

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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25th October 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



The readings this week, Bible Sunday, are:
Matthew 14: 30-35 and Colossians 3: 12-17

Keith writes...

This week we are keeping Bible Sunday. I wonder how confident and knowledgeable you feel about this text which is so central to our faith and practice. It is easy enough to convey certain facts about it. The Old Testament has 39 books and the New Testament 27. The earliest Old Testament material dates from before 1000BC and the latest New Testament material from about 125AD. In the OT there is mythology, law, history, fable, poetry, liturgy, prophecy and more. In the NT there are the four Gospels, the story of the early church (Acts), the letters of early church leaders, notably Paul and the piece of apocalyptic literature known as Revelation. This diversity makes it hard to read it all in the same way. How should we read it? For some it is all understood to be without error – sometimes in every way – it is all a direct word from God. For others (including me) it is the divinely inspired, but human record, first, of Israel's experience of God and, and, second, of the early church's experience of Jesus Christ.

There are two principles that I recommend for reading it. The first is to consider particular passages in the light of the whole story of scripture, which I understand to be the story of creation, fall and salvation, first through the story of Israel and then, supremely, through the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. Then, and it follows on, to remember that Jesus is the Living Word, the standard by which the rest must be judged.

In the end, however, the biggest challenge is not so much the intellectual one of understanding the Bible, but the personal and spiritual one of 'letting the word of Christ dwell in you richly' as it is put in Colossians – in other words, to let its key messages shape our life. If you want to know more, please do consider joining Clive's sessions at Botanical Place on Tuesdays at 3.00pm, starting this Tuesday 27 October.

This Week's Prayer List

For the sick:

Joyce Ebbage, Lionel Griffiths, Roy Metcalfe, Ollie, Rose & Marie Crocket, Hannah, Pauline Kennedy, Sarah Helmy, Lilian Rance, John Blamey, Caroline Hill, Michael Doughty, Simon Foxley, Veronica & Michael Avery, Rosina, Isla Helen Kirkby.

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>

Revd Julian Hubbard

Julian is visiting us to preside and preach at the 10.00am service this Sunday. Julian will not tell you himself, but he has had a very distinguished career. Now retired, he has been, amongst other things and at various times, the Rector of the Bourne, Director of Ministry and a residentiary canon at the cathedral, all in this diocese, an archdeacon in Oxford Diocese and the national Director of Ministry. The highlight is probably not the period he spent supervising my church history long essay, but it did prove the beginning of a long friendship. Please give him a warm welcome. *Keith*

MXA Warriors at The World Championships

Thank you to everyone who donated and showed support for Harrison, Jude & their teammates. The boys are now back from France and had the most amazing experience. The 4 boys achieved 4x gold, 2xsilver & 4xbronze medals between them – Harrison placed 3rd for light continuous fighting (coming up against some exceptionally tough competitors) & Jude achieved 2x gold, 1x silver & 1x bronze in martial arts forms (weapons & open hand) making him now 2x World Champion! Knowing so many people were cheering them on back home really spurred them on. Thank you again, they did England (and me!) proud, *Vicky*.

All Souls

Our service will be on **Sunday 1st November at 6:30pm**. A short service of remembrance and thanksgiving for loved ones who have died. The service takes the form of a mixture of reflection, music & prayers.
If you will be attending the service and would like a loved one remembered by name please put their details on one of the lists located at the front and back of church.

All Saints' New Haw Autumn Fair

You are invited to All Saints' Autumn Fair, **Saturday 24th October 10am – noon**. Come along and shop early for Christmas. Refreshments, craft stalls, health & beauty stall, cuddly toys, books & jigsaws + more! Extra parking available at the veterinary laboratory next door.

Botanical Place Bible Study Group

Clive Kirk will be leading a new series of meetings exploring the Bible to be held in the lounge at Botanical Place. Meetings will be at 3.00pm on Tuesdays, starting this Tuesday 27th October. The meeting is for residents of Botanical Place and everyone else! If you want to get to know and understand the Bible better this is for you! **Please contact Clive for further information on 07566 241766.**

Clocks Change

A reminder that the clocks go back by 1 hour at 2am on Sunday 26th October.

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 24th October

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 25th October

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10:00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

2:30pm Volunteers Tea

Monday 26th October

9.30am Morning Prayer

10:00am Church Open

Tuesday 27th October

10:00am Church Open

3:00pm Botanical Place Bible Study Group

Wednesday 28th October

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church Open

4:00pm Bible Study Group at Ciccio's Café, finishing at 5pm

8.15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 29th October

10:00am Church Open

Friday 30th October

10:00am Church Open

Saturday 31st October

10:00am Church Open

Sunday 1st November

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10:00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

Advance Dates

Saturday 14th November

Christmas Fair 11am – 3pm

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. His normal day off is Friday. For urgent enquiries outside of these times, contact our Churchwarden: **Amanda Hodson** – 07934 610788. Our Associate Priest, **Revd Gillaine Holland**, works on Sundays, Wednesdays and alternate Mondays or Tuesdays (to accommodate both churches' calendars). Gillaine may be contacted at gillaine@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk. For prayer requests, please contact **Keith Elford**.