

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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26th 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 8, are:
Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52 and Romans 8: 26-end

Di writes...

Today's Gospel reading has Jesus talking to his disciples in parables, and this parable of the Mustard Seed is familiar to all of us. Jesus has explained to his disciples that only they can understand his meanings – and so they are able to teach their listeners what they have learnt. We all have mustard seed moments in our lives. So often we want changes to happen in our lives and in the world – and we want them to happen now; but change is more likely to occur in small, sometimes imperceptible ways. And when it happens like this we can miss these small moments of change altogether. I had a visit from a young relative last week. I hadn't seen him for a few months and was amazed to see how tall he had grown – this is a familiar picture I'm sure. His mother only noticed that he was getting taller when she observed his arms sticking out of the bottom of his sweatshirt – she had missed the mustard seed moments. The cumulative effect of mustard seed moments can change lives, can change the world; for example small steps towards peace and reconciliation. Every day people are reaching out to traditional enemies or swallowing pride and attempting to heal broken relationships.

These mustard seed moments could go by unnoticed, but their cumulative effect could not. Closer to home each one of us is being asked to pray for the successful appointment of a Bishop for Guildford; individual prayers leading to a greater whole. Do you have any mustard seed moments in your life at the moment?

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, Julie Barlow, Simon Foxley, Wendy Ashworth.

Remembering the departed:

Audrey Hassel & Jayne Colne

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>

ECO News

The St. John's team would like to congratulate the Gardening Group Head Gardener Janet Hodges and her deputy Jeanette Heyes on achieving winning successes in the Byfleet Annual Show last weekend and winning top prizes for the flowers and foliage they submitted from the St John's gardens. This was a huge achievement considering the hot weather conditions. Grateful thanks to all the Volunteers who have helped water the gardens.

Help needed to clear hall loft

We are looking for a couple of people to help clear the hall loft on a Saturday to be announced. If you can help please speak to Terry or Jen.

Help needed to paint picnic benches

We are looking for someone to help preserve the picnic benches. We can purchase all the supplies - brushes and wood preserve. If you can help please contact Terry or Jen.

Safeguarding - help needed

Some of our people in both our churches struggle with the fact that safeguarding training is online as they are not very confident with computers. I'm looking for a couple of volunteers to help these people access and carry out their training. It requires a minimum level of IT confidence, and some time and patience. It would be a great service as the training is essential and I do not want to restrict key roles to the IT savvy amongst us. Please let me know if you can help. *Keith*

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!

Kitchen Refurbishment starting August 17th

Good news - the Cornerstone kitchen is being refurbished. Thanks to several donations we now have sufficient funds to proceed with the replacement of the cupboards, worktops and flooring as well as replacement of the oven and the dishwasher. We will be asking for help emptying the cupboards and culling some of their contents over the weekend of 15th/16th August. The items will be stored in the Dora Honor room.

The work will mean disruption around the hall area but should not affect the rest of the church.

Jo, Amanda or Terry can answer any questions that you may have.

Quiz Night - 1st August at All Saints' New Haw

I'd like to take a St John's team to compete in the All Saints' quiz next Saturday night at 7pm for 7:30pm start. Ideally I need myself plus five. Anyone up for it? *Keith*

Does anyone have a spare mobile phone they could donate?

We want to have a mobile phone and number dedicated to safeguarding matters and concerns, kept by our Parish Safeguarding Officer. Jo Pritchard covers both parishes, so this is for the whole benefice. We need a phone that works and can be used with a new sim card, but it only needs to reliably handle phone calls and messages. Nothing fancy required! If you have an old one you don't need sitting around that we could use, please speak to Jo or Keith.

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 25th July

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 26th July

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

Monday 27th July

9:30am Morning Prayer

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 28th July

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

Wednesday 29th July

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 30th July

10:00am Church open

Friday 31st July

10:00am Church open

Saturday 1st August

10:00am Church open

Sunday 2nd August

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist 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**.