

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

www.stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk
www.facebook.com/stjohnswestbyfleet

25th January 2026

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



Clive writes...

I've always liked some symmetry in my life. I hate seeing pictures hanging at an angle, ornaments should be equally spaced. Anna thinks I'm on some spectrum or other. It is then gratifying that my ministry has started and is finishing in some sort of balance. I was ordained from a church dedicated to St Paul and my last official Eucharist will be on the day we remember the Conversion of Paul. St Paul then seems to be at the beginning and end of my ecclesiastical career, nicely symmetrical.

What a fantastic person to have "bookending" this part of my life. Originally named Saul and born a Jew in Tarsus (now in Turkey), trained and earned his living as a tent maker then becoming a devout and orthodox Jew vowing to eliminate the new religion of Christianity. Then came the miraculous encounter with the risen Christ resulting in him becoming one of the greatest preachers and missionaries in the history of the faith. He wrote 7 of the Epistles to be found in the New Testament and possibly 5 others and is often known as the Apostle to the Gentiles. He had an adventurous life as he travelled around the Mediterranean basin including shipwrecks, being lowered from the city wall of Damascus to escape persecution, several imprisonments and beatings before, we believe, falling foul of the Roman Emperor Nero and being executed.

His theology is not always easy to follow as I discovered during my training but is well worth getting to grips with. If you are that way inclined pursuing the academic aspects of faith can be very satisfying but it's much more important to remember what is most important and that is how we live our lives. I can do no better than to remember some of Paul's words. He knew that the basis of Christian life is love, "...if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. (1Cor13.2)

My last "Clive writes" but I won't say goodbye as I intend to stick around for a while yet, God willing. But thank you for putting up with me for the last 14 years.

May God bless you and our church.

Clive

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, Gareth, Amanda & Jasper, Margaret Blamey, John Blamey, Graham Smith, Caroline Hill and Mavis Margaroni.

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.

Today's readings are **Matthew 19: 27-end** and **Acts 9: 1-22**

Cornerstone Hall - heating - help needed

Currently we have a very small number of people who come and turn the heating on for hirers in the Cornerstone Hall. Unfortunately, we are not able to set up remote access to manage the heating as our system is quite old. If you could spare one day a week or even one or two days a month to be added to the team please get in touch with Terry or Jen. It's a very quick job but an important one to ensure our hirers can use the hall comfortably. Thank you

PCC Briefing

You may have noticed that there is no quiz this year-unfortunately, the social group has now disbanded leaving us with a large gap. Firstly, the PCC want to thank the team and all its members for all they have done over the years; the events have been a wonderful way to socialise and get to know one another better with the added bonus of adding funds to the church. In the short term, Jen would like to organise a quiz for late Spring - if you feel able to help in any way, talk to her as soon as possible. Longer term, the PCC will discuss this at our next meeting and decide how to move forwards - we do not want to lose events such as the Christmas Tree Festival - so if you want to step up, even just for one event, then please let me, Keith or the churchwardens know. In better news, Hugh Jones has been appointed as our new treasurer - thank you Hugh for taking on this important role. John Dedman has done an incredible job over the years, and we are hugely grateful for his diligence and commitment. Thank you John. A new cooker and dishwasher have been ordered for the Cornerstone Kitchen using funding awarded by Surrey County Council. Watch this space for updates, including how we are intending to improve and use the kitchen for community events. We are re-advertising for the House for Duty assistant priest role - please pray that we find someone suitable to join our team and aid us in our ministry. In prayer. Amanda

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>

New piano for St John's - nearly there!

If any of the congregation are able to help with the final funding of this instrument - we need an additional £2,500, on top of our own piano fund and the external funding - could you please make a donation asap via the Treasurer (John Dedman). You can do this online via the website, or with a direct bank transfer to the PCC account at HSBC [**West Byfleet PCC, sort code 40-46-48, number 01446428; reference 'Piano Fund'**].

Finally, if anyone knows of a school, community organisation, or student who would like the Brinsmead at no charge, save the cost of transport, please let me know. Many thanks, Ian

Baby & Toddlers Group

Our Baby & Toddler group are in need of some more helpers. The group runs on a Wednesday between 1pm – 3pm. Roles include setting up, packing away, welcoming guests, making refreshments, nothing too onerous. If you may be able to help (you wouldn't be needed every week) please speak to Bridget. Many thanks.

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 24th January

10:00am Church open

Sunday 25th January

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

Monday 26th January

9.30am Morning prayer

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 27th January

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

Wednesday 28th January

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 29th January

10:00am Church open

Friday 30th January

10:00am Church open

Saturday 31st January

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 1st February

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

6:30pm Evensong for Candlemas

Advance Dates

Sunday 15th February

Wednesday 18th February

Sunday 15th March

Pancake Service at 4pm

Ash Wednesday Parish Eucharist at 7:30pm

Mothering Sunday Service at 10am

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.