

Welcome!

We are so glad you are here with us today. We especially 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.

Collect for This Sunday

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Today at St. John's

8:00am	Communion	Reading: Acts 24:1-27
10.00am	Morning Worship	Reading: Acts 24:1-27 <i>Preacher: Glyn Lucas</i>
6:30pm	Evening Worship	What makes singing so special? <i>Preacher: Glyn Lucas</i>

Today at Emmanuel Church, Mayford

9:30am	Morning Worship	Reading: Acts 22:30-23:35
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Next Week at St John's

8.00am	Communion	Reading: Acts 25:1-22
10.00am	Morning Worship	Reading: Acts 25:1-22

Next Week at Emmanuel

9:30am	Morning Worship	Reading: Acts 24:1-27
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Events This Week:

Mon 29 th	9:30am	Ladies' Bible group	Church lounge
Tues 30 th	8:00pm	Music group rehearsal	Church
Wed 31 st	10.00am 7:45pm	Men's Bible group Homegroup in Church	Church lounge Church

No 6:30pm services in August. The service will resume on **Sunday 1st September.**

Church Photos: A designated photographer will be taking photos at services in August for a new, dedicated, online contact directory; this will help those in position of leadership to identify people. If you prefer not to have a photo of yourself or your children (in a family group) included, just let the photographer know.

AM's house update: Following the response to the appeal – over £110,200 (with gift aid) has been pledged so far – the PCC has given the go-ahead for work to start in September. It would be a tremendous blessing if the rest of the money could be raised by then. Do consider this financial need prayerfully.

Open Air Service: Our next outdoor service will be 10:00am on **Sunday 25th August.**

The Coffee rota is in crisis! We simply do not have enough volunteers to provide coffee after the 10am services, before the 6.30pm services, or to run CBBC. This vital time of fellowship is in danger! Please consider stepping up to do a regular stint. Speak to Kim, Anne L, or Alison G to find out what's involved.

Grieving Hearts group will resume on **Sept 12th** after a summer break.

SGP: Manor Road Church (MREC), Guildford: Praise God for new people/visitors joining us on Sundays. Pray for a good summer break especially for those who serve so selflessly in our weekly ministries. Pray for our upcoming MREC Week of Prayer (Sept 16-22). Pray for us as elders that we would shepherd and disciple the flock well.

The Olympic Games in Paris started two days ago. The inspiring film, 'Chariots of Fire', reminded the world of Eric Liddell who won a gold medal at the Paris Olympics in 1924. He was the Usain Bolt of his day. The Games' return to Paris should point Christians towards an even more remarkable story from the past; one of humility, loyalty and courage from which we can take inspiration.

Eric was born in 1902 in China to missionary parents. At school in the UK, he gained sporting fame in rugby, cricket and athletics, before attending Edinburgh University where he obtained a BSc in Pure Science. He played rugby for Scotland. Eric was selected to run for Britain in 100, 200 and 400 metre races at the 1924 Olympics. He was the favourite to win the 100 metres, but not the 400 metres.

Eric learnt that his 100-metre heat would be held on a Sunday. Eric was a Christian – he had come to faith and trusted Jesus as his Lord and Master. Because he took observance of the Sabbath Day as the Lord's Day very seriously, its commemoration of Christ's resurrection, and God's enduring moral law given in the fourth commandment, Eric believed that Sunday was a day for worship, not for running.

Much to the consternation of the Olympic team officials Eric opted out of the race. He was crushed when some accused him of lacking patriotism and having the wrong priorities. When a determined Olympic official put to Eric that the Sabbath ended at noon, he replied "Mine lasts all day!". For him, Jesus had died paying the penalty of his sin, and he would not want to disobey the One who loved him, and had given Himself on the cross for him. Eric sacrificed his place in the 100 metres, and preached in a Scots Kirk church in Paris on the day of the race.

Later, he ran in the 200 metres final winning a bronze medal. Eric was about to take part in the 400 metres final when one of the British team masseurs pressed a folded note in his hand. It read 'It says in the Old Book, "*Him that honours me, I will honour*" wishing you the best success always.' Eric won the gold medal, setting a new world record of 47.6 seconds. The crowd went wild. Naturally, Eric was delighted, although he knew that God was not obligated to give him such a prize.

Eric had done what he knew to be right, and that was enough, though God had been good to him. He said, "I don't need explanations from God. I simply believe in him and accept whatever comes my way." Eric's motto was: *Christ for the world, for the world needs Christ.*

In the present era which sees Christian principles too easily compromised, or altogether disbanded, for the sake of an easier time from others and maybe ourselves, or to make the gospel more appealing, then this is likely to lead to increased pressure to compromise further and a backsliding in our own faith. Eric showed that sticking to Christian principles is crucial. It means we have to stand firm when it comes to what the Lord has commanded. We are called to be in the world, but not of it, and by making his stand on the Lord's Day, Eric honoured the Lord, despite risking great personal sacrifice.

Next week - the second half of Eric's life, every bit as inspiring as the first, but in a much different way.

Sermon Notes

Gluten free wafers are available for communicants. Non-alcoholic alternative is available during communion.

Someone from our Prayer Ministry Team (with [blue lanyards](#)) will be available after the 10am service to pray 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

Recordings of our livestreamed services are available on our website.