

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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8th February 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



Today's readings are **Matthew 6: 25-end** and **Romans 8: 18-25**

Keith writes....

I notice in myself an urge to have life neat and tidy. I have a drive towards clarity, resolution, everything as it should be. I am frequently, if not usually, disappointed. Life goes on, chaotic, unresolved. As soon as one thing is fixed, another turns up that needs 'fixing'. Things that shouldn't take long end up taking ages. People don't do what we expect or want them to. This, of course, is the nature of life and always will be. There will always be something that needs attention and life will never be 'sorted' – not this side of the second coming anyway.

A lot of energy gets expended and anxiety generated in our response to this very basic aspect of our lives. God invites us to let it go. In today's Gospel Jesus urges us to 'strive first for the Kingdom of God' and trust him for the rest. That doesn't mean not attending to all the matters that face us, but letting go of our anxiety. Things are ultimately in his hands. As Jean Pierre de Caussade, 17th century spiritual director, counsels:

'To escape the distress caused by regret for the past or fear about the future, this is the rule to follow: leave the past to the infinite mercy of God, the future to his good providence; give the present wholly to his love by being faithful to his grace.'

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, John Blamey, Graham Smith, Caroline Hill, Mavis Margaroni

Remembering the departed:

Barbara Knowles
Jo Orr

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.

A video about St John's

We are going to make a video in which members of St John's talk about what their faith and St John's mean to them. This is intended as a way of helping others to understand what they might gain by joining us. Making the film will involve recording interviews with a range of St John's people. BBC producer and member of the congregation Bella Lloyd-Pennock has kindly offered to make the film. Filming will take place in the church on **Saturday 7th March from 11.30am**. If you would like to take part please let me know. It won't be scary and people will not have to be there for hours – you will have a time and be required for about half an hour. The finished product will be shown on our website and social media. *Keith*.

Confirmation

The Bishop of Guildford will be confirming six candidates from St John's in a service held here, at St John's, on Sunday 15 March at 6.30pm. The six include four young people and two adults. There is still time for other adult candidates to be included. There are three preparation sessions scheduled from the end of February. If you'd like to be confirmed, please talk to me. *Keith*

Cornerstone Hall - heating - help needed

Currently we have a very small number of people who come and turn the heating on for hirers in the Cornerstone Hall. Unfortunately, we are not able to set up remote access to manage the heating as our system is quite old. If you could spare one day a week or even one or two days a month to be added to the team please get in touch with Terry or Jen. It's a very quick job but an important one to ensure our hirers can use the hall comfortably. Thank you

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>

New piano for St John's - nearly there!

If any of the congregation are able to help with the final funding of this instrument - we need an additional £2,500, on top of our own piano fund and the external funding - could you please make a donation asap via the Treasurer (John Dedman). You can do this online via the website, or with a direct bank transfer to the PCC account at HSBC [West Byfleet PCC, sort code 40-46-48, number 01446428; reference 'Piano Fund'].

Finally, if anyone knows of a school, community organisation, or student who would like the Brinsmead at no charge, save the cost of transport, please let me know. Many thanks, Ian

Food Bank

For some reason the warehouse is experiencing difficulty in stocking the various food banks in our group. We are relying more and more on donations from individuals so every little you could give would be much appreciated. If you could particularly donate items on the want list it would be very helpful. Donations of money can be sent by the means shown on the poster or I'm happy to take small amounts in cash to the branch I volunteer in.

Current needs: cereal, instant mash, tinned meat, tinned fish, squash, coffee, custard, razors, toothbrush, deodorant, conditioner, antibacterial spray.

PLEASE KEEP DONATING. Many thanks, *Clive*

Pancake Service

I hope that you will have seen that we are once again holding a Pancake Service on **15th February**. Everyone is welcome, but it is particularly aimed at children and families. As in previous years we will be serving pancakes in the Hall afterwards - last year approximately 100 pancakes were eaten!. If you can donate pancakes, toppings or your time on the day then please let me know. Many thanks. *Amanda*

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 7th February

10:00am Church open

Sunday 8th February

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist with the Archdeacon followed by refreshments

Monday 9th February

9.30am Morning prayer at Our Lady RC Church

10:00am Church open

2:00pm New Horizons

Tuesday 10th February

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

Wednesday 11th February

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 12th February

10:00am Church open

Friday 13th February

10:00am Church open

Saturday 14th February

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 15th February

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Family Eucharist with Baptism followed by refreshments

4:00pm Pancake Service

6:30pm Talk, Think, Pray

Advance Dates

Wednesday 18th February

Wednesday 25th February

Sunday 15th March

Ash Wednesday Parish Eucharist at 7:30pm

Jo Orr interment of ashes at 11am

Mothering Sunday Service at 10am

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 Hutton** – 07593 372931. For prayer requests, please contact **Geoff Jones** - 01932 851830.