



# SPOTLIGHT ON ST JOHN'S

## OUR SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE OF SPOTLIGHT!

Welcome to our spring/summer issue of **Spotlight** - the termly magazine from the Anglican Parish Church of St John the Baptist, which is distributed throughout West Byfleet. We hope you enjoy reading our news, and - if you have any comments or suggestions - please contact the editor (Vicky Peppiatt) by email: [publicity@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk](mailto:publicity@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk).

In this issue, on p2 **Revd Dr Keith Elford** explains why **Pentecost** (the coming of the Holy Spirit) is such a significant festival in the annual church calendar. On p3 there's an update on our **Junior Choir** which we started last autumn, and info about our summer **Holiday Club** (ages 7-12). May is always the month for **Christian Aid Week**, and the theme of their campaign this year is described on p4. If you're looking for things to do on summer weekends, see p5 for news about our **Summer Fair**, **Caribbean Barbecue** and **Community Concert**. For our upcoming services, see p6. There's always lots going on at St John's, and we look forward to welcoming you!



## Community Fridge celebrates its 1<sup>st</sup> year!

It seems hardly possible that a year has passed since the **Community Fridge** opened in the **Cornerstone Centre**. Since then, every Saturday the fridge has offered food - unwanted by the supermarkets - but still perfectly safe to eat. The totals involved are staggering! In the 12 months since starting, the fridge has saved over **8,000kg** (8 tonnes!) of food from landfill, and welcomed over **3000 visitors**. So if you'd like to help reduce food waste, **do come and take a look every Saturday, starting at 10am** (finishes around 12 noon). For more info email:

[wbcommunityfridge@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk](mailto:wbcommunityfridge@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk)



## WELCOME TO ST JOHN'S

If you are new to the area, or don't know the church, do come and take a look inside **St John's** - we are located between **Parvis Road** and **Camphill Road** (or look for the tall spire). St John's was built in 1912 and has a lovely peaceful feel - a place to escape from the routine and rush, and take a moment for reflection. Currently, we're open to visitors every day from 10am-3pm (Wednesdays from 11am), and whatever the reason for your visit, you will be very welcome. Of course, we're also open every Sunday for our morning services, and then to around 3pm.

When visiting, you are welcome to wander round; or sit and reflect (we have comfortable seating!); or stay a while in the Prayer Area (to the right, halfway along the building). Opposite the Prayer Area, on the left-hand side, is the Children's Space - with a table for drawing, and some toys/activities that are available to all young people at any time of the day. You may also on occasion hear the organ being played, either for practice or during a lesson.

**The church grounds are open and available to everyone**, with benches located around the building and also picnic tables - which visitors are welcome to use. **Finally, please note St John's is a church for everyone in West Byfleet and the surrounding area - regardless of age, status, gender or sexuality.** Do come and visit soon, or join us for a service - you are assured of a warm welcome!

## Cornerstone acoustic improvements

Regular users of our **Cornerstone Centre Hall** are delighted by the acoustic rafts that were installed in December, resulting in a much less 'echo-y' space. Designed by local acoustician **Ian Yates from BY Acoustics** ([www.byacoustics.com](http://www.byacoustics.com)), the rafts hang unobtrusively below the existing ceiling - and 'soak up' the reflected sound, allowing speech to be clearer and the overall noise level to be much reduced. **See p7 for a photo of the new arrangement.**



We're on YouTube! Subscribe to our channel St John's Church West Byfleet for videos of our services and more!

## KEITH WRITES...

It's May and colour has returned to the world! The grey, wet, gloomy days are giving way to the brighter shades of spring and summer. In our streets, gardens and parks we are enjoying the fresh green of new leaves and the vibrant colours of flowering trees and plants. All this lifts our hearts. May really is the best time of the year, especially as we get two bank holidays to enjoy it!

It's not only in the natural world that the colours are changing. In church we use colours to mark the seasons of the church's calendar too. At the start of April we moved from the sombre purple of Lent to the celebratory white and gold of Easter. In May we will also see the vivid red of Pentecost. This is the festival also known as Whitsun remembering the events, fifty days after the resurrection of Christ, when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in tongues of fire. The significance of this festival for the church is that it invites us to celebrate the very active presence of God in our lives. We are not followers of a philosophy only – we dare to say that we experience the presence and action of God in our lives. New life is as much at work in us as in the natural world.

We will be holding a special service for families and young people at St John's and our friends and partners in the West Byfleet and New Haw benefice, to celebrate Pentecost on 26<sup>th</sup> May at 4.30pm. A short but lively service of 'Pentecost Praise' will be followed by toasting marshmallows over firepits outside the church. Please consider yourselves warmly invited and do come if you can.

Looking a little further ahead we will also be holding our annual Summer Fair on 15<sup>th</sup> June. This is an opportunity to enjoy ourselves and renew our friendships with groups and individuals from across the community. Please do join us and invite your friends!

Finally we are holding a pet service at our partner church, All Saints' New Haw on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 3.00pm. We will thank God for the animals who bring so much colour and pleasure to our lives and invite his blessing upon them. Do join us and bring your pets! More details to follow in our notice sheets and on our websites.

With every blessing,

*Revd Dr Keith Elford, Vicar of West Byfleet & New Haw*



## CHORAL & ORGAN SCHOLAR VACANCIES

### CHORAL SCHOLARS

If you enjoy singing sacred music, and would like to receive tuition and support to enable you to apply for university or cathedral choral scholarships, read on! We now have vacancies for young singers (age 15-24) who are looking to gain more experience of singing in a small SATB choir, and extend their repertoire and technique. We provide individual vocal coaching from a professional singer + mentoring and musicianship sessions (eg sight singing) + a small payment each term - in total a package worth over £1000pa! For more information, contact [music@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk](mailto:music@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk).



### ORGAN SCHOLARS

In recent years our organ scholars have been awarded university and cathedral organ scholarships - so if you already play the organ and are interested in a position that will provide support and mentoring as you prepare for auditions, do get in contact. Alternatively, if you play the piano to a good level (at least G5) and want to learn the organ, we can help with tuition via the Surrey Organists' Association 'organ student scheme'. This scheme provides an initial package of lessons and has proven successful - with many students going on to play regularly in their own or other churches. For more information, contact [music@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk](mailto:music@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk).





## JUNIOR CHOIR

Our Junior Choir - which was formed last autumn - continues to thrive, practicing every Tuesday in term time, and leading the singing at our monthly Family Eucharist, termly Sunday afternoon services, and on special occasions such as Christmas & Easter. During Advent, the choir performed a lively musical Nativity - 'Sheikh, Rattle & Roll' - which was much enjoyed both by singers



and a large congregation. Several of the young singers have recently

been awarded their white scapulars, following completion of an initial training programme devised by the Royal School of Church Music, and tested by Director of Music, Ian Church. The singers come from a number of schools in the area, so making new friends is one of the benefits of joining! Just as importantly, learning to sing to a high standard builds confidence - as does the opportunity each month to lead the spoken parts of a service. Finally, the children receive 'pay' for every practice and service attended, which provides a small incentive and adds to their pocket money! We're always on the look out for more singers to join us, so why not come along to a practice, and find out what we do? For more info, contact [music@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk](mailto:music@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk)



## HOLIDAY CLUB

Following on from our successful first holiday club last summer, we're pleased to announce another one this year! The format is the same again - a week long experience for children who enjoy being active, creative and like music/singing.

Every day starts with a search to find the theme of the day (the hiding places will be different to last year(!), and ends with a short service in church led by the children, in which they sing the pieces they've learnt during the day, and talk about the activities they've been involved in.

The club is limited to a maximum of 30 children (divided into smaller teams) and is ideal for those who like to be busy through the day. But... there's also down time as we have the use of the entire site - church, grounds and hall, so plenty of time for chatting and activities, including watching a video through the week (last year we viewed Joseph & His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat) and time to make new friends, all under the watchful eyes of church leaders and volunteers.

We had some really positive feedback last year - *'It was lovely to see all of the children's hard work in the service at the end of each day and hear about the various activities and games they had enjoyed as part of the 'theme' of the day. The club was very well organised and thought out.'*

There are discounts available for families with siblings and an early bird discount (for bookings before the end of June). There's also a bursary scheme for those who are struggling financially at the moment.

For more information, or to make a booking, contact [music@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk](mailto:music@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk)

### Join our Holiday Club!

A week of fun in  
West Byfleet  
for boys & girls  
age 7-12

Be creative!

Singing, crafts, games, and  
more at St John's Church

12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> August, 10am-4.30pm

E: [music@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk](mailto:music@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk)

# ADD YOUR SUPPORT TO CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2024!



During May every year, **St John's supports Christian Aid Week** - please join us by donating to help those around the world who live in conditions most of us can't imagine.

**NB - with the increasing use of online giving, we no longer distribute Christian Aid envelopes for your donations - so please donate via the QR code at the bottom of this page - or visit the Christian Aid website donation page - <https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/CAM-006894> - or just Google 'Christian Aid'. Thank you!**

**The campaign for Christian Aid Week 2024 features their work in Burundi; read on to find out more...**

This year's appeal is focussing on work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa. Heavily reliant on agriculture, it's also one of the least prepared to combat the effects of climate change, including droughts, floods and landslides. The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges: more than 70 per cent of the population live in poverty and more than half of children are chronically malnourished.

Christian Aid has been working in Burundi since 1995 when it first offered humanitarian assistance to people surviving the civil conflict. Now, alongside local partners, the organisation helps establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). These community-led groups mean people can save and borrow money, making small businesses possible, offering reliable and diverse incomes so families can eat regularly, get medicine when they need it, and build safer homes.



35 year old Aline Nibogora is the chairperson of a VSLA which supports some 25 families in a remote village, in Makamba Province. Aline escaped an abusive marriage only to find herself on the streets begging for a place to stay.

Her life changed when she went to a 3 day Christian Aid-funded community workshop. With a small start-up loan, Aline began trading avocados and peanuts locally - then used her profits to buy a bicycle to transport greater quantities of goods to markets further afield. She's now a grocery wholesaler and living on her own plot of land where she's built a home for her family. In

the next five years she hopes to expand, so one day she can buy a mill. This will provide a source of income without the need to transport heavy goods over long distances.



Philip Galgallo, Country Director of Christian Aid Burundi, said: "In the areas where we work, people without their own small business or income will typically head out on an empty stomach each morning to look for casual work to buy food for the evening. Most only eat once a day. It's not uncommon to live in a one-bedroom house built of unbaked mud brick walls with an iron sheet roof. Unstable buildings like this are exceptionally vulnerable to collapse during the landslides and fierce storms which the climate crisis is making more frequent.

Most families don't have a water supply, so they'll collect water from rivers or communal water points; the threat of water-borne cholera is ever present. In most instances, neighbouring families share toilets, but it's not uncommon for there to be no communal toilet, forcing people to nearby bushes. Similarly, there are no bathrooms or showers. It's a fragile existence that pushes many to the brink of survival.

Together, we can support families to secure a better future for themselves and future generations. With your help, we can work towards a world where families can escape the trap of poverty and fulfil their ambitions. Join us this Christian Aid Week."



**Please support Christian Aid Week 2024 - your contribution will give hope to Aline and others and enable them to start the journey out of poverty. Any size of donation is helpful - just show the QR code to your smartphone camera and follow the link, or Google 'Christian Aid'. Thank you!**



## UPCOMING EVENTS - SUMMER SATURDAYS

Three fantastic events to look forward to - all on Saturdays over the summer!



### Summer Fair - 15<sup>th</sup> June

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June, our annual Summer Fair takes place in the church grounds (11am-3pm). All the usual stalls and activities, including Donkey Rides; the children's entertainer 'Mr Twist'; BBQ & Pimms; Ukelele Band; Food Hall, and lots more. Entry by donation - everyone is welcome.

**Community Concert - 6<sup>th</sup> July** - On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm, we're hosting a Community Concert - 'For the beauty of the earth' - organised by West Byfleet Community Choir, with contributions by Fullbrook School Band, West Byfleet Junior School Choir, and St John's Church Choir. No tickets required - entry by donation at the door, with all proceeds to Byfleet United Charities.

### Caribbean Barbecue - 20<sup>th</sup> July

Finally, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July, we're holding another 'Caribbean Barbecue' - complete with professional steel band. We held the event a few years ago and it was great fun. It's sure to be a fantastic occasion again, so do add this date to your diary and book tickets soon, so you don't miss out! *Tickets - £15 Adults; £5 Children under 16yrs*, available from Geoff Jones - email [jones.g.jones@btinternet.com](mailto:jones.g.jones@btinternet.com) or phone 01932 851830.



## UPCOMING SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

**Pentecost Praise (Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 4.30pm)** - a short service especially for families and children - listen to the message of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit; followed by refreshments - firepits & toasted marshmallows outside!

**Come & Sing Evensong for Music Sunday (Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 6.30pm)** - a service based around Choral Evensong with singers from St John's and other nearby churches. **Music Sunday** is an annual event promoted by the Royal School of Church Music to celebrate all that music contributes to worship - **wonderful choral music and hymns for the congregation** - do join us! If you'd like to join the choir for this service, please contact [music@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk](mailto:music@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk) for more information about the music and rehearsal.

**Family Eucharist (Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 10am)** - our monthly Family Service, including a baptism. The St John's Junior Choir help to lead this service which is slightly shorter and has a reflection especially for families and children.

**Patronal Festival (Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 10am)** - join us for this annual 'birthday' Eucharist service in recognition of our dedication to St John the Baptist.

**Choral Evensong (Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm)** - with traditional liturgy and glorious sacred music, time to reflect and pray - this is a perfect way to end the weekend - everyone is welcome.

**'Songs of Praise' (Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 6.30pm)** - our annual celebration of favourite hymns and songs - traditional and contemporary. Join us and contribute to make some rousing (and quieter) sounds!



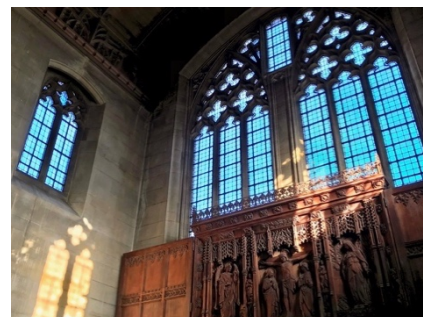
## OUR OTHER (QUIETER) SERVICES

Did you know that every week we have two services at St John's in addition to our 10am Service on Sundays? Both these services are quiet, said services of Holy Communion lasting around half an hour, one at 8am on Sunday and the other at 10am on Wednesday. They take place in the small Memorial Chapel at St John's, near the exit to Cornerstone.

When our boys were young, we often found ourselves rushing around on a Sunday morning taking them to various activities so an early service in the local church was ideal for us. So, if your Sundays are like that why not give our early service a try?

If you are retired or have some time on a Wednesday morning the 10 o'clock service could be just what you need as a mid-week boost. The small congregation usually gets together afterwards for tea or coffee and a chat. Biscuits, and sometimes cake, are available as an added bonus! It's a good opportunity to meet people and get to know them better.

Both services include a short sermon along with the usual prayers, readings and the opportunity to take communion. Many people, whatever their circumstances, find these opportunities to worship God quietly in a small congregation very helpful. So do come along, you will be very welcome. *Revd Clive Kirk, Assistant Priest.*



## IN NEED OF PRAYER?



**The Ministry Team and Pastoral Assistants at St John's are always available to meet with members of our community who are having a tough time.** Whether facing difficulties with relationships, illness, bereavement, challenging finances, or any of the many other setbacks that life throws at us from time to time, **we are happy to pray for you and your family.** For some, stepping through the door of the church or contacting us to ask about prayer will be a big hurdle - but we assure you of a friendly and caring experience. Please contact the Vicar, Revd Dr Keith Elford - email [vicarwestbyfleetandnewhaw@gmail.com](mailto:vicarwestbyfleetandnewhaw@gmail.com) (or for urgent enquiries, phone 07771 920976). Or contact Geoff Jones (01932 851830) who heads up our Pastoral Team. We are here to help.



## WHAT'S ON IN CORNERSTONE

## WEEKLY CLASSES

**LCA Fitness & Dance**  
Classes held at The Cornerstone Centre,  
West Byfleet, KT14 6EH  
**Latin & Ballroom Class**  
**Friday's at 7:15pm**

Daytime Classes include:  
Adult Ballet, "Jazz Hands" Musical Theatre Dance,  
Body Conditioning and Gentle Exercise & Dance


Please visit our website  
[www.lcafitnessanddance.co.uk](http://www.lcafitnessanddance.co.uk)  
Or, call Lesley on **07860 610040**  
for further details of all classes.

**Fitness, Fun and Friendship  
at LCA Fitness & Dance!**

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, WEST BYFLEET  
Charity No. 1149648

**Baby & Toddlers Group**  
Every Wednesday  
1pm – 3pm  
The Cornerstone Centre  
St John's Church  
£1 per family

**PILATES**



*With Pamela*

*This Pilates class is for all abilities  
of Men & Women to achieve and maintain:  
A Strong Core  
A Well Toned Body  
Good Posture  
& a Healthy Back!*

**NEW EARLIER TIME!**  
**Tuesdays 7.30pm**  
at  
**CORNERSTONE CENTRE**  
(St John's Church Hall, West Byfleet)  
To book call Pamela 07761931595  
FULLY QUALIFIED APPI INSTRUCTOR  
REPS REGISTERED/FULLY INSURED

**New Horizons**

Our social group for older church members, which meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 2pm for activities, discussions and refreshments & the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 10am for coffee.

**Please contact Corrina for further information –**  
**[corrinamcdermottcounselling@yahoo.com](mailto:corrinamcdermottcounselling@yahoo.com)**

## THE CORNERSTONE CENTRE IS AVAILABLE TO HIRE!

The Centre is available for meetings, classes, parties and family events, for local organisations and residents. We have a large hall (perfect for a bouncy castle!) as well as a smaller meeting room - both are available to hire individually or together.

Current (May 2024) hire charges are as follows:

**Main Hall - includes use of kitchen**

1st May - 30th September weekday - £23.00 per hour  
1st May - 30th September weekends - £26.00 per hour  
1st October - 30th April weekday - £26.00 per hour  
1st October - 30th April weekends - £29.00 per hour

**Dora Honnor Room - includes use of servery**

1st May - 30th September - £14.50 per hour  
1st October - 30th April - £16.25 per hour

More information can be found on our website

[www.stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk](http://www.stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk) or contact:

[admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk](mailto:admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk)



The newly installed acoustic 'rafts' help to reduce 'echo' and make speech much easier to hear in our main hall.

## WORSHIP @ St John's

Children are welcome at all of our services!

### 8am - Holy Communion (said)

A reflective and quiet service of Holy Communion, usually held in the Memorial Chapel. Readings follow the Anglican lectionary, and the service includes a short homily before receiving communion.

### 10am - Parish Eucharist (Family Eucharist on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)

The main service of the week, lasting around an hour. We gather as a church to hear God's word and celebrate communion, receiving Christ in bread and wine. The choir leads our music with plenty of opportunity for the congregation to join in with hymns to worship God. A short reflection helps to explain the readings and guide what God may be saying to us. Prayers are offered for the community and wider world. After the service, refreshments are available in the Church Hall as we continue our fellowship more informally. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday - often coinciding with a baptism - the service is shorter, and suitable for parents and children to worship together, in church.

### 6.30pm - Evening services

Usually on the first Sunday of every month, we meet for worship from a variety of styles - including Choral Evensong, Sung Evensong, Compline, Taize and Songs of Praise. *[NB dates may change to coincide with major festivals - eg Advent & Easter; check website for details].*

### Mondays - 9.30am Morning Prayer

A quiet service based around the Church of England's 'Daily Prayer'. This takes place in the Prayer Area or Memorial Chapel, and lasts around 25 minutes.

### Wednesdays - 10am Holy Communion

A reflective and quiet service of Holy Communion; readings follow the Anglican lectionary, and the service includes a short homily before receiving communion.

## CONTACT US

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). We'll respond as soon as possible during office hours - Mon/Wed/Fri, 12-3pm.

To book either of the Cornerstone Halls, please email [admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk](mailto:admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk), complete the enquiry form on our website, or phone the Parish Office.

To contact our Vicar, **Revd Dr Keith Elford**, who is usually available throughout the week, other than Friday, email [vicarwestbyfleetandnewhaw@gmail.com](mailto:vicarwestbyfleetandnewhaw@gmail.com), and for urgent enquiries, please phone 07771 920976.

For urgent enquiries outside of these times, please contact either of our Churchwardens: **Jen Blamey** (07712 701149) or **Neil Hatton** (07593 372931).

For prayer requests, please contact **Geoff Jones**, Pastoral Assistant (01932 851830).

## COUNTY GARDEN SERVICES



We are long established specialists in all types of garden care; including:-  
**general maintenance,  
 fencing, clearance,  
 planting, tree surgery,  
 hedge cutting, lawn care,  
 and pond work.**

We offer a reliable, friendly, quality service for all our clients...no job is too small or too big.

**Contact Daniel Jackson**  
 76 Bousley Rise,  
 Ottershaw,  
 Surrey.  
 KT16 OLB

Telephone 01932 872667

[daniel.jackson@countygardenservices.com](mailto:daniel.jackson@countygardenservices.com)

Daniel cuts the grass at St John's Church and comes highly recommended



## DIARY OF EVENTS

May 2024	
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	'Pentecost Praise' at 4.30pm - see p6 for info
June 2024	
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Come & Sing Evensong for Music Sunday at 6.30pm
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Fair, 11am-3pm
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	Family Eucharist at 10am
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	Talk, Think, Pray at 6.30pm
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Patronal Festival Eucharist at 10am
July 2024	
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	Community Concert at 7pm
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Choral Evensong at 6.30pm
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	Genesis Summer Concert at 7.30pm
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Caribbean Barbecue, 4-8pm
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Family Eucharist at 10am
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Talk, Think, Pray at 6.30pm
August 2024	
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	Songs of Praise at 6.30pm
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday Club starts (to Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> )
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	Family Eucharist at 10am
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	Talk, Think, Pray at 6.30pm

