

# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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## 20<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: 38-end** and **Colossians 1: 15-28**

### ***Keith writes...***

We all know that it is necessary to get jobs done if we wish to sustain anything – a home, a family, a church, a business. The church's ministry relies on people who do the many and various jobs required. Make the coffee, clean the church, bank the money, order the wafers and wine and so on. It is not, either, that this is simply some sort of unfortunate technical requirement. Instead, if virtue is to mean anything we will need to do the things that make it possible to enact it. Without these activities, regularly and diligently carried out, the church could not exercise its more obviously spiritual ministry – so all those who contribute in these ways have our immense gratitude. I'll go further. It is not really right to see some things as spiritual and others as practical. We live an embodied life in the physical world. It is ultimately all one. It is all ministry, all spiritual.

Nevertheless, we can learn from Mary and Martha, the subjects of today's Gospel reading. Jesus is a guest in their house and Martha is beavering away to do the work that hospitality requires. Mary, in contrast, is sitting at Jesus' feet, absorbed in all he has to say. Martha complains to Jesus. She is getting no help. Perhaps she is jealous! But Jesus supports the devotion and attention Mary has given him – it shall not be taken from her. Many of us, in fact, find it easier to do things than to seek that deeper relationship with Christ or to go further spiritually. Mary is the great example of the value of simply seeking and attending to Jesus himself. We need to be Martha if life is to go on and go on productively. But sometimes we need to be a bit more Mary so that we can root everything in the simple knowledge and love of God.

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### **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:**

Phyllis, Philip Newbold

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

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### **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.

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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).

### 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.

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### Talk, Think, Pray

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

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### 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.

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### ECO News

The ink cartridge recycling scheme has really taken off with a third consignment being sent away to the Recycling Company and the financial returns being put back into our Church Funds. Thank you and keep the cartridges coming.

WE now have enough corks to build nest boxes, so you can stop drinking as an excuse to provide us with corks!

The medicine blister packs are being collected in displayed containers in the Church - but please don't take more tablets than prescribed and ensure the packs are empty. The 'Blister' packs are to be recycled responsibly.

We are putting together the final details to install two water butts - one larger off the main drive entrance and a smaller butt outside Cornerstone.

On 6th August the Carbon Neutral Team from the Diocese is coming to do a free energy audit on the Church and the Utilities we use - and hopefully provide us with practical and pragmatic hints on energy saving.

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### JAM

JAM has now finished for the summer and will start again on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September**. We wish the children and the JAM team a happy summer break. See you all in September.

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### 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*

### Noticeboard

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

#### 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

#### Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July

09:30am Morning Prayer

10:00am Church open

#### Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

#### Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

10.00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

#### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July

10:00am Church open

#### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July

10:00am Church open

#### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July

10:00am Church Open

#### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

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### 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. 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.