

# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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***



Today's readings are **Luke 10: 25-37** and **Colossians 1: 1-14**

## **Keith writes...**

In the story of the Good Samaritan the outsider provides a better example of the love of neighbour than the representatives of Jewish orthodoxy. The lawyer whose question prompts Jesus to tell the parable seeks a definition: who qualifies as my neighbour? Jesus provides an example which makes it clear that the act of being a neighbour is more important than debating who one should be a neighbour to. The implication is that we should be a neighbour to whoever we meet that needs it – That, in fact, is all the definition required. It is a preference for love over law.

Part of the purpose of this piece of scripture is to continue Jesus' challenge to his Jewish audience to consider what it really means to be the people of God. He offers Israel a vision of God's Kingdom, based on love, which is largely rejected in the end. After the birth of the church, the followers of Jesus concluded that the people of God could no longer be defined by ethnicity, nor by the adoption of particular religious customs but by faith in Christ and commitment to the priority of love. That is still what should define us and our vision of the world. I wonder what the implications of this might be for the migrant crisis which so much exercises the minds of the government, the media, and, apparently, very many British people?

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## **This Week's Prayer List**

### **For the sick:**

Joyce Ebbage, Philip Newbold, Mark Asplin, Lionel Griffiths, Roy Metcalfe, Ollie, Rose & Marie Crocket, Hannah, Pauline Kennedy, Mark Cyphus, Sarah Helmy, Chrissie Beddows.

### **Remembering the departed:**

Phyllis & David Bell

**Please send any new prayer requests or updates to** [admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk](mailto:admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk)

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## **Parish Office**

For all general (non-urgent) enquiries, please contact the Parish Office by emailing [admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk](mailto: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.

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## **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](mailto:music@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk).

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## **Summer Fair Round-up Meeting**

Bridget will be running a summer fair round-up meeting on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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. No special qualifications required! You can choose between morning or afternoon sessions, or the whole day (or days). Mornings from 9.30am-1pm, afternoons from 12.30-4.30pm. Please contact Ian. Thank you.

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### ECO News

The ECO Team are having a well-earned summer break this week. ECO News will be back next week.

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### 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.

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### Quiz Night – All Saints' New Haw

All Saints' will be hosting a quiz night on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 7pm** for a 7:30pm start. Entry charge of £5 includes tea & coffee and a cake or biscuit, but you are welcome to bring your own alcohol, nibbles & glasses. There will also be a raffle on the night. Teams of 6 – come as a team or join one on the night. £5 entry cash on the door.

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### Noticeboard

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

#### Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July

10:00am Church open

7:00pm West Byfleet Community Concert

#### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

12:00pm Summer' Bring and Share' Picnic Lunch ending with a short service of Evensong sung by the Junior Choir at 3pm.

#### Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July

09:30am Morning Prayer at Our Lady RC Church

10:00am Church open

2:00pm New Horizons

#### Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

#### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July

10.00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

#### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July

10:00am Church open

#### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July

10:00am Church open

#### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July

10:00am Church Open

#### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Family Eucharist with Baptism followed by refreshments

### Advance Dates

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September

Civic Service for the Mayor at 2:30pm

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September

Harvest Festival Supper 7.00pm.

6th - 9th December

Christmas Community Festival 2025.

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### 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](mailto: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.