

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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5th July 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



The readings this week, Trinity 5, are:
Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-end and Romans 7: 15-25a

Keith writes....

Sunday's Gospel is full of both humour and hope – with a challenge. Jesus reflects on the reception he and John the Baptist have received and observes drily that John has been criticised for his stern asceticism ('he has a demon') and he, Jesus, for his lack of asceticism ('a glutton and a drunkard'). The people will neither mourn nor dance when the call comes. The perversity of human nature is thus neatly and humorously named. Human beings are rarely happy and have a great capacity for finding reasons for cynicism. This limits the capacity of many to receive the good news of the Kingdom and of the love and grace of God. It requires a certain simplicity of heart, an openness of mind, of the kind more often found among the very young.

We should not see this as an appeal to a kind of anti-intellectualism or even, gullibility. Rather it is about being able to get past the baggage of disappointments, cynicism and ideology which adults typically carry around and with which we protect ourselves. You see it now, all the time, in contemporary debates as well. When Jesus invites us to lay down our burdens, find rest, it is just this sort of baggage he has in mind. The yoke of the Kingdom which we are to take up instead is simple, light and life-giving. It sounds great but people find it hard to let this baggage go.

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, Chris Adamson, Julie Barlow.

Remembering the departed:

Audrey Hassel

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>

Foodbank

The Foodbank is currently in need of the following items: **pasta sauce, pot noodles, instant noodles, tinned fish, cereal, sponge pudding, juice, long-life milk, coffee, nappies (size 5, 6, 7).** Any donations you can contribute can be placed in the boxes in church. Thank you as always for your support.

'Family Pilgrimage in Guildford Celebrating St Francis' 800th Anniversary

We are invited to join Anthony on a family pilgrimage of under 2 miles on **Saturday 18th July** to celebrate the Anniversary of St Francis' passing in Assisi 800 years ago. This anniversary is being celebrated by Franciscans throughout the world, including by a national pilgrimage from Northumberland to London, also starting on 18th July. Our route includes two Guildford churches and ends in the Lady Chapel of Guildford Cathedral. There will be lively music, drama and story-telling. All are welcome. To learn more please speak to Anthony.

Holiday Club 2026

We'll be running our summer holiday club again this year from 10th to 14th August. The club runs the whole week from 10am-4.30pm, each day, and is for children age 7-13. As usual, activities will be based around a biblical theme each day, finishing with a short service at 4pm. Please let everyone know who might be interested! More info from Ian or Vicky - email music@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk.

And if you can volunteer to help for a session (morning or afternoon), or a whole day, or more, please let Ian know asap. Many thanks!

West Byfleet Community Choir

West Byfleet Community Choir is celebrating its 10th Anniversary this year with a summer community concert on **July 11th 6-8pm**; they are collaborating with WB Junior School, Fullbrook School Choir, a jazz ensemble from Heathside and a talented pianist from St. George's College. As we are co-hosting this, we need a team to help on the night at the entrances and to serve refreshments in the interval. If you are able to help, please let Amanda know. If you can't help but would like to attend, it is £5 admission fee (under 12s free) with all profits going to Emma's House (Dementia Day Centre). *Amanda*

ECO Team News

The National Big Butterfly Count takes place from Friday 17th July to Sunday 9th August. Sir David Attenborough has said 'Butterflies are vitally important. Their presence acts as a barometer of the health of our environment. Their ongoing decline tells us that not all is well with our countryside...'

He is urging us all to take part in the big Butterfly Count. For more information go to <https://bigbutterflycount.butterflyconservation.org> where you can download a handy butterfly ID to identify and record the butterflies you spot.

A HUGE PLEA to anyone able to water the gardens in St John's. There are so many new plants and shrubs that have been planted which need frequent watering in the hot weather. The Gardening team is doing their best, but we would really appreciate some help on Thursdays and Fridays. For more info please call Sue Hatton 07807 729 787. Many thanks.

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 4th July

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 5th July

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

6:30pm Choral Evensong

Monday 6th July

9:30am Morning Prayer

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 7th July

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

7:30pm Summer Study group: What Anglicans Believe 3 Dora Honnor Room

Wednesday 8th July

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 9th July

10:00am Church open

Friday 10th July

10:00am Church open

Saturday 11th July

10:00am Church open

6:00pm West Byfleet Community Choir Concert

Sunday 12th July

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist Benefice Service to include the Licensing of Rev Gillaine Holland followed by refreshments

Advance Dates

Monday 10th – Friday 14th August

Holiday Club for children age 7-13 years

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 **Keith Elford**.