

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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

18th 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



Today's readings are **John 1: 29-42** and **1Corinthians 1: 1-9**

Keith writes....

None of the possible basic views of the world we might hold can be proven, that is, demonstrated as true with complete logical confidence. If any one of the world's philosophies could be proved, then we would all have to believe it. Instead, we live in a world in which the answers to the most basic questions are uncertain. Who are we? Is there a God? How should we live? All these familiar questions cannot be answered with certainty. All positions require faith, a conviction that cannot be wholly justified by argument. Even those who reject 'faith' and will only believe what can be demonstrated scientifically have made a prior faith-like commitment to what kind of world it is – one in which only that which can be seen and measured exists.

So we Christians cannot prove what we believe. We can argue that it makes more sense of the world than anything else and that it is based on credible arguments and evidence, but, logically, that is the limit. So it is interesting that, in today's Gospel, when he meets Andrew, Jesus asks him 'what are you looking for?' it sounds like a deep question, but Andrew takes it at face value, replying, 'where are you staying?'. When Jesus replies 'Come and see' it is even harder not to read it as much more than a simple invitation to visit him. It sounds like an invitation to find out by meeting Jesus and experiencing being with him first hand what all the fuss is about.

'Come and see' is a theme of the Bible. 'O taste and see that the Lord is good' it says in Psalm 34. It is an invitation that remains open to all. We cannot prove Christian claims but we can all test them for ourselves and invite others to do the same.

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.

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!

As some of you are already aware, we have been awarded a grant from Your Fund Surrey towards the cost of a new piano to replace our Brinsmead, which has been in the church for over 40 years. Although the piano remains playable, and is still used for weekly choir practices, some services, and regularly for concerts, the touch is now somewhat unreliable, even after some expensive repairs.

Having researched available instruments thoroughly last year, we settled on a (new) Yamaha - a make that is well established, and known for producing robust and reliable instruments that are capable of dealing with variations in temperature and humidity (such as we experience in the church). Similar instruments are widely used in conservatoires, schools, and concert halls, and are well-respected.

Having been about to place an order for our preferred instrument with a local dealer, Yamaha London have recently been in touch with an offer of 'charity and educational' pricing that is only available for direct orders. This has opened up the possibility of purchasing a slightly larger and better sounding instrument, at a price we are not able to secure elsewhere. To be blunt, this is a very attractive offer, and would mean we procure an outstanding brand new piano for St John's - one that will last for generations to come.

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.

Talk, Think, Pray

This Sunday 18 January at 6.30pm we shall discuss how Christians should view Israel. The people of Israel obviously play a central role in the history of salvation, Jesus was a Jew and the early Christian community was Jewish. Yet, for some, the rise of the church meant the end of Israel's special role. Today, the modern state of Israel divides opinion amongst Christians as well as wider society. What place does Israel play in the Christian understanding of the world? Conversation followed by silence and Celtic Evening Prayer. All welcome.

Noticeboard

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

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

Monday 19th January

9.30am Morning prayer

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 20th January

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

Wednesday 21st January

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 22nd January

10:00am Church open

Friday 23rd January

10:00am Church open

Saturday 24th January

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 25th January

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

Advance Dates

Sunday 1st February

Sunday 15th February

Wednesday 18th February

Evensong for Candlemas at 6:30pm

Pancake Service at 4pm

Ash Wednesday Parish Eucharist at 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.