

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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1st March 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 3: 1-17** and **Genesis 12: 1-4a**

Keith writes....

Sunday's Gospel contains the story of the visit of Nicodemus, a pharisee, to Jesus at night. It seems that Nicodemus is reluctant to be seen making this visit – the whole thing feels rather clandestine. Perhaps this is why Jesus responds by saying that 'no-one can see the Kingdom of God without being born from above'. The notion of a second birth mystifies Nicodemus: 'how can anyone be born after growing old?' Jesus responds by insisting that it is essential to 'be born of water and spirit'. We take this to mean that a spiritual rebirth is necessary, one made possible by the action of the Holy Spirit. All this requires a level of commitment, a willingness to engage with God in a new way – and we might suspect that Jesus is saying all this because he thinks Nicodemus is unwilling to go as far as it takes to be a true disciple.

In the twentieth century the phrase 'born again' became a way of talking about a particular form of enthusiastic evangelical Christian faith, one that focused on experience of the spirit. Who can say what the Spirit might wish to give us by way of experience? But it seems clear enough to me that the reference here is primarily to Christian baptism in which we are born again by water and the Spirit. To be a Christian, to be baptised, is to be reborn.

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, Mavis Margaroni, Bishop Andrew.

Remembering the departed:

Barbara Knowles

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.

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>

What is God calling you to

The group of those exploring what God might have for them in the next stage of their journey of discipleship is meeting again **on 23rd March at 7.30pm** in the Dora Honnor Room. It is not too late to be part of that group. If you would like to consider what God might be calling you to, please speak to Keith.

Mothering Sunday

On Saturday 14th March from 2:30pm, in Church, with the help of the Guides, we will be making posies to be given out at the 10:00am service the following day. If anyone would like to come and join us, your help would be greatly appreciated.

If anyone has any greenery they could let us have to use in the posies it would be much appreciated as would financial contributions as the flower fund is low at present.

Electoral Roll Revision

St John's Electoral Roll is being updated prior to this year's APCM in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Please note that this is just an update and if your name is currently on the Electoral Roll you do not need to do anything.

If you are new to St John's or your name is not included on the current Electoral Roll and you wish to have it added, you should apply for entry by completing a form and returning it to Angie Dedman or the Church Office, no later than **Wednesday 1st April**. Forms can be obtained from Angie or the church office.

Food Bank

We are relying more and more on donations from individuals so every little you could give would be much appreciated. If you could particularly donate items on the want list it would be very helpful. Donations of money can be sent by the means shown on the poster or I'm happy to take small amounts in cash to the branch I volunteer in.

Current needs: cereal, instant mash, tinned meat, tinned fish, squash, coffee, custard, razors, toothbrush, deodorant, conditioner, antibacterial spray.

PLEASE KEEP DONATING. Many thanks, *Clive*

Lent

Everyone should have now received a copy of the Church of England's Lent booklet, 'Draw Near'. This booklet will accompany you through Lent, providing a reflection for each day. I hope it will help you in keeping Lent as a time for drawing nearer to God. If you did not receive a copy, copies should still be available in church.

We will again be holding ecumenical Lent groups. The course is entitled Superstar and is written by David Wilbourne. Meetings will continue at St Michael's Church, Sheerwater on **Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th March at 7pm for a 7.15 start**. All are welcome. Recent Churches Together courses have provided high quality times of learning, meditation and prayer so please do come if you can.

Lost Property

We have a number of items which have been left in either church or Cornerstone. If you have lost a coat, jumper or other item, these are located on the coat hooks by the toilets at the entrance of Cornerstone. All unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 28th February

10:00am Church open

Sunday 1st March

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

6:30pm Evensong for Lent

Monday 2nd March

9.30am Morning prayer

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 3rd March

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

Wednesday 4th March

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 5th March

10:00am Church open

Friday 6th March

10:00am Church open

Saturday 7th March

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 8th March

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

Advance Dates

Sunday 15th March

Sunday 15th March

Sunday 29th March

Sunday 29th March

Mothering Sunday Service at 10am

Confirmation service at 6:30pm

Palm Sunday Service at 10am

Music & Readings for Palm Sunday 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.