

We are meeting for services at 8am and 10am at St John's, observing the Government's guidelines, for those who feel comfortable to be in church. It's lovely to worship together! After the service, please gather outside the church (rather than inside) if you wish to chat!

The 10am service is livestreamed, so you can also join us from home on <https://www.stjohnswoking.org.uk>

or on Youtube using <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKkDEpC5sZU>  
If you can subscribe to Glyn's Youtube channel you will then receive reminders to join the service each week.

We are also keeping in touch through the St John's Church Facebook group and WhatsApp groups for men and women.

Please join these, or call the office if you'd like to know how!

#### This Week's Collect – Trinity 14

Almighty and eternal God, grant that we may grow in faith, hope, and love; and, so that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Services today. 10.00 is also via Livestream for St John's and Emmanuel

8.00 am	Holy Communion	Reading:	Romans 5:12-21
10.00 am	Morning Service	Sermon	Second Adam Rob Bennett

Services next week. 10.00 is also via Livestream –

8.00 am	Holy Communion	Reading	Romans 6: 1-14
10.00 am	Morning Service	Sermon	Dead or Alive

The office is open between 9am and 1pm, Monday-Friday.

Please bear with us if you don't receive prompt replies to any requests as currently only one person is in the office on any day.

Please continue to pray for church members, using the membership list.

Staff days off:  
Glyn – Monday  
Peter - Saturday  
Mary – from 1pm Fri & Sat  
Office staff – 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)

Youth Centre Clear Out: The Youth Centre has accumulated decades of stuff stored in the cupboards and eaves. If there is anything that belongs to you and is currently stored in the Youth Centre please can you arrange to collect it by Sunday 4th October – or notify the office if it is still regularly in use by the church. Thank you.

The Williamsons – The PCC agreed to furlough Andy for 3 months whilst Gaines had no income from bookings; from 15<sup>th</sup> September Andy will be employed formally by Gaines. We are grateful for the work he did to support local young people whilst he was at St John's and wish Andy, Lisa and their family well in their new role.

Help! The past 5 months has been a time of change where we've become very reliant as a church on the technical skills of a few people in setting up, running and livestreaming our services. If you would like to volunteer to help with this, please contact the office and we will arrange some training so that we can share the load.

Practical help during Covid19 crisis: The church helpline – 07950504514 – is for members of the church family to contact if they need practical help. If you are in need, or are aware of anyone who is, please contact the church office.

The Origin Bookshop at Christ Church Woking is now open again – 10am-5pm, Monday to Saturday. If you're having a clear-out, they'd love any second-hand Christian books (and children's books too) that you can spare. Thank you for supporting this Christian retail presence in the town centre.

Peter Chamberlin's email: Please add Peter's email ([peter@stjohnswoking.org.uk](mailto:peter@stjohnswoking.org.uk)) to your contacts or address lists to ensure that you get emails from him. Quite a few seem to be going to spam / junk folders currently.

War Memorial: Woking Council have proposed work to have the area immediately around the War Memorial laid with a more secure surface and the PCC has approved the plans. Please contact the office if you have any concerns or questions. Should there be no objections received by 21<sup>st</sup> September then we will assume that the work has the approval of the church congregation.

Meeting together: Please join us Sunday by Sunday and discover the joy of gospel grace and join us midweek too. First Wednesday at 8pm for Prayer and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday as we join as one in church for a short talk and questions on the weekly Bible passage. Home Groups will continue where possible in the intervening weeks.

News from the Lamberts: Hein Velissarides has recently a letter from Tony and Frances. If you would like a copy please contact him on 01483 859066

Harvest celebration on October 4<sup>th</sup> will be an all age service. We hope to have the church decorated for the occasion so if you have produce or flowers that you could contribute please bring them to office on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October or to the Church on the morning of Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. And don't forget to send your Harvest Samba 5-10second videos to: [music@stjohnswoking.org.uk](mailto:music@stjohnswoking.org.uk) by 24<sup>th</sup> September.

Family news: Continue to pray for families who have lost members during lockdown and for those in our congregation facing financial hardship, isolation and illness.

## The rule of six

Tomorrow the 'rule of six' becomes law in our country. No doubt its implications for birthday parties, family holidays and (dare I mention it) Christmas have occupied your minds during the past few days.

Praise God, our gatherings for public worship are not subject to any change. At the time of writing we await clarification concerning the new law's impact on other areas of church life. But, after such a confusing year to date, the clarity of the new 'rule of 6' will be welcomed by many as a helpful simplification: the Three Musketeers and the Famous Five are unaffected, but Snow White and the seven dwarves and the fellowship of the ring will have to temporarily disband.

Meanwhile back in the real world, a couple with 6 children began advertising on Facebook for a family of minus 2 to socialise with – please get in touch if you are able to help... Joking aside, this new rule is going to make life quite tricky for some, and potentially isolates families with several children more than those who live alone. My prayer is that we once more find ways to love and support one another, and particularly those in our church family who are most affected by these changes.

The rule of six also points towards a biblical explanation of why our present experience of life is so frustrating. Don't worry! People have done all kinds of strange and crazy things with numbers in the Bible, finding hidden codes, bizarre interpretations, even claiming prophecies of covid-19! But there is an important biblical pattern or 'rule of six', which tells us: "no rest 'til seven!" In 6 days the LORD made the heavens and the earth. Only on the 7<sup>th</sup> did He rest. Likewise, His people (even their ox and donkey!) were to labour for 6 days. But on the 7<sup>th</sup> the whole of creation was at peace within Israel's borders. Moses waited 6 days at Mount Sinai before being summoned into God's presence on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The people had to march around Jericho for 6 days. It was not until the 7<sup>th</sup> that God gave victory.

Why does the 'rule of 6' frustrate us? Because we live in a world of '6': Incomplete, and short of the fulfilment, peace, joy and victory given by God, when through Christ we enter our 7<sup>th</sup> day 'Sabbath' rest in God's presence.

May we all confidently wait for and pray for that hope each time the 'rule of six' affects our plans this week.

Peter

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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[www.stjohnswoking.org.uk](http://www.stjohnswoking.org.uk)

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