

This Week's Collect:

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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.

Today at St John's

8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Passage: John 1:6-18
10.00 am	Morning worship	Preacher: Peter Chamberlin
6.30pm	Christianity in an atheist culture	Glyn Lucas

**11.30am: Prayer Meeting for children and youth work**  
- in the small halls after the morning service – all welcome !

Today at Emmanuel

9.30am	Morning Worship	Reading: John 1:1-14 Preacher: Peter Chamberlin (rec) on John 1:1-5
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Next Sunday – 23rd January 2022  
– at St John's -

8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Reading: John 1:19-34
10.00 am	Morning Worship	
6.30pm	Spirituality in a new age culture	

- at Emmanuel -

9.30am	Morning Worship	Reading: John 1:6-18
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Office hours 9am -1pm Mon – Friday  
**Staff days off:**  
**Glyn** – Monday  
**Peter** - Saturday  
**Mary** –from 1pm Fri & all day Saturday  
**Robin** – Paternity leave until Easter

**Livestream:** please contact the office for this week's link  
 Want to listen to a sermon again?  
 Recordings of our livestreamed services are available on our website:  
[www.stjohnswoking.org.uk](http://www.stjohnswoking.org.uk)

*Please note that it is a legal requirement that face coverings are worn in places of worship, unless you are exempt. They may be removed for singing, but the Church of England recommends we keep them on.*

### ***Dates for this Week:***

Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10am	Ladies' prayer meeting	Church lounge
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	7pm	1eighty	Youth Centre
Weds 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2.00pm	Knit and Natter	Emmanuel
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9.30 am 8.00 pm	First Steps Toddler group Christianity Explored	Youth Centre Vicarage

### COMING UP:

This Thursday - 20<sup>th</sup> January Christianity Explored course starts at 8pm, with tea and cakes at the vicarage.

4th February St John's International Supper Club - Moroccan theme - If you are willing to cook (recipes provided) please speak to Sune Hull or Anne Lucas.

27<sup>th</sup> February: Memorial service to remember our family members who died during lockdown.

Lent courses: this year our Lent courses will be on Thursday evenings, to ensure we can still hold our parish prayer meetings on the first Wednesday in March and April.

If you know of anyone with a financial or pastoral need, or have practical needs, such as help with shopping or collecting prescriptions please email: [psg@stjohnswoking.org.uk](mailto:psg@stjohnswoking.org.uk)

**CANDLES:** Please help yourself to the part-used candles in the welcome area!

Origin Bookshop at Christ Church Woking would love your second-hand books - Christian or general books and especially Children's books - all donations will be warmly received!

Youth centre: Please contact Peter Chamberlin if you're able to help him to clear the things no longer needed from the youth centre cupboards. Thank you.

### SGP News

Farnham Baptist church ask for prayer for their plans to run a 'Hope Explored' course in February and for wisdom about recruitment to their staff team. They also ask for the Lord's guidance and wisdom as Grace Church continues its journey towards independence.

Paddy Unwin has moved to The Bridge House Care Home in Elstead. Her family have asked that the church family knows so we can keep praying and keep in touch with her. Please contact the office for further details.

PrayerMate: Want to try out a helpful app for organising your personal prayers? Download PrayerMate, a free app for your Smart-Phone/Tablet. Search for it in the App store. Once installed, you can search for our church and receive the monthly church prayer diary direct to your phone! See instructions (in 'files') on the church Facebook group. <https://www.prayermate.net/app>

## What's all this about a memorial service?

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February, we're going to hold a special service. It will take place in church at 3pm, a time chosen to ensure it's still light outside so that as many can attend as possible. Over the past couple of years, in particular, we've lost a significant number from our midst, loved ones from our families; a spouse, a parent, a grandparent or simply those whom we were close to, admired or held a significant place in our hearts and minds.

I hope that the recent strain of COVID has done its worst, and we're now ready to gather to say thank you to God for those who've played such an important part in making us the people we are. In psalm 147 the psalmist reflects on why this matters, as he causes us to ponder not only on the significance of those close to us, but on how that shapes our understanding of an incomprehensible God of cosmic proportions.

*"Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!*

*The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name...*

*His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior; the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love..."*

In the context of the psalm, Jerusalem is shorthand for God's people, a city of those who knew God as well as those more distant from him and yet a reminder to all that there is hope even in the face of death, a hope forged in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, rooted in his justice and love. Jesus, who has tasted death and conquered it, rising to glory as the first born from the dead.

As God's people we cherish the days we have on this earth, recognising they're a blessing from God. But for those who acknowledge Christ, we also look to a new Jerusalem, an inheritance of God's people and a city with Christ at its centre. This is the jubilant reminder we need to hold on to as we celebrate lives lived yet lost and remember the untarnishable hope that lasts.

So, let's gather together, remember the names of our loved ones before God and praise his name as we hold in our hearts the joy of the coming glory made real in our glorious Saviour. In these times of uncertainty please mark this opportunity in your calendar and gather with us for this very special occasion.

In Christ, Glyn

## Sermon notes

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Mary Kirkman, is available for advice or to talk through concerns relating to safeguarding.

07763 456015 or [safeguarding@stjohnswoking.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stjohnswoking.org.uk)

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*Please note new office number: 01483 377477*