ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WEST BYFLEET

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15th November 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, Remembrance Sunday, are:
John 13 v 31-35 and **1 Corinthians 13 v1-7**

Keith writes…

This Sunday is Safeguarding Sunday, and at 10.00 we will cover that subject, bring the benefice together, and hold a family eucharist and a baptism all in the one service! Actually, the combination of safeguarding and baptism is quite apt because a baptism highlights the vulnerability of children. We need to keep the images of vulnerable children and vulnerable adults in our minds to remind us that safeguarding is not just some box-ticking exercise imposed on us from above.
In all large organisations it is inevitable that standards and priorities will be enforced by formal processes. How else can it be done? The problem, however, is that bureaucracy quickly starts to dominate and seem an end in itself – or, at least, the focus of our engagement with the subject. It is up to us all to resist this. We may think the processes are too fussy or too complicated. But we must focus on the purpose – which is to make the church the safe place it should be, especially for those who are vulnerable. This is not a nice to have – it is fundamental to the identity and calling of the church. This year's theme for Safeguarding Sunday is 'Love protects'. The essence of safeguarding is as simple as that.

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

Talk, Think, Pray

To mark Safeguarding Sunday our conversation on **15th November at 6.30pm** will focus on that subject. We will think about the review of safeguarding currently being carried out by INEQE for the Church of England and the national proposal to extend the definition of vulnerability for adults. You can read more about and take part in the INEQE survey at https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about-us/news/safeguarding-audit-survey-now-open.php and read about the national review in the following article from the Church Times: https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2026/12-june/news/uk/church-of-england-s-definition-of-safeguarding-could-be-broadened . Discussion followed by silence and Celtic Evening Prayer. All welcome.

Community Christmas Tree Festival

The Community Christmas Tree Festival will be open to the public 5th-8th December every afternoon and evening. We need 40 volunteers to help host the event. It is not an onerous task - a 2 hour slot to welcome visitors and hand out voting slips! This is such a huge community event and is our chance to share the joy of Christmas in our beautiful church. We will be coming round after Sunday worship over the next few weeks to ask you to sign up or please let Amanda or Geoff know if you are willing to help. Many thanks

Safeguarding Survey Audit

As part of the Church of England's independent safeguarding audit programme, the Diocese of Guildford and Guildford Cathedral are being audited by safeguarding specialists, INEQE. You can find out more about the audit on the diocesan website.

As part of this process, INEQE wants to hear directly from people across our parish communities about how we create environments where people feel safe, valued and respected. The audit will help identify strengths in our safeguarding practice, as well as opportunities to learn, improve and build on what we do well. There are separate survey links for different groups, including clergy and church staff, church members, those who attend parish activities, children and young people, and victims and survivors. The surveys are anonymous and confidential, and we encourage everyone to participate openly and honestly. Survey links can be found at https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/guildford/ and will remain open until 1 January 2027. If you have any questions about the audit, please contact the diocesan safeguarding team at ineqe@cofeguildford.org.uk

Christmas Tree

For the past few years, Lodge Brothers have provided us with a beautiful Christmas Tree; unfortunately this year they are unable to cover the full cost and as such we probably need another £100. Although we will have trees here for the festival, at only 4ft, none of them are big enough to fill the space by the pulpit!

If you would like to contribute then please talk to Jen or Amanda. Thank you

Installation of a CCTV camera in the narthex

St John's remains committed to keeping its building open and welcoming the general public for worship, community gatherings, and private prayer. We also have organ students, our office administrator and volunteers who regularly use the church while the church is open. The PCC has agreed to the installation of a Ring CCTV camera in the narthex. The camera will provide evidence of people entering the church, act as a deterrent to crime and provide reassurance to anyone in the church building. The camera's field of view will be strictly targeted at the West entrance and narthex and will not cover external areas or the main church space used for private devotions, individual pastoral care or worship. Camera audio will be turned off and access to the video will be kept secure, accessible only to a few authorised users and deleted after a month, unless it is needed as evidence by the police. We have been using a doorbell camera at the vestry door for two years and the use of both these cameras will comply with diocesan and national requirements for a CCTV system in a public place. If you have any questions about this, then please contact me, Keith or the churchwardens. *Dave Roberts.*

Noticeboard

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

Saturday 14th November
10:00am Church Open
11:00am Christmas Fair until 3pm

Sunday 15th November
8.00am Parish Eucharist
10:00am Family Eucharist including Baptism followed by refreshments
6:30pm Talk, Think, Pray

Monday 16th November
9.30am Morning Prayer
10:00am Church Open

Tuesday 1 7th November
10:.00am Church Open
3:00pm Botanical Place Bible Study Group
6:15pm Junior Choir Practice

Wednesday 18th November
10:0am Parish Eucharist
11:00am Church Open
4:00pm Bible Study Group at Ciccio's Café, finishing at 5pm
8.15pm Choir Practice

Thursday 19th November
10:.00am Church Open

Friday 20th November
10:.00am Church Open

Saturday 21st November
10:00am Church Open

Sunday 22nd November
8.00am Parish Eucharist
10:00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments
4:00pm Christingle Service

Advance Dates

Sunday 29th November	Advent Procession at 6:30pm
5th – 8th December	Christmas Tree Festival

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.**