

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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14th December 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....

Today's Gospel reading reinforces the suggestion I made last week that John the Baptist only had a partial understanding of Jesus' character and mission. From prison he sends messengers to Jesus asking him if he is the one to come – he had seemed sure enough earlier. We assume that what he has heard about Jesus' ministry is not what he had expected.

Jesus' reply highlights the focus of his work on healing and reclaiming the sick, lost and marginalised. He adds the perhaps pointed – 'and blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me'. John is in danger of missing the point. The Kingdom of God is characterised by what Jesus has been doing, not by a process either of purification or the assertion of worldly power as many, and perhaps John, had imagined.

Nevertheless, Jesus recognises John as a great man and prophet. But perhaps he is the last of an order that is passing, rather than the first of the new – and for that reason those in the Kingdom of heaven are 'greater than he'. The challenge for us is ourselves to truly grasp the radical grace of the Kingdom – Christian history is full of those, who like John, perhaps, found it hard to let go of the idea of judgement, and clear distinctions between the righteous and unrighteous, those 'in' and those 'out' of God's people.

This Week's Prayer List

For the sick:

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

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.

Surrey Care Trust Charity Performance at St John's

Surrey Care Trust will be holding a charity performance at St John's on Thursday 18th December, all proceeds will help Surrey Care Trust continue to support people across Surrey to overcome disadvantage, gain new skills, and build brighter futures.

Surrey Care Trust have offered a special reduced ticket rate of £10 per person - parish members can book directly via the secure booking link below. Please note, this page is password-protected:

<https://www.surreycaretrust.org.uk/xmascarolvol25/>

Password: WB_Dickens_2025

If parish members would like to find out more about the event, they can visit our main event

page here: <https://www.surreycaretrust.org.uk/event/charity-performance-a-christmas-carol/>

All Saints' New Haw Weekly Newsletter

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

Save your Stamps

We are collecting! If you receive stamped cards and letters through the post this festive period (and throughout the year), could you save the stamps and bring them into church? We will recycle them into much-needed funds for Kidney Care UK, who support kidney patients and their families. Thank you. The box is located in church by the Cornerstone exit door.

Community Christmas Tree Festival

On Tuesday, the Christmas Tree Festival culminated with a performance from the West Byfleet Community Choir to a packed church – standing room only! For the fifth year running, the festival was a great success with at least 500 visitors across the five days and over £500 in donations. We thought we would share some of the touching feedback we got from visitors too: Thank you to those of you who kindly stewarded for us, we couldn't have done it without you.

"Perfect. Wouldn't change a thing."

"For us it has become the beginning of Christmas."

"Lovely to see the Community come together in such a lovely way"

"Wonderful Community Spirit,"

"Beautiful and fun!"

Advent Groups

The ecumenical study groups in Advent will finish with our last session on **Tuesday 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!

Carol Service & Mince Pies

As usual, we will be serving mulled wine and mince pies after the carol service on Sunday 21st; this is always a fantastic social event and a chance for us to engage with people who do not attend church frequently. Donations of mince pies gratefully received - please leave them with Amanda on Sunday or in the DHR kitchen. Also, I need a few people to help set up tables etc and to clear up afterwards. Please let me know on Sunday (or email me) if you are able to help. Many thanks. Amanda pccsecretary@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk

Flower Fund

The flower fund is a little low for us to have fresh flowers in church for Christmas – So, if you feel that you are able to contribute to this year's arrangements, please let John Dedman (Treasurer) or Angie Dedman have your donations. Thank you for your continued support.

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 13th December

10:00am Church open

Sunday 14th December

8.00am Parish Eucharist

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Junior Choir Carol Service with Family Eucharist followed by refreshments

Monday 15th December

9.30am Morning prayer

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 16th December

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

7:00pm Advent Groups at Byfleet Methodist Church (7:30pm start)

Wednesday 17th December

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 18th December

10:00am Church open

Friday 19th December

10:00am Church open

Saturday 20th December

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 21st December

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

6:30pm Carol Service

Advance Dates

Christmas Eve

Crib Service at 4pm & The Midnight at 11:15pm

Christmas Day

Holy Communion at 8am & Christmas Family Eucharist at 10am

Sunday 11th January

Epiphany Carol Service at 6:30pm

Sunday 1st February

Candlemas Evensong at 6:30pm

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.