

# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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## 26<sup>th</sup> April 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](mailto: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 10: 1-10** and **Acts 2: 42-end**

### ***Ros writes...***

Inspired by a recent article in *Church Times* by the author Catherine Fox, I've been thinking about what might be meant by Jesus in his declaration at the end of Sunday morning's Gospel reading where he says: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly". Fox – in her article - reflects on why during a recent 3-month sabbatical in an idyllic location she had been unable to fulfil her hopes and dreams for that down time. "Other people" she observes, "are able to use sabbaticals to soak up the sun and write books. I seem to fall apart. It's as though time out opens a cupboard door in the soul. Out tumbles all the soul work I've been deferring as I labour up life's down escalator".

She goes on to explain that she'd always assumed life in all its fulness – as some translations would have it – to mean an abundance of joy, but "what if", she asks, "by his life, death and resurrection, [Jesus] was showing us instead to play music on the full human instrument – all the hopes, all the fears, all the bliss, all the pain? We are more fearsomely and wonderfully made than the vastest of cathedral organs" she says. "We have more stops and manuals and pedals than we can begin to imagine." Continuing her musical analogy, she asserts that she's "learning that it's not an option to play only happy tunes. The human heart can't be selectively muted. It's *all* the time and key signatures, or *none* of them". So, what if life in all its fulness has nothing to do with the image of the abundant joy and extravagant excesses we might carelessly associate with the expression? What if life in all its fulness means just that? Life with all its joy, yes, but with all its suffering too. We're not promised a life free from pain, suffering, and loss, ... but we can know the peace and joy that comes from a meaningful existence rooted in the abundant goodness of God's love and providence, prepared for whatever life brings - life in all its messy fulness – by trusting the Easter message of hope, that death itself has been annihilated.

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### **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, Michael Doughty.

#### **Remembering the departed:**

Please send any new prayer requests or updates to [admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk](mailto:admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk)

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### **Parish Office**

For all general (non-urgent) enquiries, please contact the Parish Office by emailing [admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk](mailto: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.

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### **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>

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## Agape Lunch

We will be holding an Agape meal at **12:00pm on Sunday May 10th** which is the first Sunday in Christian Aid week.

Agape is the word used in the Bible to describe sacrificial love. It is of course used to describe Christ's love for his church. It is in keeping with the spirit of love and sharing that we should have a frugal meal (bread, cheese and apple will be provided by the PCC and others). We would ask those attending to donate what they would usually spend on their Sunday lunch. All the money collected will go to Christian Aid. There will be a box on each table and someone with a card machine if you prefer to give by card.

Last year, a lot of food was left over, and it would be very helpful if people who expect to come could be kind enough to let us know via email to [admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk](mailto:admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk) so that we get an idea of numbers. This does not mean that people who have not put their name on the list cannot come if they find themselves able at the last minute.

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## Woking Community Grocery

The Welcome Church is setting up a Community Grocery next door to the church at 1-5 Church Street West, Woking. Its aim is to provide a bridge between food banks and supermarkets, helping to keep families fed so that no-one goes hungry. This is a model that exists across the UK and is open to anyone finding it tough to put food on the table. Membership is £5/ yr/ household and enables multiple visits/ week for good discounted food. They reckon that for an outlay of £5 a visitor gets a basket of food worth at least £20. Courses to support people with new skills, job applications and money management are also available.

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## Quiz Night at All Saints'

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**, 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Entry charge of £5 (cash on door) includes tea or coffee and a cake or biscuit in the interval but you are welcome to bring your own alcohol, nibbles and glasses! There will also be a raffle. Teams of 6, come as a team or join a team on the night.

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## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

We had our APCM on Sunday and the vicar's remarks have been issued for those who were unable to attend. Our thanks went to John for all his dedicated and diligent work as our Treasurer over the past 8 years - happy retirement John! Hugh will take over as Treasurer for the Benefice. Amanda was appointed as Churchwarden as Neil has stepped down; Richard will take over as PCC Secretary following the May PCC meeting. Thanks to those who have been elected onto the PCC; we still have a two year vacancy so if anybody is drawn to this please talk to Keith, Jen or Amanda.

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## Noticeboard

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

### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April

10:00am Church Open

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April

9.30am Morning prayer

10:00am Church open

### Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April

10:00am Church open

### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May

10:00am Church open

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

10:00am Church open

7:00pm Quiz Night at All Saints' New Haw

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

6:30pm Choral Evensong

## Advance Dates

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May

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

Agape Lunch at 12pm

May Fayre at All Saints' New Haw from 10:30am – 3pm

Pentecost Praise at 4pm

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## 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](mailto:vicarwestbyfleetandnewhaw@gmail.com) (note the new email address). His normal day off is Friday. For urgent enquiries outside of these times, contact our Churchwarden: **Amanda Hodson** – 07934 610788. For prayer requests, please contact **Geoff Jones** - 01932 851830