

# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

[www.stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk](http://www.stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/stjohnswestbyfleet](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnswestbyfleet)

## 3<sup>rd</sup> August 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 12: 13-21** and **Colossians 3: 1-11**

### ***Clive writes...***

Last Wednesday the Church remembered William Wilberforce and two other prominent opposers of the dreadful slave trade. Christians played a very important part in the Abolitionist movement. Our faith insists that all people are equal in the sight of God and in our Epistle reading today from St Paul's letter to the Colossians.

Paul underlines that, to quote "... there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Sythian, **slave and free**; but Christ is all in all!

Whilst looking into the question of slavery in order to say something at Wednesday's Communion Service I discovered a number of statistics that make disturbing reading. The International Labour Organisation estimated that in 2022 there were around 50 million enslaved people in the world with 28 million of those in forced labour. It is thought that there are as many as 100,000 enslaved people in the UK. Despite all the efforts of Wilberforce and many others the slave trade continues to flourish.

Can we do anything? Individually, I suppose, not a lot but as the saying goes "every little helps." In this country Car Wash establishments and Nail Bars are places where we are most likely to encounter people working under slave conditions. We can try to avoid such places, not buy goods likely to have been made by slaves and support those organisations and politicians who fight against this exploitation.

The Bill for the Abolition of the Slave Trade in British territories was passed in 1833 – wouldn't it be good if the trade could be eliminated, at least in our country before the centenary of the Bill, and that is not far away.

*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 & Christopher Ashdown

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

---

### **Philip Newbold Memorial Service**

A memorial service for Philip Newbold will take place at St John's on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 3pm**. All are welcome to attend.

---

### **Wednesday communion service**

For this week only there will be **no 10.00am communion** service on Wednesday (6th August) at St John's. Instead the 11.30am service at All Saints' on the same day will be a benefice service and anyone planning to attend at St John's at 10.00 is invited to attend the 11.30am at All Saints' instead.

---

### **Talk, Think, Pray**

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

### 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.

---

### 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.

---

### Hymn Sing

Sunday evening, **3rd August at 6.30pm** - join us for our annual 'Hymn Sing'. This year we take a journey through 500 years of hymn tunes - all of which you will recognise and are in regular use at St John's. Please invite your relatives, neighbours and friends - the more we have, the more rousing the sound!

---

### ECO News

The Gardening team continue to do sterling work in maintaining the upkeep of the Memorial Garden and maintaining the watering of the plants and the turves around the trees. They could always do with more help- Mon & Weds from 5pm.

The Wildflower Meadow needs preparing for sowing in September.

Every Saturday morning during August, 10.00-12.00 we need help to remove the remaining grass - any contribution to this challenge would be more than welcome please. If you have an hour to spare contact Janet Hodges or just turn up!!

The ECO team has been given a slot to spend time with the children at the Summer Camp. Janet will be helping them to construct a Bug Hotel to be placed in the Bee Garden. We are collecting materials to build this project.

If you have any bricks with holes, clay piping, slates, tiles and can persuade your children to collect bark, and natural foliage we would be grateful for any offerings to be left by the pallets by the bee garden.

Please do take time to look around the grounds and see the work in progress created by passionate gardeners who care for St John's grounds.

---

### Bishop's PA vacancy (6 month contract)

Please see this vacancy (6 month contract) for which we are seeking to recruit: Personal Assistant to the Bishop of Guildford in Willow Grange, Jacobs Well:

<https://pathways.churchofengland.org/en/jobs/personal-assistant-to-the-bishop-of-guildford/2698>

### Noticeboard

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

#### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

10:00am Church open

#### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

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

#### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August

9:30am Morning Prayer

10:00am Church open

#### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Church open

#### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August

11:00am Church open

11.30am Benefice Service at All Saints New Haw

8:15pm Choir Practice

#### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Church open

#### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Church open

#### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August

10:00am Church Open

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist 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.

---

### 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.