

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

WEST BYFLEET

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22nd March 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 **John 11: 1-45** and **Ezekiel 37: 1-14**

Keith writes...

Can these bones live? This is the question the Lord asks of Ezekiel in this Sunday's Old Testament lesson. In the vision given to the prophet the bones represent Israel at a low point in the fortunes of God's people. The Lord's answer is that these bones can live and in his vision Ezekiel sees God breathe life back into the long dead skeletons. Israel is assured that it has a future, a new life in God. In time, the Christian church came to see that promise fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Sunday's Gospel reading, in which Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb, and back to life, is a foreshadowing of the resurrection of Christ himself and, again, a promise of what God can and will do for his people.

We are entering into passiontide, the last two weeks of Lent. In this period we see Christ approaching the crisis, approaching death. It will turn out that the way of the cross is the way to life, peace and hope, resurrection, restoration. The greatest of all possible light lies at the end of the tunnel. But first we must go through the tunnel, with Christ.

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, John Blamey, Graham Smith, Caroline Hill, Mavis Margaroni, Michael Doughty.

Remembering the departed:

Bishop Andrew, Margaret Blamey & Betty Scott

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>

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will take place on **19th April** after the 10am service and is an opportunity to look back on what we have achieved over the last year. It is also when we form a new PCC; we have several vacancies and will be asking people to stand up for election. The task is not onerous - 6 meetings per year - but it hugely important. The PCC is responsible for looking after financial, social, evangelistic and pastoral affairs and members are trustees of the charity of St. Johns, Please talk to Keith, Amanda, Jen or Neil if you want more details and use prayer to ask God if this is what he is calling you to do next. In prayer. *Amanda*

Reminder

Clocks spring forward next weekend 29th March for British Summer Time.

Electoral Roll Revision

St John's Electoral Roll is being updated prior to this year's APCM in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Please note that this is just an update and if your name is currently on the Electoral Roll you do not need to do anything.

If you are new to St John's or your name is not included on the current Electoral Roll and you wish to have it added, you should apply for entry by completing a form and returning it to Angie Dedman or the Church Office, no later than **Wednesday 1st April**. Forms can be obtained from Angie or the church office.

Lent

Lent group meetings will conclude at St Michael's Church, Sheerwater on **Wednesday 25th March at 7pm for a 7:15pm start**. All are welcome.

Contemplative Service with Taizé at All Saints' New Haw

Sunday 22nd March at 6pm – Join us in church for a quiet, meditative service with readings, space for prayer & reflection, & Taizé music. We will gather in silence & leave in silence.

Exhibition – Ewa Brachel 'From Despair to Hope'

During Holy Week and the following week there will be an Exhibition of Digital Paintings in the Nave of our church by the Polish artist Ewa Brachel entitled 'From Despair to Hope'. These remarkable large pictures relate to the life of Christ, especially the last week. They will be in place of the Stations of the Cross. Besides our normal service times, our church will be open to the public to view the pictures from 11.30am to 4.00pm each day from Sunday 29th March to Sunday 12th April. Donations will go to brain cancer research. Representatives from churches and the wider community are being invited to a Preview Evening. We are aiming to have stewarding throughout the exhibition, as much as anything to welcome visitors, give guidance and address questions. Anthony will be leading this. I hope you will consider volunteering a couple of hours or so to help Anthony with this stewarding if you are able. Also, there are (damp-proof!) fliers and posters available, so please help with publicity. Anthony is happy to answer questions.

St John's Grounds

Now that the rain has abated and the sun and warmer days are with us, the Gardening Team are being galvanised into getting the grounds into great shape for the rest of the year. If you would like to help us tidy up the grounds for everyone passing through or visiting our Church to enjoy - please give a little of your time to leaf clearing, weeding, dead heading, any task that our Head Gardener, Janet Hodges, determines needs doing! We meet on Saturday mornings from 10.00. Any help is really appreciated! Thank you so much!

Esther Chyinma Ugwunna

We are sorry to announce that Esther Chyinma Ugwunna died on 26th February. Her funeral takes place on 7th April in Arlington, Virginia, United States. Please pray for her husband Samuel and family. Samuel and Esther have attended both our churches during their times in England.

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 21st March

10:00am Church open

Sunday 22nd March

8.00am Parish Eucharist

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

Monday 23rd March

9.30am Morning prayer

10:00am Church open

7:30pm What is God calling you to? In the Dora Honnor Room

Tuesday 24th March

10:00am Church open

6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

Wednesday 25th March

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8:15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 26th March

10:00am Church open

Friday 27th March

10:00am Church open

Saturday 28th March

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 29th March

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Palm Sunday Service followed by refreshments

6:30pm Music & Readings for Palm Sunday

Advance Dates

Sunday 19th April

Monday 20th April

Saturday 9th May

Annual Meeting after the 10am service

Summer Fair meeting at 7pm in the DH Room

Coffee Morning in aid of Woking Hospice at 10:30am

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.