

# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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## 28<sup>th</sup> 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](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.

### *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 **Matthew 6: 19-24** and **Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31**

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

We might say that we live in an age which is rich in information, but shorter on knowledge and desperate for wisdom. The internet gives us access to vast quantities of data but a great deal of it is inaccurate or fake or malicious. Unlikely and poorly evidenced conspiracy theories abound and we have reached a point where the musings of some bloke on the internet are believed by many over the views of those who have devoted their lives to the subject. We see this in the vaccine scare, climate change scepticism and, unfortunately, in the official policy of the United States Government.

We are less certain about what we know and even less certain about what we should think and do on a whole range of matters. Wisdom seems elusive. There are plenty of appeals to 'common sense' but I find that this is often a cover for an appeal to prejudice and that, in any case, the truth is often counter-intuitive. The development of science has made life more mysterious: it is hardly common sense that reality is mostly empty space or that the location of tiny particles is influenced by whether they are observed or not, but these things seem to be true.

In this context the teaching of Proverbs seems all the more remarkable. According to Proverbs 8 wisdom is not hard to find, but calls to us out on the streets. She is as blatant as the street walker discussed in the previous chapter. Wisdom seeks us. This is not so much the wisdom of the scientist, admittedly, but the wisdom of the life well lived. She is found by those who hear and turn to her, with humility and openness.

Wisdom is presented as the companion of God in creation. In the New Testament we discover that the Son of God, Jesus Christ himself, is described similarly and it seems right to see wisdom embodied above all in Jesus Christ. Those who would be wise would heed him.

A piece of wisdom that is needed more than ever today is a recognition of the goodness of God's creation, our dependence upon it and our need to look after it. As we celebrate the harvest and all the gifts of God, let us embrace the wisdom that made the world and which is required to preserve it.

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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, John Rankin, Alex Coombs, Lilian Rance and Davida & Angus Whimster.

#### **Remembering the departed:**

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

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### **Parish Office**

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.

### Christmas Fair Meeting

Bridget is holding a Christmas Fair meeting on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### 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.

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### What is God calling you to?

We are starting a new venture aimed at those who want to take the next step in their Christian lives. We are aiming to help those who want to go deeper in their faith and discover how they can use their gifts to serve God more fully or in new ways. This might be in either more practical or more obviously spiritual ways. This is aimed at both our churches. Anyone who would like to come (young and old!) and find out more is welcome to join us for the introductory session which will be held on Monday 3rd November at 7.30pm in Boscors at All Saints', New Haw. If you want to know more ask me and, in any case, please let me know if you plan to attend so I keep a count of the numbers. *Keith*

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### Noticeboard

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

#### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September

10:00am Church open  
7:00pm Harvest Supper

#### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September

8.00am Parish Eucharist  
10.00am Harvest Festival followed by refreshments

#### Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September

9.30am Morning prayer  
10:00am Church open  
7:30pm Christmas Fair Meeting in the Dora Honnor Room

#### Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September

10:00am Church open  
6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

#### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October

10:00am Parish Eucharist  
11:00am Church open  
8:15pm Choir Practice

#### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

10:00am Church open

#### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

10:00am Church open

#### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October

10:00am Church Open

#### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October

8.00am Parish Eucharist  
10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

### Advance Dates

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November Christmas Fair 11am – 3pm  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Community Festival 2025 (2:30pm- 6pm)  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Community Festival 2025 (2:30pm- 7:30pm)

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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.