

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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22nd 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



Today's readings are **Matthew 4: 1-11** and **Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7**

Ros writes...

The UK Covid-19 enquiry has this week begun its final phase - 3 weeks of public hearings exploring the impact on society, with a particular emphasis on key-workers, the most vulnerable, the bereaved and mental health and wellbeing. Those of us who lived through that time will have our own impressions of the long-term negative impacts of the pandemic, but the enquiry will also consider how society's strengths, resilience and innovation reduced any negative impacts. Faith communities are among some 100 organisations giving evidence to add to a broad picture of the impact on different sectors of society.

No doubt the enquiry will conclude that social isolation is detrimental to our wellbeing and that being part of various communities is good for us, not least because we are drawn out of ourselves as we recognise that we are part of something bigger. Nonetheless at this time of Lent we are invited to spend time on some of that introspection that Jesus must have known as he was forced to spend 40 days and nights alone in the wilderness. With all that's going on around us it can be hard to centre our thoughts with ourselves, but if we can manage to engage with that discipline each day, we may be surprised by what we notice! It's not too late to start.

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 and 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.

Confirmation

The Bishop of Guildford will be confirming six candidates from St John's in a service held here, at St John's, **on Sunday 15th March at 6:30pm**. The six include four young people and two adults. There is still time for other adult candidates to be included. There are three preparation sessions scheduled from the end of February. If you'd like to be confirmed, please talk to me. *Keith*

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>

Prayer Vigil for Bishop Andrew

Following last week's news in relation to Bishop Andrew's health, a prayer vigil will take place on **Monday 23rd February at Guildford Cathedral between 12 noon and 10pm**. All are welcome and encouraged to join us at any stage during the day for as long as you are able to stay. There will be opportunity for silent prayer, to pray with others, or to light a candle.

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 be held at St Michael's Church, Sheerwater on **Wednesdays 25th Feb, 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.

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.

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 21st February

10:00am Church open

Sunday 22nd February

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

Monday 23rd February

9.30am Morning prayer

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 24th February

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

Wednesday 25th February

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

11:00am Jo Orr Interment of Ashes

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 26th February

10:00am Church open

Friday 27th February

10:00am Church open

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

Advance Dates

Sunday 15th March

Sunday 29th March

Sunday 29th March

Mothering Sunday Service at 10am

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.