

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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14th September 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.

Would you like someone to pray with you?

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 **John 1: 6-18** and **Genesis 1: 26-2.3**

Keith writes...

The Christian faith provides a grand narrative that encompasses life, the universe and everything. According to Genesis it was all created by God and it was good. Human beings were given a special place at the head of the created order. Two things we perhaps do not think about so much occur as I read the Genesis account. The first (and this reflects the thinking of a number of twentieth century theologians) is that it is tempting but probably wrong to read the creation as an effortless expression of God's sovereign power. If we think for a moment about what existed before the creation we must assume it was God himself. Therefore, in order to create the world, God who was all in all, had to, as it were, vacate some space himself. In other words, the creation involved a costly self-limitation for God.

The second point was to consider what God intended in the creation. It is hard to avoid concluding that God intended to live closely with his creation. This became impossible following the coming of sin and death. But God has never given up on this plan. In John we read of a new beginning, the coming of Christ, God entering the world to redeem it and restore the original goal.

What all this means is that the universe is not just a stage set but the costly work of God and that it plays a crucial role in the long term project of creating a space in which God can live with his people. These are all good reasons to value the creation and to live up to the responsibility to care for it.

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, John Rankin, Alex Coombs, Lilian Rance

Remembering the departed:

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

Christmas Fair Meeting

Bridget is holding a Christmas Fair meeting on **Monday 29th September at 7:30pm** in the Dora Honnor room. We would love to have as many people as possible involved in this year's event so please come along. All are welcome.

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.

Sowing the seed for the wildflower meadow

On Sunday 21st September at 11.30am (after the Family Eucharist) we will hold a small service to accompany the sowing of the wildflower meadow on the south side of the church. We hope that groups from the church and community will take responsibility for sowing the seed for a part of the garden. This is all part of our work to make our grounds more eco-friendly, bio-diverse and attractive to the community.

Emergency appeal Afghanistan

We will, from time to time, give the congregation the opportunity to donate money in response to a crisis appeal. The recent earthquake in Afghanistan is such an appeal, and we will make buckets available for individual donations this Sunday morning at the 10.00am service. Money will be channelled to the earthquake victims via Christian Aid.

Christ Church Woking Job Vacancy

We currently have an exciting opportunity to join our team as Cafe Manager in the café at Christ Church Woking. Could you be our new café manager? You will be passionate about relaunching and then running The Café well as part of the weekday outreach of Christ Church Woking. If you know of anyone interested then please do pass on the link - all the details, full job description and how to apply can be found at: ccwoking.org/job-vacancy and the deadline for applications is end of Friday 19th September. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for interviews which will take place in the week commencing 29th September. Expected start date for this role is early November, date tbc.

PCC Briefing

The PCC would like to thank everyone involved with the Mayor's Civic Service on Sunday. It was well attended and we received many positive comments about the service, the music and the general ambiance. It would not have been possible without the large number of people who gave so much of their time. Amanda Boote was very grateful for all our efforts. We continue to appreciate all the work Terry and Hazel do maintaining our site whilst still performing their sacristan, server and other duties; in addition, thanks to Stuart for working with our broadband provider to ensure we have everything working again!. We are somewhat behind with our charitable giving but have finally decided on the following from our 2024 funds - Emerge Advocacy, Runnymede Dementia Carers Support, Christian Aid (Afghanistan Earthquake), Medecins Sans Frontier (Sudan) and UN World Food Programme (Myanmar). We will be allocating our 2025 money at our October meeting. We are also looking at ways in which we can quickly respond to disasters/emergencies at home or abroad. We will be holding a Safeguarding PCC meeting in November, followed by Safeguarding Sunday; we hope to help bring this important area into focus for everyone in our community and to increase the understanding of processes, training and diligence. In the meantime, if you have had a letter from Jo about training you need, please complete that as soon as possible. If for whatever reason, you find it difficult to access the training, then please contact Jo or Chris. We have a busy few months ahead, with Harvest, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas; please pray for all that lies ahead and help if you are able. 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 13th September

10:00am Church open

Sunday 14th September

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

Monday 15th September

9.30am Morning prayer

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 16th September

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

Wednesday 17th September

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 18th September

10:00am Church open

Friday 19th September

10:00am Church open

Saturday 20th September

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 21st September

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Family Eucharist followed by refreshments

11:30am Sowing the seed for the wildflower meadow

6:30pm Talk, Think, Pray

Advance Dates

Saturday 27th September

Harvest Festival Supper 7.00pm.

Monday 29th September

Christmas Fair Meeting at 7:30pm

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. 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.