

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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27th July 2025

Welcome to our services!

Welcome everyone to St John's Church, West Byfleet for our services this Sunday. Please join us after the service for refreshments and please do make yourselves known to the ministers or churchwardens. If you would like to receive regular copies of this notice sheet, please send your email address to Vicky in the Parish Office –

admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk

All children are very welcome at St John's – and please don't worry if they are restless, or sometimes noisy. The Children's Corner is situated at the front of the church on the left; you are most welcome to spend time there during the service. Toilets and changing facilities can be found in our adjacent Cornerstone Centre.

A member of the Pastoral Team will be available to pray with you after the 10am service each Sunday. If you would like to take this opportunity, please make your way to the Prayer Corner at the end of the service and one of us will be waiting for you. The Minister leading the service on the day may also be available.

Large print versions of the Notices Sheet and of the Order of Service are available from the welcomers

Please make use of our hearing loop system if this would be helpful to you



Clive writes...

The Gospel reading this Sunday starts with the Lord's Prayer and goes on to Jesus' teaching about the need to be persistent in prayer. The line that stuck out for me was "... knock and the door will be opened for you." (Luke 11.9). It made me think of the famous Pre-Raphaelite painting by William Holman Hunt showing Christ standing at a cottage door and knocking, a reference to Revelation 3.20. The door in the picture has no handle and needs to be opened from the inside. Thus, we need to open up the "door" of our hearts to let him in. You either like the Pre-Raphaelites or you don't (I do) but either way the message is clear.

Now put the two references together and we find on the one hand us knocking on Jesus' door and on the other hand him knocking on ours. If we are waiting for him and he is trying to get to us surely it must be easy for us to get together. If you wish to be near him open your door, your heart, to him when he knocks or go to his door and do the knocking – what could be simpler? Alongside such elements of prayer as praise and thanksgiving there can be an element of waiting for his knock, in other words "what is God saying to you?" Also, you can be proactive and knock on his door to tell him what you want him to hear. It is usually better if that last element does indeed come last.

If you are about to set off on holiday, have a great time. Best wishes, *Clive*

This Week's Prayer List

For the sick:

Joyce Ebbage, Mark Asplin, Lionel Griffiths, Roy Metcalfe, Ollie, Rose & Marie Crocket, Hannah, Pauline Kennedy, Mark Cyphus, Sarah Helmy, Chrissie Beddows, Marina, Ati & Baran

Remembering the departed:

Philip Newbold

Please send any new prayer requests or updates to admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk

Morning Prayer

One way to root our lives more in the knowledge and love of Christ is to come to morning prayer in church on Mondays at 9.30am. A small group of us gather to say the Church of England's service of morning prayer which includes praying for those in need and our neighbouring churches. Once a month, on the second Monday, (though not in August) we share morning prayer with members of Our Lady Roman Catholic Church, alternating monthly between the two churches. Please do join us and members of Our Lady if you can.

Holiday Club - Monday 11th - Friday 15th August

Our summer Holiday Cub returns this August, with a week of fun filled activities for children ages 7-12 (i.e. those in years 3-8 from September). As with our weeks in 2023 & 2024, the club is based around singing and biblical themes, ending each day with a short service at 4pm. Discounted rates for St John's families, more info from music@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk.

Today's readings are **Luke 11: 1-13** and **Colossians 2: 6-15**

Summer Fair Round-up Meeting

Bridget will be running a summer fair round-up meeting on **Monday 28th July at 7:30pm** in the Dora Honnor room. If you have any feedback on the fair, what went well, what could have been done differently, or ideas for next year, please come along. Feedback is invaluable to ensuring a successful event each year. Many thanks.

Talk, Think, Pray

This service will be taking a break in July and August and will return in September.

Holiday Club volunteers (11th-15th August)

Our Holiday Club takes place again this August, and we rely on volunteers to make this a success! Typical tasks include making refreshments, supervising the children attending, and generally helping everything run smoothly. Please contact Ian. Thank you.

PCC Briefing

We are delighted to report that we have let the Langsmead Room after many years of it being empty; a charity will be using it which is mutually beneficial to both parties. Keith will be sharing the next stage of our Strategy and Benefice plans; our focus is to deepen and strengthen our spiritual lives so we will be holding events to support that. There will be an Auction of Promises in the autumn; please watch for details. Many thanks to Terry and Hazel for their continued dedication and hard work in maintaining our beautiful church. Please be careful of the fire doors in Cornerstone; they close very quickly which is obviously functional but also potentially dangerous. If you are working alone in the church or Cornerstone for whatever reason, we would strongly recommend that you keep your mobile phone to hand at all times. Have a lovely summer everyone. In prayer. *Amanda*

Food Bank

The Food Bank is in desperate need of the following items:

sponge pudding, jam, instant noodles, rice, baked beans, packet soup, shampoo, conditioner, liquid soap, bar of soap, shaving foam, baby wipes, sanitary pads, dog food.

Please put donations in the boxes at the front and rear of church. Donations from our church seem to have decreased lately and now depend on just a few generous givers, please consider joining them.

Parish Office

For all general (non-urgent) enquiries, please contact the Parish Office by emailing admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk, or phone 01932 342263 (leave a message if the office is closed). The Parish Office opening hours are usually: Mon 12pm – 3pm, Wed 12pm – 3pm, Fri 12pm – 3pm.

Noticeboard

Please include these events in your daily prayers. All are welcome to Morning Prayer as well as to Parish Eucharist.

Saturday 26th July

10:00am Church open

Sunday 27th July

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

Monday 28th July

9:30am Morning Prayer

10:00am Church open

10:00am New Horizons Coffee Morning

7:30pm Summer Fair Meeting in the Dora Honnor Room

Tuesday 29th July

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

Wednesday 30th July

10.00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 31st July

10:00am Church open

Friday 1st August

10:00am Church open

Saturday 2nd August

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 3rd August

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

6:30pm Songs of Praise 'Hymns Through the Ages'

Advance Dates

Sunday 7th September

Civic Service for the Mayor at 2:30pm

Saturday 27th September

Harvest Festival Supper 7.00pm.

6th - 9th December

Christmas Community Festival 2025.

Clergy Contact Details

Our Vicar is Revd Keith Elford. He is also Vicar of All Saints, New Haw. Keith may be contacted at vicarwestbyfleetandnewhaw@gmail.com (note the new email address). His normal day off is Friday. For urgent enquiries outside of these times, contact our Churchwarden: **Neil Hatton** – 07593 372931. For prayer requests, please contact **Geoff Jones** - 01932 851830.