

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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23rd August 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 12, are:

Matthew 16: 13-20 and Romans 12: 1-8

Keith writes

Our readings this Sunday present us with different angles on the church, or, at least, have been used to offer different accounts of the church. In Romans the church is presented as a collection of people, united by faith into a single 'body of Christ'. Each part of the body has a different role to play in the life of the whole. Accounts of the church which emphasise this perspective are often used to argue that the church is the people, usually meaning, 'not the building'.

In Matthew we read that after Peter's acclamation of Jesus as 'the Messiah, the Son of the living God' he is immediately appointed by Jesus as 'the rock on which I will build my church'. This passage has been used to defend a view of the church as an institution with a leader. The true church is the institution so founded and continued through history.

Neither of these definitions are sufficient on their own. The church is both: a group of believers and an institution, a mystical body and a human society. And you cannot see the join, just as, when it comes to any individual, you can't see where the human being and the person in Christ begins or ends. This has big implications for how we handle change in the church and how we understand its daily life. The simplest way to put it is that it all matters, the 'spiritual' and the 'practical': it is all serving Christ and his mission.

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, Simon Foxley, Wendy Ashworth, Veronica & Michael Avery.

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>

Fire drill

It is a long time since we tested our ability to handle an emergency at church. We need to be confident that in the event of a fire or other emergency we can evacuate the church safely and with sufficient speed. We will, therefore, be holding a fire drill on a Sunday morning in the nearish future. In order to make this a real test, we will not offer more specific information in advance!

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.

Readers & Intercessors

Would you be interested in taking part in our services by reading the Bible readings or leading the intercessions? If you would like to put yourself forward, or would like to find out more, please have a chat with Ros.

Prayer List

We are currently reviewing our prayer list for those who are unwell. If you have added someone's name to the list, please could you let us know whether they would still appreciate our prayers, or if they are now feeling better and can be removed from the list. Emails can be sent to admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk. Thank you for helping us to keep our prayer list up to date.

Opening & Closing the Church

We are looking for someone who is able to help with closing the church on a Thursday afternoon and opening the church on a Friday morning. If you feel this is something you may be able to help with please speak with Amanda or Jen. Thank you.

Parish Administrator

Vicky will be on leave from Monday 17th August – Monday 7th September. During this time the Parish Office will be closed and emails monitored periodically. For any urgent matters please contact the Churchwardens or Keith.

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 22nd August

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 23rd August

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Benefice Service at All Saints' New Haw (NO SERVICE AT ST JOHN'S)

Monday 24th August

9:30am Morning Prayer

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 25th August

10:00am Church Open

Wednesday 26th August

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

Thursday 27th August

10:00am Church Open

Friday 28th August

10:00am Church Open

Saturday 29th August

10:00am Church open

Sunday 30th August

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

Advance Dates

Sunday 6th September

Sung Evensong

Sunday 20th September

Harvest Festival at 10am

Saturday 26th September

Harvest Supper at All Saints' New Haw at

7:30pm

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. His normal day off is Friday. For urgent enquiries outside of these times, contact our Churchwarden: **Amanda Hodson** – 07934 610788. Our Associate Priest, **Revd Gillaine Holland**, works on Sundays, Wednesdays and alternate Mondays or Tuesdays (to accommodate both churches' calendars). Gillaine may be contacted at gillaine@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk. For prayer requests, please contact **Keith Elford**.