

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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11th 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...

If I haven't already had the chance to wish you a Happy and Peaceful New Year – I do so now. My emphasis is on the "peaceful" for we enter this year with a good deal of uncertainty on the international stage. As usual however our hope is in Christ as today we commemorate his Baptism by our patron St John the Baptist. I think that, were he alive today, John would be considered something of a "character" a tad eccentric, on some sort of spectrum. Without doubt he was not usual even in his own time, but he had a very important role to play. The public Baptism of Jesus help to reveal him to the crowds and marked the beginning of his earthly mission. Perhaps John can help us to appreciate the gifts of those who are in some ways different.

One of the parts of the story of Christ's Baptism that has always interested me is the fact that those of us baptised have experienced the same sacrament as he did, we have something in common with him. Of course, his was in the River Jordan whereas mine was in a little church in West London and as I was an infant I've had to rely on my parents description of the event and they certainly never mentioned any doves descending or voices from heaven; none the less I too had water poured upon me and prayers calling on the Holy Spirit were said. Maybe your baptism was similar to mine, but a shadow of our Lord's but what a privilege even to be in Christ's shadow!

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 and Caroline Hill

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.

Volunteer to support someone living with a life-threatening illness

As a volunteer with The Brigitte Trust, you will be providing emotional and practical support to a person living with a terminal illness. Full training and support will be provided for this very rewarding role. Volunteers must be over 18 years of age, hold a valid UK driving license, and be willing to be DBS checked.

Please contact Mandy East: mandy.east@brigitte-trust.com

Tel: 07814 747585 (01306 881816) Or visit www.brigitte-trust.org/become-a-volunteer/

We'd love to hear from you!

Today's readings are **Matthew 3: 13-end** and **Acts 10: 34-43**

Epiphany Carol Service

Amidst the dark and gloom of early January, we invite you to join us at 6.30pm on Sunday evening for a short service of light and joy as we continue to celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. The service includes a lovely combination of seasonal Epiphany readings, with hymns and carols for congregation and choir – everyone is welcome!

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>

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.

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

Jo Winn-Smith - cathedral licensing

Jo Winn-Smith is joining the clergy team at the cathedral. Jo will still remain bishop's chaplain during the week, but most Sundays will now be spent at the cathedral. The role is called 'Priest-Vicar' and consequently they will be making Jo a minor canon.

Jo's licensing is going to be on **Sunday 25th January at 6pm** at evensong. There is an open invitation, and it would be lovely if you could attend. There is going to be an Eventbrite invitation, so that the cathedral can work out rough numbers for refreshments, as there will be drinks afterwards, to which you are all warmly invited too. The Eventbrite link will be shared once received.

Woking Street Angel's Service

Woking Street Angels will be holding their annual service in the afternoon of **Sunday 8th February at St Mark's Church, Westfield Road, Westfield, Woking, GU22 9QA**, starting at 3pm.

Members of all Woking churches and faiths are invited. Woking's MP, Will Forster, the Mayor and other special guests will attend.

Woking Street Angels will highlight some of their work during the past year and be re-commissioned, as part of the service for the next twelve months.

Refreshments, including tea and cakes will be available for all after the service.

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 10th January

10:00am Church open

Sunday 11th January

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10:00am Parish Eucharist for Epiphany followed by refreshments

6:30pm Epiphany Carol Service

Monday 12th January

9.30am Morning prayer with Our Lady RC Church

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 13th January

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

Wednesday 14th January

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 15th January

10:00am Church open

Friday 16th January

10:00am Church open

Saturday 17th January

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 18th January

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Family Eucharist with Baptism followed by refreshments

6:30pm Talk, Think, Pray

Advance Dates

Sunday 1st February

Evensong for Candlemas 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.