

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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7th 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



Today's readings are **Matthew 3: 1-12** and **Isaiah 11: 1-10**

Keith writes....

John the Baptist is often seen as the last of the Old Testament prophets. In his ministry, preparing the way for Jesus, we see the transition from the old order to the new. John is telling Israel that the time is now. God is coming as Jews have long hoped he would. John himself is not the key to this new work of God, but he announces the coming of one, 'mightier than I', who will end the waiting, and bring an end to at least two centuries of apparent silence from God.

What God is going to do will not be comfortable, especially for religious leaders (Pharisees and Sadducees). It will involve repentance and turning anew to God. The Jews can no longer rely on their ethnic heritage alone (as descendants of Abraham) but must live up to their calling as God's people.

The person who comes is, of course Jesus. John seems to see him as a judge, as a fire for the refining of Israel. When we actually meet Jesus, we may wonder whether John had the full picture. Does John anticipate the radical love that characterises Jesus' ministry? Probably not. Nevertheless, the principle of repentance and a renewed turn to God should inform our keeping of Advent.

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 and Margaret Blamey.

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>

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.

JAM

This coming Sunday (7th) is our last JAM session before the Christmas break. We will meet again on Sunday, 11th January. The leaders and helpers wish the children and their families a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Advent Groups

The ecumenical study groups in Advent will continue on **Tuesday 9th and 16th December**. The meetings will be on the theme of 'Waiting: past, present and future' and will include theological input, creative response and prayer. Meetings will be held at Byfleet Methodist Church (Rectory Lane, Byfleet, Surrey KT14 7LL) gathering from 7.00pm for refreshments before a 7.30pm start. All welcome and warmly invited!

Carol Service & Mince Pies

As usual, we will be serving mulled wine and mince pies after the carol service on Sunday 21st; this is always a fantastic social event and a chance for us to engage with people who do not attend church frequently. Donations of mince pies gratefully received - please leave them with Amanda on Sunday or in the DHR kitchen. Also, I need a few people to help set up tables etc and to clear up afterwards. Please let me know on Sunday (or email me) if you are able to help. Many thanks. Amanda pccsecretary@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk

Surrey Care Trust Charity Performance at St John's

Surrey Care Trust will be holding a charity performance at St John's on **Thursday 18th December**, all proceeds will help Surrey Care Trust continue to support people across Surrey to overcome disadvantage, gain new skills, and build brighter futures.

Surrey Care Trust have offered a special reduced ticket rate of £10 per person - parish members can book directly via the secure booking link below. Please note, this page is password-protected:

<https://www.surreycaretrust.org.uk/xmascarolvol25/>

Password: WB_Dickens_2025

If parish members would like to find out more about the event, they can visit our main event page here: <https://www.surreycaretrust.org.uk/event/charity-performance-a-christmas-carol/>

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.

Flower Fund

The flower fund is a little low for us to have fresh flowers in church for Christmas – So, if you feel that you are able to contribute to this year's arrangements, please let John Dedman (Treasurer) or Angie Dedman have your donations. Thank you for your continued support.

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 6th December

10:00am Church open
2:30pm Christmas Community Festival until 6pm

Sunday 7th December

8.00am Parish Eucharist
10.00am Parish Eucharist Service followed by refreshments
2:30pm Christmas Community Festival until 6pm

Monday 8th December

9.30am Morning prayer
10:00am Church open
2:30pm Christmas Community Festival until 7:30pm

Tuesday 9th December

10:00am Church open
6:15pm Junior Choir Practice
2:30pm Christmas Community Festival until 7:30pm
7:00pm Advent Groups at Byfleet Methodist Church (7:30pm start)

Wednesday 10th December

10:00am Parish Eucharist
11:00am Church open
8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 11th December

10:00am Church open

Friday 12th December

10:00am Church open

Saturday 13th December

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 14th December

8.00am Parish Eucharist
10.00am Junior Choir Carol Service with Family Eucharist followed by refreshments

Advance Dates

Sunday 21st December
Christmas Eve

Carol Service at 6:30pm
Crib Service at 4pm

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.