

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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19th October 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



Keith writes...

In today's Gospel Jesus tells the story of a widow seeking justice against someone who had wronged her. At this time widows were particularly vulnerable, having no man to speak for them or take care of them in a society that granted women almost no independence of action. The judge in this case is also godless and uncaring but the widow continues to make her plea until she wears him out and he relents, making a judgement in her favour. Jesus says that even an unjust judge may be worn down by persistence, even by the powerless, so how much more should we expect from one who sees us as beloved children?

The purpose of this story is to encourage us to prayer in a spirit of persistence and faith. We are not approaching a capricious god (like the gods of the Greeks) or a curmudgeonly and perhaps corrupt legal official. We are the friends and family of Jesus, the sons and daughters of our heavenly Father. We can be sure that God will grant us justice.

This Week's Prayer List

For the sick:

Joyce Ebbage, Mark Asplin, Lionel Griffiths, Roy Metcalfe, Ollie, Rose & Marie Crocket, Hannah, Pauline Kennedy, Sarah Helmy, Chrissie Beddows, Lilian Rance, Davida & Angus Whimster and Gareth, Amanda & Jasper.

Remembering the departed:

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

Parish Office

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.

All Saints' New Haw Weekly Newsletter

To view of a copy of the latest church family newsletter please visit <https://www.allsaints-newhaw.org/news>

Autumn Fair – All Sait's New Haw

You are invited to All Saints' Church New Haw Autumn Fair. **Saturday 25th October 10am – noon.** Come and shop early for Christmas! Featuring: refreshments, craft stall, health & beauty stall, cuddly toy stall, book & jigsaw stall and craft workshops. See you there!

Guildford Cathedral Threads through the Cross by Jacqui Parkinson

An exhibition of stitched panels exploring the life and teachings of Jesus, from his birth to Pentecost. A wonderful display of intricate stitching and vibrant designs. Exhibition ends on **Monday 3rd November**, well worth a visit.

Today's readings are **Luke 18: 1-8** and **2 Timothy 3: 14-4:5**

Talk, Think, Pray

At this week's service, on **Sunday at 6.30pm**, we will discuss the appointment of Sarah Mullally as Archbishop of Canterbury. She is the first woman to be given the role and this has not pleased everyone, especially in the Anglican Communion. There are big issues still facing the church in this country: church attendance, safeguarding, gay marriage. What can we legitimately hope for from our new archbishop? There are many articles on Sarah Mullally and her agenda you could look at: this one is quite helpful I think.

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2025/10-october/comment/opinion/sarah-mullally-will-be-a-primate-who-takes-care>. Conversation, silence and evening prayer. All welcome!

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*

All Souls Service

Our service will be on **Sunday 2nd November at 6:30pm**. A short service of remembrance and thanksgiving for loved ones who have died. The service takes the form of a mixture of reflection, music & prayers.

If you would like a loved one remembered by name please put their details on one of the lists located at the front and back of church.

Advent Groups

There will be ecumenical study groups in Advent on **Tuesdays 2nd, 9th and 16th December**. The meetings will be on the theme of 'Waiting: past, present and future' and will include theological input, creative response and prayer. Meetings will be held at Byfleet Methodist Church (Rectory Lane, Byfleet, Surrey KT14 7LL) gathering from 7.00pm for refreshments before a 7.30pm start. All welcome and warmly invited!

Children's Club Sessional Worker at St Mary of Bethany

St Mary of Bethany Church, Woking are looking to appoint a sessional worker for our club for school years 3-6, Friday Night Club (FNCs). The role is 4 hours a week during FNC terms and 1 a week (if required) in holidays. 2.5-3 hours in FNC terms would be worked on Friday nights (likely 6.15pm-8.45/9pm). For an informal conversation, the role description, or application form please contact Ruth Sheldon (Associate Vicar) on

ruth.sheldon@stmaryofbethany.org.uk. Applications close on **October 31st**. Interviews to be in November, dates and times will be arranged directly with applicants. Please note this role will follow safer recruitment procedure and include an enhanced DBS check.

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 18th October

10:00am Church open

Sunday 19th October

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Family Eucharist including Baptism followed by refreshments

6:30pm Talk, Think, Pray

Monday 20th October

9.30am Morning prayer

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 21st October

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

Wednesday 22nd October

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 23rd October

10:00am Church open

Friday 24th October

10:00am Church open

Saturday 25th October

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 26th October

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

Advance Dates

Sunday 26th October

Sunday 2nd November

Saturday 15th November

Sunday 23rd November

Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th December

Monday 8th & Tuesday 9th December

Clocks 'fall back' at 2am

All Souls Service at 6:30pm

Christmas Fair 11am – 3pm

Christingle Service at 4pm

Christmas Community Festival 2025 (2:30pm- 6pm)

Christmas Community Festival 2025 (2:30pm- 7:30pm)

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.