

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

WEST BYFLEET

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15th 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 19: 25b - 27** and **Exodus 2: 1-10**

Di writes...

March this year seems to bring a particular emphasis on women. Last Sunday was International Women's Day; today is Mothering Sunday and on 25th March Dame Sarah Mullally will be installed as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury. The 25th March is the Feast of the Anunciation - the day on which we celebrate the visit of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of Jesus.

Today we come together to remember mothers – a joyful day for some, a poignant day for others. But we can all love and be thankful and remember that our very existence is testimony to the love and labour of our mothers.

Malcolm Guite has written a sonnet for today in which he highlights single mothers.

Mothering Sunday: a sonnet

At last, in spite of all, a recognition,
For those who loved and laboured for so long,
Who brought us, through that labour, to fruition
To flourish in the place where we belong.
A thanks to those who stayed and did the raising,
Who buckled down and did the work of two,
Whom governments have mocked instead of praising,
Who hid their heart-break and still struggled through,
The single mothers forced onto the edge
Whose work the world has overlooked, neglected,
Invisible to wealth and privilege,
But in whose lives the kingdom is reflected.
Now into Christ our mother church we bring them,
Who shares with them the birth-pangs of His Kingdom.

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, John Blamey, Graham Smith, Caroline Hill, Mavis Margaroni, Michael Doughty.

Remembering the departed:

Bishop Andrew & Margaret Blamey

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>

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.

Lent

Lent group meetings will continue at St Michael's Church, Sheerwater on **Wednesdays 18th and 25th March at 7pm for a 7:15pm start**. All are welcome.

Contemplative Service with Taizé at All Saints' New Haw

Sunday 22nd March at 6pm – Join us in church for a quiet, meditative service with readings, space for prayer & reflection, & Taizé music. We will gather in silence & leave in silence.

Blister Packs

Thank you to those who had previously donated blister packs for recycling. We are now no longer collecting. Many thanks.

Exhibition – Ewa Brachel 'From Despair to Hope'

During Holy Week and the following week there will be an Exhibition of Digital Paintings in the Nave of our church by the Polish artist Ewa Brachel entitled 'From Despair to Hope'. These remarkable large pictures relate to the life of Christ, especially the last week. They will be in place of the Stations of the Cross. Besides our normal service times, our church will be open to the public to view the pictures from 11.30am to 4.00pm each day from Sunday 29th March to Sunday 12th April. Donations will go to brain cancer research. Representatives from churches and the wider community are being invited to a Preview Evening. We are aiming to have stewarding throughout the exhibition, as much as anything to welcome visitors, give guidance and address questions. Anthony will be leading this. I hope you will consider volunteering a couple of hours or so to help Anthony with this stewarding if you are able. Also, there are (damp-proof!) fliers and posters available, so please help with publicity. Anthony is happy to answer questions.

St John's Grounds

Now that the rain has abated and the sun and warmer days are with us, the Gardening Team are being galvanised into getting the grounds into great shape for the rest of the year. If you would like to help us tidy up the grounds for everyone passing through or visiting our Church to enjoy - please give a little of your time to leaf clearing, weeding, dead heading, any task that our Head Gardener, Janet Hodges, determines needs doing! We meet on Saturday mornings from 10.00. Any help is really appreciated! Thank you so much!

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 14th March

10:00am Church open

Sunday 15th March

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Mothering Sunday Service followed by refreshments

6:30pm Confirmation Service

Monday 16th March

9.30am Morning prayer

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 17th March

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

Wednesday 18th March

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 19th March

10:00am Church open

Friday 20th March

10:00am Church open

Saturday 21st March

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 22nd March

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

Advance Dates

Monday 23rd March

Sunday 29th March

Sunday 29th March

Monday 20th April

Saturday 9th May

What is God calling you to? At 7:30pm in the DH Room

Palm Sunday Service at 10am

Music & Readings for Palm Sunday at 6:30pm

Summer Fair meeting at 7pm in the DH Room

Coffee Morning in aid of Woking Hospice at 10:30am

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.