

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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24th 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 **Acts 5.12-16** and **Luke 22.24-30**

Keith writes...

Today we are keeping the feast of St Bartholomew. Apart from the fact that he was one of the apostles (the twelve) we know very little for sure about him. He is often thought to be the same person as the disciple called Nathanael in John's Gospel. If so, then that gives him a little personality for us as Nathanael makes at least a brief impression as the man so taken with the fact that Jesus has already noticed him, 'under the fig tree'. Tradition suggests that he took the good news of the Gospel to India, Armenia and what is now Azerbaijan. He died a particularly grizzly martyr's death, flayed alive. Depictions of him often include him holding his own skin.

Our Gospel reading, from Luke, is understandably more focused on the nature of discipleship and apostleship than on the individual – there is not enough data for much else. In this passage Jesus is drawing near to the end of his life, knowing how hard it will be. His disciples, typically, do not understand this and are busy anticipating the coming of the Kingdom and their place in it – which they expect to be a place of honour. Jesus responds to this with a clear statement that the Kingdom belongs to those who serve and share in Jesus' sufferings. The disciples went on to discover the reality of this in a variety of hard ways. We hope to be spared martyrdom and persecution, but I guess we cannot expect the way for us to have a dramatically different character.

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

Remembering the departed:

Please send any new prayer requests or updates to

admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk

Church Cleaning Team

We all enjoy the welcoming surroundings of a clean, tidy church. But have you ever thought about how this happens and who makes it happen? We are blessed to have a small, friendly team of dedicated, hard-working volunteers who carry out this important task regularly as part of their worship and stewardship. It is frequently the subject of complimentary comments from appreciative visitors who recognise that the team's efforts represent the care given to this special building. We would be delighted to welcome more volunteers to join us in this rewarding area of church life. Please talk to Hazel for more information.

Thank you

Mayoral Civic Service 7 September – help needed

As many of you know, we will be hosting the Mayoral Civic Service for Amanda Boote on Sunday 7th September. We are expecting a full church including invited guests, people from the community and members of the congregation; Amanda is providing refreshments along the theme of Afternoon Tea and will be preparing the hall, but we have been asked to provide people to make tea and ensure everything runs smoothly after the service. It would be lovely to have a large and willing team - many hands make light work, plus it is a good opportunity to extend our Christian Welcome to those who do not normally visit St. John's or indeed any church. Please can you let me know if you are able to help! I am not in church this weekend, so either email me or put your name on the sign in sheet I will leave on the cupboard by the Children's Corner.

Many thanks

Amanda (PCC Secretary not Boote!)

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.

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 23rd August

10:00am Church open

Sunday 24th August

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Benefice Eucharist at St John's followed by refreshments

Monday 25th August

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 26th August

10:00am Church open

Wednesday 27th August

10.00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

Thursday 28th August

10:00am Church open

Friday 29th August

10:00am Church open

Saturday 30th August

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 31st 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.