

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 Sidesman or a Minister, or scan the QR code (right), and also in the Welcome Area.



Collect

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Parish Services Today

8am	St John's	Communion (BCP)	<i>1 Samuel 23</i> <i>Preacher: Peter Chamberlin</i>
10am	St John's	Communion	
4pm	Emmanuel	Afternoon Worship	
6.30pm	St John's	Evening Worship	Christianity Explored: The Resurrection

Parish Services Next Week (May 24th) – Pentecost Sunday

8am	St John's	Communion (BCP)	<i>1 Samuel 25</i>
10am	St John's	Morning Worship	
4pm	Emmanuel	Afternoon Worship	
6.30pm	St John's	Evening Worship	Christianity Explored: The Gift

A hearing loop is available in the church.

Recordings of our livestreamed services are available on our website

www.stjohnswoking.uk

Events This Week:

Mon 18 th	9:30am	Ladies' Bible Group	Church lounge
Tue 19 th	6:00pm 7:15pm 8:00pm 8:00pm	Dangerous Kids Club (7-10s) Youth groups (11-18s) Music Rehearsals PCC Meeting	Youth Centre Youth Centre Church Narthex
Wed 20 th	10:00am 2:00pm 7:45pm	Men's Bible Group Knit&Natter Homegroup in church	Church lounge Emmanuel Church
Thurs 21 st	9:30am	First-Steps toddler group	Youth Centre

Coffee Rotas: The coffee rotas are still desperately short of people, which makes it more difficult for those serving already. Please consider joining! No existing barista skills required – full training/mentorship available, and the rota can be arranged so that not everyone has to arrive early to set up: help is required more to serve and clear up. Please speak to the Chandlers or to the church office to find out more.

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.

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.

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 services.

SGP Prayers: Yateley Baptist Church: We have had a number of new people join us over the past year which has been an encouragement- pray that we'd be a blessing to them as they are to us. We have our youth camp next month. It is likely to be the last one for a number of the boys as they are getting older - pray for salvation as they hear the gospel proclaimed. Next year, the church is 200. We have a number of outreach events planned around the town. Please pray that they will be well organised and well used.

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

Why would God create the devil, knowing the damage he would cause?

Some believe this question is a real gotcha for Christians: *Why would a good God create the devil?* Usually, behind the question, there's a deeper one: *Can I really trust God if there's real evil in the world?* But the Bible doesn't dodge this question, and nor should we!

First, let's be clear about what the Bible actually says. God didn't create the devil to be evil. God created angels as good, moral beings, and one of them rebelled against him. The devil isn't God's equal opposite, as if the universe is a cosmic arm-wrestling match. No — God is Sovereign. The devil is created, limited, and ultimately judged. That matters, because it tells us straight away that evil's not out of control.

So why allow such a rebellion at all? The Bible's answer pushes us towards God's purpose in revealing himself. Without the reality of rebellion, we would never fully see the depth of God's justice, patience, mercy, and love. Words like *forgiveness* and *grace* only mean something where real evil exists. The presence of the devil doesn't diminish God's goodness; instead, it provides the dark backdrop against which God's goodness shines brightly.

Just consider the cross. The worst act of human and spiritual evil finds its focus there. Betrayal, injustice, cruelty, and satanic opposition all converge. And yet, astonishingly, that is the very moment God chooses to bring salvation to the world. What looks like defeat is actually, victory. Evil does its worst... and God uses it to do his best.

The devil's existence also exposes the truth about us. We are not morally neutral people who occasionally slip up; we are rebels who need rescuing. The Bible is blunt because it is kind. If we don't understand the seriousness of evil, both in the world and in our hearts, we'll never understand why we need a Saviour.

And here's the key point: God's allowance of the devil is temporary. The Bible promises a day when evil will be judged, tears wiped away, and justice done. God's not slow; he is patient. He delays judgment so that people can turn to him and live.

So, why did God allow the existence of the devil?

Ultimately, so that his glory, justice, mercy, and saving love might be known and supremely through Jesus Christ. The real question, then, is not, *Why did God create the devil?* but *What will I do with the God who defeats him?*

St. John the Baptist Church

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