



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 (right), and also in the Welcome Area.



Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Parish Services Today

8am	St John's	Communion (BCP)	Psalm 2 <i>Preacher: Peter Chamberlin</i>
10am	St John's	Morning Worship	
4:00pm	Emmanuel	Afternoon Worship	
6.30pm	St John's	Communion	Hebrews 4:1-13 <i>Preacher: Glyn Lucas</i>

Parish Services Next Week (Dec 21st)

8am	St John's	Communion (BCP)	1 Corinthians 15
10am	St John's	Communion	
4pm	Emmanuel	Carol Service	
6.30pm	St John's	Carol Service	

Other Services during December

Dec 24th – Nativity service at 4pm

Dec 24th – Midnight service at 11pm

Dec 25th – Christmas Day services at 8am and 10am (St John's) and 9.30am (Emmanuel)

Please sign up on the sheets in the Welcome Area to help out!

Recordings of our livestreamed services are available on our website
www.stjohnswoking.uk

Events This Week:

Mon 15 th	9:30am	Ladies' Bible group	Church lounge
Tues 16 th	8:00pm	Music Rehearsals	Church
Wed 17 th	10:00am	Men's Bible group	Church lounge
	2:00pm	Knit&Natter	Emmanuel
	7:45pm	Homegroup in church	Church lounge
Thurs 18 th	3:00pm	Sheila Osgood's funeral	Emmanuel
Fri 19 th	8:00pm	Rowbarge Carols	Rowbarge Pub

Lillian Broderick's Funeral will be held at St. John's on Monday, Dec 22nd at 11am.

Emmanuel services at 4pm: Are you available to lead music/play the piano once every 2 months? Please speak to Chris J to go on the rota.

We have an increasing number of people who no longer drive or have transport. Please consider if you could offer them a lift directly, so that they can attend our Christmas services.

Message from George Osborn: Greetings! In my prayer time, you came to mind and I have been praying for you all. I spent some time thinking about all that St John's sowed into my life and I wanted to reach out and say thank you. I had spent time causing sin around the church building in my youth, I had spent time near the church nearing losing my life, I had spent time at the church being saved and then walking away, I had spent time coming back as the prodigal son, I spent time growing and being discipled, I spent time working for the church and reaching out with Jesus, I spent time getting married at the church!

So much I am grateful to you all for. Keep going, keep shining the Light in that part of the world.

George Osborn

Pastor at Hope Church, Kensington, Liverpool



LIFE MATTERS: Praise God for continuing assistance and encouragement from Council in using the Guildhall in Guildford for our evangelistic Christmas service. Please pray our Christmas Service in the Guildhall on Dec. 17th, for good weather to help in greeting folk in the High Street and inviting them to the service, and for Joe Percy giving the talk.

The True Way of Keeping Christmas – an interview with George Whitefield¹

This week Pete travelled to Bristol, and back to the year 1740, to interview the renowned evangelist and preacher, George Whitefield, about how best to celebrate the birth of Christ. Here's what he had to say:

Let's start at the beginning: why should we celebrate the birth of Jesus at all?

"When we consider the condescension and love of the Lord Jesus Christ, in submitting to be born of a virgin ... and especially as he knew how he was to be treated in this world; that he was to be despised, scoffed at and at last to die a painful, shameful and ignominious death ... O amazing condescension of the Lord Jesus Christ, to stoop to such low and poor things for our sake. What great love is this, what great and wonderful love was here, that the Son of God should come into our world in so mean a condition, to deliver us from the sin and misery in which we were..."

What have you observed about how people today celebrate the Christmas season?

"This is a season when persons are apt to indulge themselves in all manner of luxury. Iniquity now abounds apace. Nothing is scarcely to be seen but things of the greatest extravagance imaginable. Not only for the necessities of the body but to pamper it in lust, to feed its vices, to make it go on in sin, to be a means for gratifying our carnal appetite. And thus, it is a means to make us forget the Lord of glory. ... This is not, nor cannot be called, a celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we are making ourselves worse than the beasts that perish."

Are you suggesting that we should not enjoy ourselves?

"I am not speaking against eating and drinking of the good things of life but against the eating and drinking of them to excess, because thus they disqualify us from the service of God. And to our fellow creatures they make us unsociable and may occasion us to be guilty of saying and acting those things, which we should be ashamed to think of, if we had only ate or drank with moderation."

How can a Christian truly celebrate Christmas in a way that pleases the Lord?

"Instead of running into excess, let that money, which you might expend to pamper your own bodies, be given to feed the poor. Now, my brethren, is the season in which they commonly require relief. And surely you cannot act more agreeable, either to the season, or the time, or for the glory of God, than in relieving his poor distressed servants. Therefore, if any of you have poor friends, or acquaintance, who are in distress, I beseech you to assist them. And not only those of your acquaintance but the poor in general. O, my dear brethren, that will turn to a better account another day, than all you have expended to please the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, or the pride of life. Consider, Christ was always willing to relieve the distressed. It is his command also. And can you better commemorate the birth of your king, your Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, than in obeying one of his commands?"

¹ Quotes from "The Sermons of George Whitefield, vol 1. ed. Lee Gatiss, Crossway, 2012.

<p>Our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Mary Kirkman, is available for advice or to talk through concerns relating to safeguarding.</p> <p>Tel: 07763 456015 or Email: safeguarding@stjohnswoking.uk</p>	
<p>St. John the Baptist Church Church Road, St. John's, Woking GU21 7QN</p> <p>Emmanuel Church Saunders Lane, Woking GU22 0NR</p>	<p>Office hours: 9am-1pm, Mon-Fri office@stjohnswoking.uk Tel: 01483 377477</p>