

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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26th 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 the pharisee and the tax collector praying in the temple. The pharisee thanks God for all his religious achievements and looks down on the tax collector. The tax collector abases himself and prays for forgiveness. It is the tax collector who departs justified before God.

There is no reason to think the pharisee inauthentic. No doubt he is as observant as he claims. But it doesn't matter. He has fallen into a worse trap than that of greed or theft or even collaboration with the enemy (the likely sins of the tax collector). He is proud. He thinks himself better than someone else. Jesus speaks of his lack of humility, but it is clear that he lacks love also. It is all about him.

In the religious life we can get it all right but miss the point. We must be wary of taking the wrong kind of pride in what we do to sustain faith and build the church. Whatever good we do we do by the grace of God. None of us is any better than anyone else.

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>

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.

Clocks Change

A reminder that the clocks go back by 1 hour at 2am on Sunday 26th October.

Today's readings are **Luke 4: 16-24** and **Romans 15: 1-6**

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 Boscots 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.

Christmas Fair Donations

Our Christmas Fair takes place on **Saturday 15th November, 11am – 3pm**. We are looking for donations of the following items; toys, books, jewellery, gifts, preserves, wrapped sweets, bottles & chocolates. Please bring any donations into church and place in the labelled boxes. We also require cakes for the Cake Stall and for Refreshments - Please leave your donations in the Dora Honor Room kitchen on Friday evening or bring to the Hall on Saturday morning. Please mark clearly 'Stall' or 'Refreshments'. All donations are gratefully received.

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 25th October

10:00am Church open

Sunday 26th October

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

Monday 27th October

9.30am Morning prayer

10:00am Church open

10:00am New Horizons Coffee Morning

Tuesday 28th October

10:00am Church open

Wednesday 29th October

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 30th October

10:00am Church open

Friday 31st October

10:00am Church open

Saturday 1st November

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 2nd November

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

6:30pm All Souls Service

Advance Dates

Sunday 9th November

Saturday 15th November

Sunday 23rd November

Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th December

Monday 8th & Tuesday 9th December

Remembrance Sunday Service at 10am

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.