

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

www.stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk

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4th 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, Creationtide 5, are:
Luke 12: 22-34 and Micah 6: 6-8

Keith writes....

This Sunday we are celebrating the fifth and final day of Creationtide and the feast of St Francis of Assisi. St Francis was a remarkable individual and servant of God as well as the founder of the Franciscan religious order. This year is the 800th anniversary of Francis' death and the whole of 2026 is a special year of celebration and remembrance for Franciscans (Catholic and Anglican) across the world.

Francis is one of the best known and most loved of God's saints. He was born into wealth but embraced poverty in order to serve Christ. He was known for his love of nature, seeing God mirrored in his creation. The order he founded were friars, meaning that they served God by living lives of chastity poverty and obedience in the world rather than in a monastery. He is an inspirational figure to those who today wish to remember that the world is a gift of God that needs to be valued and cared for – hence the appropriateness of remembering him in the season of Creationtide. He is the Roman Catholic Church's patron saint of ecology. His famous prayer that God make him a channel of his peace reflected a life dedicated to the pursuit of peace: he is believed to be one of the earliest Christian figures to visit a Sultan in the middle east in the era of the crusades.

A distinctive feature of the Franciscan order is that it has a 'third order', composed of either laity or clergy whose members neither withdraw from the world nor take religious vows. The example, teaching and tradition of St Francis has much to teach us about serving God in the world in a way that offers hope in our troubled times.

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.

Remembering the departed: Cathy Devitt

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>

Nepal/Tibet Disaster

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Nepal appeal. A total of £463.50 was raised and donated to the Red Cross.

Church Growth Conference – 8 October

We are all warmly invited to this year's Diocese of Guildford Church Growth Conference which will be held on **Thursday 8th October** (10am-3.30pm) at Welcome Church Woking. We will be welcoming two inspirational keynote speakers, ideally placed to help us make the most of this time of spiritual openness to grow our church: the Rt Revd Ruth Bushyager, Bishop of Horsham and a sought-after platform speaker, and Gavin Calver, evangelist, author, broadcaster and Chief Executive of the Evangelical Alliance.

Everyone is welcome and the conference is particularly designed to enable those who share in the leadership and ministry of each parish to come as a team. There will also be an exhibition, opportunity to hear Bishop Paul and the diocesan team and a wide range of support available.

A number of us are attending and, if you would like to join us, please book your place (£12 including lunch) at www.ChurchGrowth2026.eventbrite.co.uk

What is God calling you to?

This is the title given to a group that has been meeting over the last year to look at discipleship and vocation. The next meeting will be **12th October at 7.30pm** in the DH Room at St John's. If you have not been part of the group to date but would like to think about what God might have in store for you, please do attend – you will be very welcome. Just let me know that you plan to join us. *Keith*

Dinners for our times!

One of the most ways in which we can play a part in reducing emissions that are feeding the climate emergency is to switch to a more plant-based diet. I am planning to offer some inspiration and encouragement by offering some dinners in my own home.

Some of you may have come to previous dinners that I have hosted. The format will be the same:

Each dinner party will be for up to 6 / 7 people and will consist of three courses of plant based foods and wine. Individuals, couples or a whole party of 6 will be most welcome. Invitation time is 7.00pm.

The price of the food and wine will be met by me. anyone wishing to make a donation to the National Emergency Fund for Climate Change, may of course do so, and envelopes provided for that will be supplied. Proposed dates:

October 23rd Friday or October 24 Saturday;

November 6th Friday or November 7th Saturday;

Friday OR Saturday to be negotiated with those interested. Grace Gray, 07766 711712.

A wonderful weekend of music coming up!

This **Saturday evening (3rd October) at 7.30pm** an octet of professional singers - The Ariel Consort of London are coming to St John's to perform a concert of sacred classics - just over an hour of beautiful music, interspersed with four organ interludes - and followed by drinks and nibbles. Free entry, with a retiring collection for St John's!

On **Sunday evening at 6.30pm**, more wonderful music during Choral Evensong - an opportunity to worship, reflect and pray, and listen to our talented church choir.

Please invite friends and family to support these events - and St John's!

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 3rd October

10:00am Church Open

7:30pm The Ariel Consort of London Concert at St John's

Sunday 4th October

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

6:30pm Choral Evensong

Monday 5th October

9.30am Morning Prayer

10:00am Church open

Tuesday 6th October

10:00am Church Open

6.15pm Junior Choir Practice

Wednesday 7th October

10:00am Parish Eucharist

11:00am Church open

8.15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 8th October

10:00am Church Open

Friday 9th October

10:00am Church Open

Saturday 10th October

10:00am Church open

Sunday 11th October

8.00am Parish Eucharist

10:00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments

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**.