

### 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

### Collect for This Sunday

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Today at St. John's

8.00am	Communion	Reading: Deuteronomy 8:1-9:3; Acts 2:42-3:10
10:00am	Communion	Reading: Deuteronomy 8:1-9:3; Acts 2:42-3:10 <i>Preacher: Glyn Lucas</i>
6:30pm	Evening Worship	Commandment 6: You shall not murder <i>Preacher: Peter Chamberlin</i>

### Today at Emmanuel

9:30am	Morning Worship	Reading: Revelation 22:7-21
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### Next week at St. John's

8:00am	Communion	Reading: Acts 4:32-5:11
10:00am	Morning Worship	Reading: Acts 4:32-5:11
6:30pm	Evening Worship	Commandment 7: You shall not commit adultery

### Next week at Emmanuel

9:30am	Morning Worship	Reading: Deuteronomy 8:1-9:3; Acts 2:42-3:10
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*Gluten free wafers and a non-alcoholic alternative are available for communicants:  
please ask the administering clergy.*

### Events This Week:

Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Ladies' Bible group	Church lounge
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm 7:15pm 8:00pm 8:00pm	Dangerous Kids Club (7-10s) Youth groups (11-18s) PCC Meeting Music group rehearsal	Youth Centre Youth Centre Lounge Church
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am 2:00pm 2:00pm 7:45pm	Men's Bible study Light in the darkness for grieving hearts Knit&Natter Homegroup in church	Church lounge Church lounge Emmanuel Church lounge
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup>	9:30am	First-steps toddler group	Youth Centre
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30am	Ladies' Bible group	Narthex/Lounge

### Dates for the diary:

Quiz night: Nov 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm – see flyer.

Thursday Fellowship - joint communion: Dec 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm. *(see below)*

CAMEO: Dec 11<sup>th</sup> at 2pm

A special thank you to the coffee team (Alastair, Jackie and Glynn), for organising the refreshments at the Memorial Hall last Sunday, as well as all the other people who helped clear and tidy up afterwards. Very much appreciated.

**Christmas Choir is back!** We are looking for people of all ages and abilities to join the Christmas Choir for the carol service on **22<sup>nd</sup> December at St John's** and **15<sup>th</sup> December at Emmanuel**. Everyone is welcome, no experience necessary! Rehearsals will be a mixture of Thursdays and Sundays as below. If you cannot make them all that is not a problem but ideally, we ask that you make at least 3. Please e-mail Robin to let him know you are interested. - [robin@stjohnswoking.uk](mailto:robin@stjohnswoking.uk)  
**Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Dec - 3pm-4.30pm; Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Dec - 8pm-9.30pm; Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Dec - 3pm-4.30pm; Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Dec - 8pm-9.30pm; Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Dec - 8pm-9.30pm.**

**GDEF Open Meeting: Christchurch, Guildford on Nov 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.** The executive director at Hope Together will share findings from the 'Talking Jesus' research and other key pieces that are shaping evangelistic culture in the UK. *(Flyer on the welcome board).*

**SGP Prayers: Bethel Baptist Church:** Please pray that the Lord would send us an assistant pastor. Please pray that we would grow in our discipleship of one another. Please thank God for a number of baptisms and other signs of growth.

The December meeting of the Thursday Fellowship will take the form of a Communion service that will be open to the wider St John's & Emmanuel Church Fellowship. The service will take place at St John's, starting at 2:30pm. Mince pies, tea & coffee will be served afterwards. All are welcome.

During November, the church is being used by **Woking Music Festival** to run their annual music competition. *(See flyer for dates)*

## Safeguarding and the Archbishop of Canterbury's Resignation

17<sup>th</sup> November

There is a tragic irony that today is the CofE's annual 'Safeguarding Sunday'. It has been deeply unsettling to see the Church of England making the headlines for all the wrong reasons this week. The Makin report has laid bare John Smyth's heinous abuse of boys and young men in the UK, Zimbabwe and South Africa, and a catalogue of safeguarding failures by clergy and others who covered up what he had done at the time and in the Church of England's response from 2013 onward.

It is absolutely right that the Archbishop has belatedly taken responsibility, owning his guilt and shortcomings. One man's resignation will not bring about the deeper cultural change that is needed, but it would have been impossible for Justin Welby to be responsible for safeguarding in the Church of England. The moral authority of the church has suffered a devastating blow just at the time when we most needed it, with the proposed Assisted Suicide legislation now published and ready for debate in parliament. How ought we to respond to all of this?

Let's first remember the extraordinary gospel of grace. Jesus lifts us from the depths of our depravity and raises us to the heights of his holiness. With the assurance that He knows the worst about us, and yet still died for us; and the confidence that all who wear robes washed in the blood of Jesus will have the right to eat from the tree of life, we can be honest with ourselves, before God, and even before others, about our sin. How freeing that is! Rather than covering up our sin, let us commit to honesty, repenting and confessing our sins to God and seeking forgiveness and restoration.

Secondly, we ought to pray for those affected. For those who have suffered at the hands of abusers – not least those who have shared their harrowing experiences in the media this week. For those bearing responsibility for safeguarding in the CofE. For Justin Welby and his wife Caroline, asking that this would be the beginning of spiritual restoration for him, and for stabilisation of his mental health which he has been commendably open about. And finally, for our nation – that the Lord would open the hearts of those who have dismissed Jesus because of the sin of his bride.

And third, let us re-commit to properly discharging our safeguarding responsibilities at St John's – not because we are instructed to by the CofE hierarchy, but because proper care for children and vulnerable adults is an expression of Christian love, and part of our worship of the One in whose image they have been created. That is a responsibility we all share. As clergy we're thankful to Mary Kirkman for her hard work as our Parish Safeguarding Officer. If you have any concerns about the wellbeing of anyone connected with our church, or about our safeguarding policies and procedures, please speak to Mary, to Glyn or to me.

Yours in Christ, Peter

## Sermon Notes

*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](mailto:safeguarding@stjohnswoking.uk)

*Recordings of our livestreamed services are available on our website.*

### **St. John the Baptist Church**

Church Road, St. John's, Woking GU21 7QN

Office hours: 9am-1pm, Mon-Fri

[office@stjohnswoking.uk](mailto:office@stjohnswoking.uk)

Tel: 01483 377477



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