

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 God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, 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)	<i>1 Samuel 31</i> <i>Preacher: Glyn Lucas</i>
10am	St John's	Morning Worship	
4pm	Emmanuel	Afternoon Worship	
6.30pm	St John's	Evening Worship	What is an evangelical? <i>Preacher: Peter Chamberlin</i>

Parish Services Next Week (July 5th)

8am	St John's	Communion (BCP)	Philemon
10am	St John's	Morning Worship	
4pm	Emmanuel	Communion	
6.30pm	St John's	Evening Worship	Israel in and out of Egypt

A hearing loop is available in the church.

Recordings of our livestreamed services are available on our website

www.stjohnswoking.uk

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

Events This Week:

Mon 29 th	9:30am	Ladies' Bible group	Church Lounge
Tue 30 th	6:00pm 7:15pm 8:00pm	Dangerous Kids Club (7-10s) Youth groups (11-18s) Music Rehearsals	Youth Centre Youth Centre Church
Wed 1 st	10:00am 11:45am 7:45pm	Emmanuel Coffee Morning Daytime Prayer Meeting Parish Prayer Meeting	Emmanuel Emmanuel Church
Thurs 2 nd	9:30am 2:30pm	First-steps toddler group Thursday Fellowship	Youth Centre Church Lounge
Fri 3 rd	9:30am	Ladies' Bible group	Narthex/Lounge

Save the date:

Marriage MOT – Friday, July 10th at 7:45pm

Church working party: Saturday, July 25th at 9am.

Women's event: Friday, September 25th

We need a new Bishop: Earlier this year our Bishop, Andrew Watson, died in post. The diocese is now in vacancy (called a 'Vacancy in See'), and the committee tasked with finding our next Bishop have opened a consultation on the qualities we need to seek and the particular needs of our diocese. Everyone's voice counts. Wouldn't it be wonderful if your response helped to prepare the way for a godly, faithful, Jesus-loving, Bible-believing Bishop to take the role? The form can be accessed here: [Vacancy in See - Diocesan Consultation](#) takes only 10 minutes to complete. Please pray, think, and respond by the deadline: **8am on 20th July.**

Petition for Puberty blocking trials for children: The government is considering a new trial of puberty blockers for children. If you believe this is not acceptable you can add your name to a petition asking for this to be debated properly in parliament. More details are on the government website:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/751839>. **Closing date 6 July**

Kim's wedding: Many of you will remember Kim Phillips, our trainee who moved on 2 years ago. She is getting married on 10th July. There's a card available for anyone who knew her, to sign – please find it as it's passed round after the service.

Vacancy- Buildings' Facilitator: We are looking for a reliable, energetic and motivated person to help our church buildings and youth centre run smoothly. The role is part-time, currently 10 hours a week, but has some flexibility and could be split across two or more individuals. We are looking to find someone as soon as possible, to allow for a handover with our current facilitator, Sally, who is retiring after many years. For more information, speak to Alison in the church office.

Today is GAFCON Sunday – a day when around the world Anglicans who want to keep the Bible at the heart of the church will celebrate their partnership.

GAFCON stands for Global Anglican Futures Conference. But don't worry about the acronym – what matters is the partnership named after it. GAFCON, in its own words, is *“a global movement, gathering authentic Anglicans, guarding God's gospel, growing orthodox leaders, and generating missional resources, for the glory of God!”*

Many churches first founded by Church of England missionaries – which have gradually become distinct bodies from the mother church, still connected by an allegiance to the Archbishop of Canterbury – have slowly slid into lifeless liberalism, reflecting western secular ideals rather than being distinctive salt and light. Many in our own Church of England have attempted to push the same way. GAFCON on the other hand recognises that: *“The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.”* And so, The Global Anglican Communion which has recently spun out of GAFCON is *“a fellowship of churches who submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, whose life and teaching is revealed in the Scriptures. We understand the Bible is to be ‘translated, read, preached, taught and obeyed in its plain and canonical sense, respectful of the church's historic and consensual reading’ (Jerusalem Declaration, Article II).”* This Global Anglican Communion recognises that true fellowship with other Christians comes not through allegiance to an individual or set of institutional structures, but is found in our common faith and allegiance to Jesus Christ, and the Word by which he governs us.

St John's PCC has on more than one occasion (most recently early this year) affirmed the Jerusalem Declaration – the doctrinal basis for GAFCON. Though we remain a full participating member, structurally, of the Church of England, we find our closest ties of Christian fellowship with Anglicans in other parts of the world who also want to guard the good deposit Christ entrusted to us.

The work of GAFCON is not abstract. Current priorities include:

- Theological education for the next generation of orthodox pastors, many in contexts where sound training is scarce or actively opposed.
- Frontline mission among the unreached — including partnerships across the world, including in the Middle East region and beyond.
- Relational infrastructure that holds together 27 provinces across cultural, linguistic, and national divides — bound not by institutional power but by a shared confession of the Jerusalem Declaration.

This work costs money, and you can find details of how to make a donation, as well as reading more about the GAFCON movement, [here](#). We'll be praying for GAFCON affiliated churches in our Sunday services.

Yours in Christ

Peter

St. John the Baptist Church

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