

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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29th 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 **Matthew 21: 1-11** and **Philippians 2: 5-11**

Keith writes...

In a way it is understandable that Jesus' entry into Jerusalem frightens the authorities, especially the Roman governor: it looks like trouble. On what we call Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into the city to a rapturous reception from crowds of people. Matthew tells us that in doing so he fulfils Zechariah's prophecy of how the messiah would appear. Jesus comes in peace, but as a king. The crowd appear to recognise this well enough. They cry 'hosanna to the Son of David', a title which emphatically belongs to the promised messiah.

Yet, when the entry is over Jesus merely teaches and heals in his usual fashion. There is no move, no obvious action. No messianic revolution takes place. Nevertheless, the notion that Jesus is being seen as a king is a big red flag for the Roman Governor, Pilate. Jesus' long time Jewish opponents are quick to use it to turn Pilate against Jesus. In John's account Pilate asks Jesus if he is a king, only for Jesus to deny any worldly ambitions – his kingdom is not of this world. Pilate does not know what to make of all this and we rather get the impression that he is persuaded that Jesus is not a threat. But he ends up allowing the Jewish leaders to have their way and execute him on the basis that it is better to be safe than sorry.

It will turn out that Jesus' claim is not what Pilate feared but far greater than he or anyone else comprehend. Jesus is a king whose kingdom far surpasses any of our politics and transforms everything. We will see how this works out this week and in the Easter season.

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

Remembering the departed:

Margaret Blamey, Betty Scott & Chrissie Beddows

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>

Reminder

Clocks spring forward Sunday (29th March) at 2am for British Summer Time.

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will take place on **19th April** after the 10am service and is an opportunity to look back on what we have achieved over the last year. It is also when we form a new PCC; we have several vacancies and will be asking people to stand up for election. The task is not onerous - 6 meetings per year - but it is hugely important. The PCC is responsible for looking after financial, social, evangelistic and pastoral affairs and members are trustees of the charity of St. Johns, Please talk to Keith, Amanda, Jen or Neil if you want more details and use prayer to ask God if this is what he is calling you to do next. In prayer. *Amanda*

Electoral Roll Revision

St John's Electoral Roll is being updated prior to this year's APCM in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. 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.

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.

Camphill Road Closure

Please be aware that a section of Camphill Road, between the Junior School and Station Road, will be closed for 2 weeks from Monday 30th March.

JAM

This coming Sunday (29th March) is our last JAM session before the Easter break. We will meet again on Sunday, 26th April. (19th April is the Family Eucharist service.) The leaders and helpers wish the children and their families a very happy Easter.

Choirs to sing at Canterbury Cathedral - Monday 6th April

On Bank Holiday Monday, our adult and junior choirs will be singing Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral. Please do come along and support them if you can - the service starts at 5.30pm, and finishes at 6.15pm. There is no charge to visit the Cathedral for a service!

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 28th March

10:00am Church open

Sunday 29th March

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Palm Sunday Service followed by refreshments

6:30pm Music & Readings for Palm Sunday

Monday 30th March

9.30am Morning prayer

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 31st March

10:00am Church open

Wednesday 1st April

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 2nd April – Maundy Thursday

10:00am Church open

7:30pm The Eucharist of The Last Supper

Friday 3rd April – Good Friday

10:00am Church open

10:00am Walk of Witness, starting at Our Lady RC Church, Madeira Road

2:00pm The Last Hour, Music & Reflections for Good Friday

Saturday 4th April

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 5th April – Easter Sunday

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Easter Sunday Eucharist followed by refreshments

Advance Dates

Sunday 19th April

Monday 20th April

Saturday 9th May

Annual Meeting after the 10am service

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.