

# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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17<sup>th</sup> 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](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***



The readings this week, The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, are:  
**John 17: 1-11 and Acts 1: 6-14**

### ***Di writes....***

Ascension Day last Thursday signalled the end of Easter and leads us on to Pentecost next week.

The English mystic, Thomas Traherne, saw in the Ascension the light not just of the resurrection, but even of the cross.

In one of his meditations on the cross he writes: 'The Cross of Christ is the Jacob's ladder by which we ascend into the highest heavens ..... Teach me, O Lord, these glorious ascensions. By descending into Hell for the sake of others, let me ascend into the glory of the Highest Heavens'.

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory  
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place  
As earth became a part of Heaven's story  
And heaven opened to his human face.  
We saw him go and yet we were not parted  
He took us with him to the heart of things  
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted  
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,  
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,  
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,  
Whilst we our selves become his clouds of witness  
And sing the waning darkness into light,  
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,  
Which all creation waits to see revealed.

*A Sonnet for Ascension Day by Malcolm Guite*

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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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## Talk, Think, Pray

This Sunday 17th May, we will be talking about heaven and life after death. What does the Bible actually teach and how does that match what is popularly believed? What might we hope for? You might find it helpful to look at the work of theologian Tom Wright on this subject. He offers a summary on the video found here:

<https://youtu.be/RBYanEQyDtM?si=5BbwnzZPv8EU7DKF>. Sorry about the ads!

Conversation will be followed by silence and Celtic Evening Prayer. Everyone welcome!

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## Summer Fair – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June

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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to faith in Christ. It is kept between Ascension Day and Pentecost (**24<sup>th</sup> May**). The Church of England produces booklets to help you think and pray during this period and they will be available free for all in church on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May**.

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## Parking on the grass

Earlier this year we had new essential soak aways installed in the grounds to help improve the drainage. These soak aways cannot support the weight of vehicles and therefore we will be unable to use the grass area for parking in future. Parking at the junior school will be available this Sunday, and we are in discussions with regards to regular overflow parking being available and shall update you once we have confirmation. Alternative local parking includes the new Botanical Place underground car park, which can be accessed from Madeira Road, the Station car park on Station Approach, or street parking on Camphill Road.

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## World Bee Day

20th May is designated World Bee Day: see [World Bee Day 2026: 20 May 2026 | Awareness Days](#). We continue to be enormously grateful to Janet and her team who have been busy (as bees) creating a pollinator-friendly garden for all to enjoy! If you are fortunate to have a garden, please think about how you too might encourage pollinators which are so vital to biodiversity, food security and sustainable agriculture, and yet face significant threats.

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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 16<sup>th</sup> May

10:00am Church Open

4:00pm Organ Recital at All Saints' Woodham

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Family Eucharist with Baptism followed by refreshments

6:30pm Talk, Think, Pray

### Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May

09:30am Morning Prayer

10:00am Church open

### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May

10:00am Church open

### Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

10:00am Church open

### Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

10:00am Church open

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

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Benefice Communion Service for Pentecost followed by refreshments

4:00pm Pentecost Praise

## Advance Dates

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June

Summer Fair 11am – 3pm

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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