, rather it's a warning sign that mankind's the problem, not God! Without a gospel, there is nothing to tackle the world's standards and that leads to dissatisfaction. It may seem like an odd prayer, but we need to pray that this dissatisfaction will grow from a trickle to a torrent so that many will seek after the Living Water revealed by the Gospel of truth.

Have a great week,

Glyn

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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