

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

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, 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 20</i> <i>Preacher: Peter Chamberlin</i>
10am	St John's	Morning Worship	
4pm	Emmanuel	Communion	
6.30pm	St John's	Evening Worship	Christianity Explored: The Cross

Parish Services Next Week (May 10th)

8am	St John's	Communion (BCP)	<i>1 Samuel 21-22</i>
10am	St John's	Morning Worship	
4pm	Emmanuel	Afternoon Worship	
6.30pm	St John's	Communion	Titus 1

A hearing loop is available in the church.

Recordings of our livestreamed services are available on our website

www.stjohnswoking.uk

Events This Week:

Tues 5 th	6:00pm 7:15pm 8:00pm	Dangerous Kids Club (7-10s) Youth groups (11-18s) Music Rehearsals	Youth Centre Youth Centre Church
Wed 6 th	10:00am 11:45am 7:30pm	Coffee Morning Daytime Prayer Meeting Meeting re. Alternative Episcopal Oversight*, followed by Parish Prayer Meeting	Emmanuel Emmanuel Church
Thurs 7 th	6:00am 9:30am	Polling Day First-steps toddler group	Church Youth Centre

*** See last week's newsletter!**

Thursday Fellowship on May 7th has been cancelled due to Polling Day at church.

Grace Church, Wreclesham are holding an event with Tim Farron on Faith, Politics, and Life: Tuesday, 5th May, 7:30pm at Weydon School GU9 8UG.

The God who knows how to rescue His people: An overview of the big theme of Exodus: An evening with Rev. Simon Vibert, Thursday, 21st May at 7:30pm, Christ Church, Guildford. RSVP: gdefsec@hotmail.com.
Cheese and Wine will be served.

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.

Financial Update: Running costs for the first three months were £93,000 (excluding those for which funds have already been raised). To cover this, we received £77,000 from the congregation (of which £66,000 was regular giving and £11,000 was occasional / one-off), while rental and other income was £14,000. This totals £91,000, which means we are still not quite covering our running costs.
If you would like to know more about giving to the church (or about the financial position), please talk to Tony Graham or to the Parish Manager in the office.

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

For the young people around us exam season is looming. I'm sure many of you will remember being in this position. Or maybe you remember a similar situation with an important presentation or speech you had to give. How much did you prepare? Did you study hard so you could do your best? Or did you just coast through and just about get away with it?

As Christian's we are called to use our gifts to serve others. So, what can we do to ensure we aren't just coasting through but giving it our all?

For a contingent of our music team, we spent a Saturday honing our skills by attending the Word in Song conference hosted by Emu Music. You may recognise some of their songs: We Declare, See Him Coming, Sing unto the Lord a new song (Psalm 96).

We had a great day with teaching from the Psalms, practical workshops on leading music in church and great times of sung worship.

Please do speak to those that attended* and find out more. There's loads for us to share that's relevant to everyone and too much to put it all in one newsletter!

However, one takeaway for me that I think we could all learn from is just how amazing it is that God gives us opportunities to serve each other and grow his people. But also, how important it is to do this well and take our responsibilities seriously.

For us it was things like:

- *How much do we prepare before arriving at rehearsals?*
- *How much time do we spend honing our musical skills no matter what level we have reached?*
- *Did you remember to pray about this throughout the week?*
- *When was the last time you attended any training or read a relevant book?*

All so we can better serve the congregation on a Sunday during sung worship.

Obviously, in this context it was related to us as musicians but the same principal applies to whichever area you serve in. Whether that is serving on the youth team or serving coffee, welcoming people or trimming the hedges.

Whatever area we serve in, let's all think about it this week. How much time do we spend preparing to serve? Have we prayed about this area during the week? Are we prepared enough that we can arrive on time? Have we spent time learning how to better serve each other?

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. – 1 Peter 4:10

*Matt, LaRae, Robin, Lys, Rich P, Ellis, Theo, Ann A, Vicky, Rebecca F

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