

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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21st & 28th
December 2025

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



Readings for the 21st are **Matthew 1: 18-end** and **Isaiah 7: 10-16**
Readings for the 28th are **Matthew 2: 13-18** and **Jeremiah 31: 15-17**

Clive writes...

God jul, that's Merry Christmas in Norwegian. Having just spent a few days in that beautiful country we got used to seeing those words in lights on houses and shops. Like many parts of the world Christmas decorations are important to the Norwegians but one difference we noted was that the great majority of the lights were uncoloured. I thought they looked so much better than the multi-coloured lights we usually use. They seemed so much more relevant to the coming of the Light of the World.

There are of course many traditions associated with the Festival and there is much variation between countries, for example the Norwegians have their Christmas Dinner on the 24th not the 25th. Many of those traditions include light and in the more northern countries this is particularly welcome when the sun fails to appear above the horizon for months on end. These differences are hardly surprising given the variety of peoples that celebrate the birth of Jesus but if you look at the four Gospels you will also find great differences in the way the birth is reported. (One of the Gospels doesn't mention it – if you want to know which you could read them or, more easily, listen to this morning's sermon!) The various Gospel approaches to the coming of our Saviour into the world is also unsurprising given the great depth of meaning in the event, in the coming of God to be one of us.

I hope I shall see all of you over Christmas but in case I don't I hope you all have a joyful, holy and peaceful Christmas – **God jul!**

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, Chrissie Beddows, Lilian Rance, Davida & Angus Whimster, Gareth, Amanda & Jasper, Margaret Blamey and Graham Smith.

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.

Christmas Eve Parish Eucharist

A reminder that there will be **NO** Parish Eucharist at 10am Christmas Eve (24th December).

Parish Administrator

Vicky's last day in the office will be Friday 19th December, returning on Monday 5th January. During this time emails and voicemails will be monitored periodically, however it may take longer for you to receive a response.

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>

Save your Stamps

We are collecting! If you receive stamped cards and letters through the post this festive period (and throughout the year), could you save the stamps and bring them into church? We will recycle them into much-needed funds for Kidney Care UK, who support kidney patients and their families. Thank you. The box is located in church by the Cornerstone exit door.

Cornerstone Keyholders Needed

We are looking for a few more volunteers to help with keyholder duties for Cornerstone from the New Year. Responsibilities include opening and closing for hall & Dora Honnor room bookings on Saturday's and Sunday's. There is a rota sent out each week so you would not be expected to do this role every week, it is shared amongst the number of keyholders. If you are able to help at all, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.

Food Bank

Now is the time when we hope to be able to provide a little extra for Christmas to the people that need to access the Food Bank. In addition to your normal donations perhaps you could add something a bit special, perhaps some chocolate, or a Christmas Pudding or a small gift. Thank you to all those who donate throughout the year, the demand is much the same as ever.



Noticeboard

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

Saturday 20th December

10:00am Church open

Sunday 21st December

8:00am Parish Eucharist

10:00am Parish Eucharist, refreshments

6:30pm Carol Service

Monday 22nd December

9:30am Morning prayer

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 23rd December

10:00am Church open

Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

11:00am Church open

4:00pm Crib Service

11:15pm The Midnight

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day

8:00am Holy Communion

10:00am Christmas Family Eucharist

Friday 26th December

10:00am Church open

Saturday 27th December

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 28th December

8:00am Parish Eucharist

10:00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

Monday 29th December

9:30am Morning prayer

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 30th December

10:00am Church open

Wednesday 31st December

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

Thursday 1st January

10:00am Church Open

Friday 2nd January

10:00am Church Open

Saturday 3rd January

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 4th January

8:00am Parish Eucharist

10:00am Parish Eucharist for Epiphany

Monday 5th January

9:30am Morning Prayer

10:00am Church Open

Advance Dates

Sunday 11th January

Sunday 1st February

Epiphany Carol Service at 6:30pm

Candlemas Evensong at 6:30pm

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 (note the new email address). His normal day off is Friday. For urgent enquiries outside of these times, contact our Churchwarden: **Neil Hatton** – 07593 372931. For prayer requests, please contact **Geoff Jones** - 01932 851830.