

### 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, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, 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 6:1-28 <i>Preacher: Matt Cherukara</i>
10am	St John's	Morning Worship	
4pm	Emmanuel	Communion	
6.30pm	St John's	Communion	Daniel 7 Preacher: Glyn Lucas

### *Parish Services Next Week (Harvest Service)*

8am	St. John's	Communion (BCP)	Mark 6:30-52
10am	St. John's	All Age Harvest Communion	
4pm	Emmanuel	Afternoon Worship	
6:30pm	St. John's	Evening Worship	Daniel 8

*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 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Ladies' Bible group	Church lounge
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm 7:15pm 7:45pm	Dangerous Kids Club (7-10s) Youth groups (11-18s) PCC Meeting	Youth Centre Youth Centre Church lounge
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am 7:45pm	Men's Bible group Homegroup in church	Church Church lounge
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	First-steps toddler group	Youth Centre

**Harvest Service on Sept 21<sup>st</sup> followed by a bring and share lunch:** Food options and sign-up sheets are in the welcome area.

**Woking Foodbank list:** Please have a look at the list on the welcome board.

**Sue Day's funeral will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, at church.** All are welcome to attend.

**CAMEO: Friday 3rd October 2.30-4.30pm in the Church Narthex.** Refreshments and Visiting Speaker.

**St John's Karaoke and Cocktails - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October - 7.30-10.30pm:**

Tickets are now available with the QR code on the right, or the link:

<https://buytickets.at/stjohnschurchwoking/1735602>



Any questions or if you are willing to help with tasks for the event, please contact Lys Price: [lys@stjohnswoking.uk](mailto: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, or St. John's Hill as an overflow.



**Farnham Baptist:** Please pray for us starting the new academic year and getting back into rhythm; ask the Lord to help us present the gospel to visitors and newcomers. Pray for our continued journey toward eldership.

Pray we might reach out with the gospel to the new cohort of students arriving from UCA just next door.

OK, I'm going to risk upsetting some and enraging others by being honest. But this is such an important subject, you see, getting children to church can be a struggle, and it's one that every parent will experience!

While culture and expectations change around us, people remain the same. Our human desire is to suppress our need to worship God and that's no different in our children. Just as we need to teach how to wash, be polite, eat properly, work hard, so we need to teach how to worship and it can be really tough. In fact, even when we do everything we can, our children may still reach an age where they reject Christ and choose to live, ignoring His call on their lives. Having been through it with two boys who, praise God, continue to grow in their faith serving the Lord, the best advice I can offer is the following:

1. Set a family example – make church a priority as a family so that your children understand how important your faith is to you. Children are very quick to recognise how other things take precedence, like shopping or sport or just having a day out rather than being in church.

In our house, church was what we did on Sunday as a family. Children's parties, school events, sports opportunities were never allowed to become more important. I remember one of my sons coming home with an invitation to a friend's party that was on a Sunday. He said, *'I would have really liked to go but it's a Sunday so I can't!'*

2. Children don't make wise decisions, that's why they have parents. Until our boys were 18 and left home to go to university, we didn't give them the option not to come to church, that was our expectation – church came with Sunday roast sat around the table together and that was all part of the deal.
3. Church isn't just about listening; it's also about serving and being together with friends. If they aren't there then others will miss them. If we want to build-up our youth work, then we need them to know other youth will be in church when they get there, and that requires a corporate response. Parents, particularly those of teenagers, need to work together to help build that group identity that becomes so valuable if our teens are going to transition from being in church to help serving at church and being a part of that partnership in the gospel.

Of course, I know that what has worked for me, might not work for you. All I can say is that I learned what I know from those who taught me the same thing a generation before.

I would appeal to all parents to stop worrying about putting your children off church by making them come. The reality is that rarely happens. Far more likely they will stop coming because you allow them to and that sends a clear message you don't think it's important. Finally, speak to your children about their faith, ask them if they understand what it means to be a Christian and challenge them to live out their faith at school, when they are with their friends, when they are at other people's houses.

The most important thing is to pray and pray and pray some more, invite others to pray for your children too. There are many of our more senior members who would LOVE to pray for your children, just ask!

Please understand, I'm not judging anyone. There but for the grace of God go I. I do know how difficult it is to be a parent and all I can do is offer my thoughts for you to do with as you choose.

Thank you if you have managed to read this far without getting cross.

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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