

# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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## 31<sup>st</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.

#### ***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 **Hebrews 13.1-8, 15-16** and **Luke 14.1, 7-14**

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

This has been the first year I've tried to run an allotment, albeit a small one. We've now reached the stage of collecting the main harvest. Some things have grown remarkably well, the strawberries, onions and potatoes were good and the parsnips look promising but others including the carrots and cabbages have been very poor – I have a lot to learn. It is a great pleasure to eat something you have grown, somehow it tastes better, but perhaps the greatest pleasure is obtained by swapping produce with fellow gardeners or just giving stuff away as it is usual to end up with more than you can eat and storage is often a problem. That thought resonates well with the last verse of our Epistle reading this Sunday (Hebrews 14.1-8,15-16). "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

That verse sums up much of what is necessary to live a Christian life. Doing good whenever you can and sharing resources with those less fortunate and doing these things to the glory of God. Our Gospel reading teaches us humility and of course there are many other suggestions as to how we lead our lives in the light of Christ's teaching. But that verse from the Letter to the Hebrews gives simple directions that we can all endeavour to follow, sometimes it is well worth keeping things simple. 'Do good and share' simple instructions that cover a great deal of what we should be aiming to do, we could use it as our motto. There was however a sting in the tail of that verse – remember it ended, "for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Swapping veg and fruit and giving away surplus is hardly a sacrifice. Should we not go further?

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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

##### **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**

Vicky is on annual leave from 12<sup>th</sup> August to the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### 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! Please speak to me this Sunday, 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!)

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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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### Sowing the seed for the wildflower meadow

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

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### Noticeboard

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

#### Saturday 30th August

10:00am Church open

#### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

#### Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September

9.30am Morning prayer

10:00am Church open

#### Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

10:00am Church open

#### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

10.00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

#### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September

10:00am Church open

#### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September

10:00am Church open

#### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September

10:00am Church Open

#### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

2.30pm Civic Service for the Mayor

#### Advance Dates

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September

Sowing the seed for the wildflower meadow

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September

Harvest Festival Supper 7.00pm.

6th - 9th December

Christmas Community Festival 2025.

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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). 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.