

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

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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)	Daniel 4:1-27 <i>Preacher: Peter Chamberlin</i>
10am	St. John's Lye	Morning Worship	
4pm	Emmanuel	Afternoon Worship	

Parish Services Next Week (Aug 31st)

8am	St. John's	Communion (BCP)	Luke 24:13-35
10am	St. John's	Morning Worship	
4pm	Emmanuel	Afternoon Worship	

What's Happening This Week

Min 25 th	9.30am	Ladies' Bible group	Church lounge
Tue 26 th – Fri 29 th	10:00am	Holiday Club	Church
Tue 27 th	8:00pm	Music group rehearsal	Church

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



St. John the Baptist Church Church Road, St. John's, Woking GU21 7QN Emmanuel Church Saunders Lane, Woking GU22 0NR	Office hours: 9am-1pm, Mon-Fri office@stjohnswoking.uk Tel: 01483 377477
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6:30pm services will resume on **Sunday 7th September.**

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



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!

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

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

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.

Thanks for picking up this newsletter – particularly if you are just passing by or walking the dog. You may be surprised to happen across a church service outside in the middle of the village. But perhaps the Christian message will be even more surprising to you – at St John's we're convinced that it is the best news in the world, for every person! Relating it to the story of our own town, here's the good news for Woking...

Debt paid!

The media and our council tax bills remind us that back in 2023 our local council declared itself bankrupt. By March this year, servicing its £2.1bn debt cost £1.3m a week in interest alone, and it was reported that even if every asset the council could legally dispose of were sold, the overhanging debt would still be more than £1.5bn! In essence, the debt needs someone else (central government!) to pay the debt for us.

Jesus teaches something similar. If you know the Lord's Prayer, you'll recognise the line "forgive us our debts". Honesty forces us to admit our moral failings. These put us in debt not only to other people, but to God whose very Being defines right and wrong. Christianity isn't about a way to pay the debt ourselves by our moral improvement – it's about someone else (Jesus Christ!) coming to pay that debt, which was beyond anything we could afford, when he "gave his life as a ransom for many".

Victory won!

Woking (more specifically, Horsell Common) is also known as the landing place of the Martians in H.G. Wells' sci-fi novel, *The War of the Worlds*. The invading force intends to eliminate mankind and conquer Earth.

We like to imagine we are entirely free to live as we wish. But have you ever felt captive to unwanted negative feelings, habits, patterns of thought and behaviour? Or, looking out at the wider world, do you recognise destructive powers of what you can only describe as 'evil'? The Bible tells us that the invading forces of darkness hold us and all the world in captivity unless we are set free by the liberating power of the Holy Spirit, who brings us under a new and good government in the 'kingdom of God'.

Dead raised!

What else is our town famous for? Since it opened in 1854 Brookwood Cemetery (originally known as London Necropolis – the 'town of the dead') has become the final resting place of 235,000 people – the largest burial ground in the UK.

To people like us whose lives are scarred by the pain of bereavement, who are slaves to health regimes intended to stave off our own death, Jesus said this: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." Life to the full is not only a life of bucket-list experiences, it's the satisfaction of knowing your Maker. Again, Jesus said, "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." That life begins now, and cannot be taken even by death, if you trust the one who said "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die".

Peter (Associate Minister, St John's Church)

Sermon notes: