

**Welcome!** We're so glad you're here with us today, especially if you are new to the Church. Please take a Welcome Card from the chair in front of you and if you would like more information, complete the card and give it to a Steward or Minister. We never have a collection during our services although you are welcome to give if you would like to and there is a box at the back of church.

**Large print copies of the Bible readings are available at the back of church**

### **This Week's Collect – Epiphany 1**

Merciful Lord, receive the prayers of your people who call upon you and grant that we may know those things we ought to do and also have the grace and power faithfully to perform them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Services today at St. John's – Certainty - who can stand?**

8:00am	Holy Communion	Readings:	Zechariah 6:1-8
10.00am	Holy Communion		Revelation 6
6.30pm	Evening Worship	Sermon:	Glyn Lucas

### **Today at Emmanuel Church – Certainty - one is worthy**

9.30am	Morning Worship	Readings	John 4:27-38 Revelation 5
		Sermon:	Glyn Lucas

### **Next week at St John's - Certainty - indestructible church**

8.00am	Holy Communion	Readings:	Leviticus 23:33-43
10.00am	Morning Worship		Revelation 7:1-8:5
6:30pm	Churches Together in Woking service		

### **Next week at Emmanuel - Certainty - who can stand?**

9.30am	Morning Worship	Readings:	Zechariah 6:1-8 Revelation 6
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#### **Staff days off:**

**Glyn** – Monday    **Daniel** – Saturday  
**Mary** – from pm Friday & Saturday  
**Andy** – Friday & Saturday  
**Chris & Nicky** – Saturday & Sunday

#### **Recordings:**

Want to listen to a sermon again? They are available on our website:  
[www.stjohnswoking.org.uk](http://www.stjohnswoking.org.uk)

### Diary dates this week:

Today	8.00pm	iNsight	Youth centre
Monday	10.00am	Ladies' Bible Study	Lounge
Tuesday	5.30pm	Ignite	Youth Centre
	7.00pm	1eighty	Youth Centre
	7.30pm	iNsight	Youth Centre
Wednesday	10.00am	Men's Bible study	Lounge
	2.30pm	Knit and natter	Emmanuel
Thursday	7.30pm	Carnation making	Lounge
	8.00pm	Christianity Explored	Vicarage
Friday	9.30am	Ladies' Bible Study with crèche	Lounge/Narthex
	10.00am	Mums and Tots	Emmanuel
Saturday	10.00am	Hospice sale	Church

### **Christianity Explored – a 6 week course begins 17 January, 8pm in the vicarage.**

**There will be another carnation-making session on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January** in the Church Lounge at 7.30 pm. All materials will be provided, as will refreshments. We had a great time last time; all welcome: come & learn a new skill.

### **HOSPICE SALE - Saturday January 19th 10-12**

Please bring unwanted gifts, toys, homemade cakes and any saleable items to church on Friday 18th from 2pm.

If you are able to help on either or both of these days please phone Pam 473079 or Denise 858871

**There will be a service of thanksgiving for Colin Henderson** on Monday 21st January at 12:30pm in church. Please do join us afterwards for refreshments at Sutton Green Golf Club (do not use the post code with sat nav). Family flowers only. If you'd like to make a donation details of the charitable causes will be available at the service. Scott.

Daniel asks that if you have any particular memories of Colin, please share them with him over the next week.

**The Surrey Gospel Partnership** is organising a family morning on Saturday 26th January at Grace Church, Guildford, from 9.30am to 1.30pm. The speaker will be William Taylor from St Helen's Bishopsgate. There will be a programme of children's activities and a light lunch will be provided. More details at [www.surreygospelpartnership.co.uk](http://www.surreygospelpartnership.co.uk)

Diana James has some copies of a letter from the Tony and Frances Lambert. If anyone would like a copy please talk to Diana.

**The bell** at the drop off point is now working. Please ring the bell if you need assistance from the sidemen in getting in to the church.

Last week, we returned to the book of Revelation to pick-up where you left off last year. As we reach part two this week, I thought it was worth a reminder that Revelation is not written as a chronological narrative. In other words, it doesn't start at the beginning and work its way through time to the end of the world. Actually, it's more like a set of stories within a story where again and again we're taken back through history to see how God works out his purposes. And as we do that, each story is told using vivid pictures or symbols that help to colour in the detail.

This week, we reach one of the chapters in Revelation that's well known - indeed its imagery has become embedded in our culture in the form of art, film, poetry and of course novels too. Chapter six is, I'm sure you know, the chapter that introduces us to the four horsemen of the apocalypse. It's a fabulously vivid read that takes us from that great moment of triumph in heaven when, after tears are shed because no one can be found worthy to open and reveal the contents of the scroll of life, in triumph, Christ the lamb who has been slain steps forward as the whole of heaven rejoices.

As we reach chapter six, the seven seals on that scroll are about to be taken off and as each seal is removed, so are revealed those things which have power within our lives. The first four seals are the four horsemen, each one depicting a different aspect of that power or influence. They relate both to particular events in history and around the world, but they aren't restricted to that. In fact that's the whole point; they remind us how the evils and horrors of this world keep on coming, they keep on repeating. Death and greed and the lust for power and influence are not bound in history, they are bound in the brokenness of this world and the desires of our hearts and the same is true wherever we go, wherever people exist.

It is a horrifying assessment of the state of the world... were it not for one thing!

Christ is on the throne and ultimately, because he is the lamb who has been slain, we can be confident in the end if we trust our lives to him. Isn't that worth remembering as we watch the news and read the papers and throw our hands up in horror at what we see happening all around us?

Have a great week,

Glyn

## **Sermon Notes**

*St John the Baptist Church, Church Road, St John's, Woking, GU21 7QN*

*www.stjohnswoking.org.uk,*

*Office hours 9am -1pm Monday – Friday. 01483 726039, office@stjohnswoking.org.uk*