

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

www.stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk

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1st February 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



Keith writes....

The story of Jesus' birth, as told by Luke, emphasises the universality and revolutionary grace that we are to see as the primary characteristic of Jesus' ministry. God's loving favour is for all people, not only Jews. The story of the presentation of the infant Christ in the temple operates as a kind of counterpoint to that narrative and brings other big themes into focus. The first is that, for all that Jesus' ministry will constantly subvert Jewish expectation, Jesus himself is raised according to Jewish custom and immersed in Israel's practices of faith. We are told no less than five times in Sunday's Gospel reading that everything was done according to the Law. We are also introduced to two people who exemplify all that is best in the tradition, Simeon and Anna. These faithful servants of God are notable not just for their faithfulness but also for their hopeful expectation of God's action, their waiting for God's messiah. As they recognise the messiah in the young Jesus we are being told that Jesus is the true fulfilment of the Jewish, Old Testament faith.

There is a darker side too. This episode introduces the themes of suffering and rejection. The messiah's ministry will not be a triumphant progress, but salvation will come at a cost, for many, including Jesus' own mother. It will turn out for Jesus, and all associated with him, that the way to life lies through death.

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:

Jo Orr

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.

A video about St John's

We are going to make a video in which members of St John's talk about what their faith and St John's mean to them. This is intended as a way of helping others to understand what they might gain by joining us. Making the film will involve recording interviews with a range of St John's people. BBC producer and member of the congregation Bella Lloyd-Pennock has kindly offered to make the film. Filming will take place in the church on **Saturday 7th March from 11.30am**. If you would like to take part please let me know. It won't be scary and people will not have to be there for hours – you will have a time and be required for about half an hour. The finished product will be shown on our website and social media. *Keith*.

Today's readings are **Luke 2: 22-40** and **Hebrews 2: 14-end**

Thank You

Dear Friends,

Just a note to thank everybody who helped organize my farewell 'do' last Sunday and everybody who contributed to the extremely generous gifts. It was a farewell only in terms of leadership of Services. Anna and I are looking forward to continuing to worship with you at St John's as our Parish Church. With grateful thanks and best wishes. *Clive*

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

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.

Street Angels Urgently Needed

Woking Street Angels are urgently seeking volunteers to train to join their team. We are a friendly bunch, the task is not onerous and requires a commitment of only one night every four weeks. And days/dates can be flexible. If you are aged over 18, please can you give this serious consideration. At the moment we sometimes have to cancel shifts because we don't have enough available Angels. That means someone in need of help may not get it that night. Please call 07827 914714, email wokingstreetangels@gmail.com or go to www.wokingstreangels.org.uk for more information or to apply.

Noticeboard

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

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

Monday 2nd February

9.30am Morning prayer

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 3rd February

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

Wednesday 4th February

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 5th February

10:00am Church open

Friday 6th February

10:00am Church open

Saturday 7th February

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 8th February

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

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.