

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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17th 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

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 **Luke 1: 46-55** and **Galatians 4: 4-7**

Keith writes...

It has often been thought surprising that some of the most outspoken and revolutionary words in the whole Bible should be said by a character noted for her exceptional humility and obedience. It is Mary, the mother of Jesus, who declares in the Magnificat: 'He has shown strength in his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts...lifted up the lowly...and sent the rich away empty'. But what if the sense of incongruence reveals only that we have a false idea about humility? Neither humility nor obedience are the same thing as 'wouldn't say boo to a goose'. On the contrary perhaps, the humble may be fierce for God's Kingdom and the obedient loud in its advocacy. Perhaps we also have rather sentimental ideas about motherhood. Mothers may well be those who console and offer gentleness and care (though fathers may well do so too). But mothers can, when it seems necessary to them, be fierce, loud and outspoken for those they love, for their children, and for the kind of world they want for their children. Mary gives an example of what it means to be passionate for justice and change as well as humble and obedient.

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:

Christopher Ashdown

Please send any new prayer requests or updates to

admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk

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.

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>

Pet Service

We are holding a service in which we will thank God for our pets and ask him to bless them this Sunday at 3.00pm at All Saints', New Haw. Please come and bring your pets (in such a way as to keep everyone safe!)

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.

Help with Wildflower Meadow

Can anyone offer half an hour or so to prepare the ground for seed planting in September PLEASE?

Janet will be in the grounds every Saturday in August 10.00 -12.00- watering will be required too as it's going to be hot next week. We aim to have a picnic lunch on Saturday 16th - everyone is welcome to join in. 🍷 🌿 🌿

She is also there on Mondays and Wednesdays after 5pm, when it is cooler.

We are so grateful to everyone who has given their time to help with this project.

'God made everything (and it is Good).'

Parish Office

Vicky will be on annual leave from 12th August to the 4th September. During this time the Parish office will be closed and emails & phone messages periodically checked and replied to. For any urgent matters please contact Keith or the Churchwardens.

National Week of Prayer

Woking will be hosting a joint-church time of prayer for the National Week of Prayer which is from 6th to 14th September. The event will be held at St Mary of Bethany church on the evening of **Wednesday 10th September** and will run from **7:00pm to 9:00pm**.

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 16th August

10:00am Church open

Sunday 17th August

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Family Eucharist followed by refreshments

3.00pm Pet service (at All Saints', New Haw)

Monday 18th August

9:30am Morning Prayer

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 19th August

10:00am Church open

Wednesday 20th August

10.00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

Thursday 21st August

10:00am Church open

Friday 22nd August

10:00am Church open

Saturday 23rd August

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 24th August

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

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. 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.