

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

WEST BYFLEET

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3rd May 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



Keith writes...

For obvious reasons we lack eyewitness information about the nature of life after death. Many of those who have had near death experiences report such things as peaceful feelings, and being drawn towards a light. It is hard, though, to know what to make of those experiences. The popular idea of heaven is of floating around on a cloud, or, at least, of some purely ghostly or spiritual existence. The evidence of the Bible, particularly of the resurrection of Jesus, however, is of at least a kind of bodily life – the risen Christ appears and disappears at will but eats food and can be touched. St Paul speaks of a 'spiritual body' and the great concluding vision of Revelation is of a new heaven and a new earth, and of a holy city in which God lives with his people.

I found myself thinking of these things because recent discussions at Talk, Think, Pray have led us to the subject of heaven and because today's Gospel reading is so often used in funerals. Jesus tells his disciples that he is leaving them to prepare a place for them. By this, he refers to his death. We assume he is preparing a place for them in God's world, in the Kingdom of God and beyond death. He makes the famous remark that 'there are many rooms (or 'mansions') in my Father's house'. I take this to mean that there is room enough for all but perhaps also that there is a room especially ready for the individual, perhaps a room in some sense designed for a particular individual. Heaven is somewhere we will be truly at home. We will address the subject of heaven directly at our next Talk, Think, Pray, on 17 May.

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

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>

Coffee Morning in Aid of Woking & Sam Beare Hospice

Bridget will be hosting a coffee morning on **Saturday 9th May at 10:30am** in memory of her daughter Jane, to raise money for Woking & Sam Beare Hospice and the wonderful work they do. Please come along and support this event.

Today's readings are **John 14: 1-14** and **Acts 7: 55-end**

ECO News

Please take time to visit our ECO Church St John's Garden Area which is now developing into a lovely Bee friendly Garden - soon to have a pond and tadpoles!

Ideal for the children to visit and to be involved with its creation. We are also planting shrubs that the flower arrangers could use in the Church. We are asking for anyone to sponsor a shrub so if you could help us achieve this aim, please speak to Anthony Hopkins, Janet Hodges, or Neil and Sue Hatton. They will purchase the shrub - and put the donation into the garden fund! Thank you so much!

The Wildflower Meadow needs attention - but flowers are appearing and it will be an amazing spectacle if we are patient!

The gardening team are always in need of any help with the grounds - so if you have a few hours to spare to help in any way, please contact us.

We are approaching NO MOW MAY and will leave a metre wide border uncut to allow for Nature's workings in plants and environmental habitats for insects, birds and animals. The lawns will be cut by County Garden Services in preparation for the Summer Fete on 13 June. So please, join William (5) and Emily (7) as they gather leaves or dig up weeds under Janet's guidance! Families are welcome - bring a picnic! *Neil & Sue Hatton*

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 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.

Summer Fair

With the Summer Fair fast approaching we would be very grateful if you are able to donate items to be used on the various stalls – we are looking for the following:

Homeware (no electrical ware or bric-a-brac), jewellery, sweets for filled jars, toys, plants, bottles for the tombola, raffle prizes & cakes to be sold on the cakes stall and in the food hall. Boxes for donations will be available in church from Sunday 24th May; please bring your donations into church and place in the correct marked box. Cakes & plants to be dropped off on the Friday (12th June) evening or on the morning of the fair.

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 2nd May

10:00am Church Open

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

Sunday 3rd May

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

6:30pm Choral Evensong

Monday 4th May

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 5th May

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

Wednesday 6th May

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 7th May

10:00am Church open

Friday 8th May

10:00am Church open

Saturday 9th May

10:00am Church open

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

Sunday 10th May

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

12:00pm Agape Lunch

Advance Dates

Saturday 16th May

Sunday 24th May

Saturday 13th June

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

Pentecost Praise at 4pm

Summer Fair 11am – 3pm

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: **Amanda Hodson** – 07934 610788. For prayer requests, please contact **Geoff Jones** - 01932 851830