

welcoming – worshipping – serving

Spotlight

on St. John's Church, West Byfleet



Diary of Events (2018)

(see website for more details)

May 2018

- Sun 6th Choral Evensong at 6.30pm
- Thurs 10th Ascension Day Eucharist at 7.30pm
- Thurs 10th 'Thy Kingdom Come' (global wave of prayer) starts (until 20th). More details at www.thykingdomcome.global
- Sun 13th Family Service (non-communion) at 10am
- Sun 13th Start of Christian Aid Week
- Thurs 17th Evening Prayer at 7pm
- Sat 19th Frugal Lunch for Christian Aid, 12-2pm

June 2018

- Sun 3rd Sung Evensong at 6.30pm
- Sat 9th Summer Fayre, 11am-3pm
- Sun 10th Family Service (non-communion) at 10am
- Sun 24th Patronal Festival Service at 10am

July 2018

- Sun 1st Matt White to be ordained Deacon (Guildford Cathedral)
- Sun 1st Choral Evensong at 6.30pm
- Sun 8th Family Service & welcome to Matt & Niki White at 10am
- Sun 29th Community Service for West Byfleet Live, Recreation Ground at 11am

Welcome!

Welcome to our latest issue of Spotlight, the magazine from the Anglican Parish Church of St John the Baptist in West Byfleet, which is distributed throughout the parish quarterly. If you are new to the area, do take a look inside St John's - we are located between Parvis Road and Camphill Road - or look for the tall spire. The Church was built in 1912, and has a lovely peaceful feel; a place to escape the hurly-burly of life today, even if only for a few moments. In this edition, our Children & Families Co-ordinator, Emma Mason, writes about her first months in this new role (p2), replacing Revd Chris Hollingshurst's usual column. Chris is currently on Extended Ministerial Development Leave (aka Sabbatical), and will return to his parish duties at the end of May. In the meantime, St John's continues with our usual pattern of services and activities, so do come and join us - you will be very welcome! In May every year, we support Christian Aid week, and details of some of the work they carry out is included in a feature on p3. In June our popular Summer Fayre takes place on Saturday 9th, and then in July we welcome our new Curate - see p4 for more information. If you have some comments on our magazine, please contact the editor by email - editor@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk

We publish a diary of events at St John's that is updated regularly at our website - www.stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk

Our Facebook page also contains current information and comment, and can be found at: www.facebook.com/stjohnswestbyfleet

A Letter from Emma Mason; The (Not so new!) Children and Families Coordinator.....

Dear Friends,

It has been nearly 6 months since I began working at St John's – time flies when you're having fun!

I was blessed to start at the beginning of December during all the hustle and bustle that comes with Advent and preparing for Christmas. It was a terrific time to meet many of the families who live in West Byfleet, as the Church was packed for both Infant and Junior School Carol Concerts and Services. At St John's we hold an annual Crib Service on Christmas Eve, and this year we led the enormous congregation through our Nativity - 'Heaven Invites you to a Party!', which really started all our Christmas Celebrations off with a bang! The same team that wrote and performed in this service have been busy planning a 'New Look Family Service', which we will launch on September 9th (for more information, see the article on p4).

Following Christmas, everything felt very quiet in comparison, but it didn't stay that way for long. After meetings with the Headteachers of both schools, I was invited to lead Assemblies and to begin a 'Faith Club' for the Juniors. This has been a wonderful opportunity as I have been able to explore what it means to be a Christian with children who, for many reasons, cannot come to Church on a Sunday. I look forward to our weekly sessions and learning together – it's amazing what you can learn from looking at things from a child's point of view.

At Easter, it was wonderful to welcome families on Good Friday, to create an Easter Garden and learn more about the Easter story. We made suncatcher crosses, sang songs and created a wall display (now in The Children's Corner in Church). Each child went home with a lovely Easter storybook and chocolate (I am told, you can't have Easter without it!). On Easter Sunday, the children joined in with our Easter Service, receiving Easter Eggs (more chocolate!) with their weekly blessing.

So what next? I have been making The Children's Corner in Church a bit more inviting, with colourful wall displays. If you want to find a quiet space during the week - during term-time or the holidays - you are welcome to come into the church, and in The Children's Corner you will find books, colouring and puzzles. I will be painting faces at The Summer Fayre (9th June) and there will be Children's Craft to enjoy, as well as all the fantastic stalls and activities. In addition, at West Byfleet Live, we hope to have a programme of Children's Activities throughout the Saturday, including storytime, craft and puppets - such a lot to look forward to!

In the meantime, may you see God's love in action, and I pray our paths cross soon.

With love, Emma



Children and Families Coordinator,
Emma Mason

West Byfleet Live Festival 2018

<https://www.celebratewoking.info/events/west-byfleet-live-2018>

West Byfleet Live is a festival for people of all ages taking place on 28 and 29 July. This year promises to be packed with exciting stall holders and some fantastic musicians playing. The fun fair will be in full swing and we have a large beer tent joining us this year. We will even have a dog show!

Sunday 29 July

On Sunday the Prudential Ride London will be flying past the rec with huge crowds cheering the cyclists on. Don't miss your chance to see the world's best cyclists battle it out at the Prudential Ride London-Surrey Classic. Britain's greatest one-day bike race will see 150 of the world's top pro cyclists take on a 200km route through London and Surrey.

The fair, stall holders and beer tent will carry on to keep everyone entertained.

St John's will, once again, be hosting a Thanksgiving Service on the Rec at 11am on Sunday 29th July. This is a FREE community event for West Byfleet which is open to all ages.



Rev. Chris Hollingshurst, with musicians from St John's, leading the 2017 Thanksgiving Service on the West Byfleet Live stage



KEEP THE DATE: 29TH JULY 2018

11am Thanksgiving Service, West Byfleet Live

Christian Aid Week 2018

'Together we're stronger than the storms'

Christian Aid Week was founded by the church, to fight for justice and help some of the world's poorest communities. Every May for more than 60 years, thousands of churches across Britain and Ireland have organized events, and held collections, to raise money and act for the world's poorest people.

This year the focus is on Haiti.

Haiti – one of the world's poorest countries – has suffered two major natural disasters in recent years. In 2010, a massive earthquake killed over 230,000 and displaced 1.5 million people (in a country of just over 10 million). And then in 2016, Hurricane Matthew wreaked havoc on around 1 million Haitians.

In the 2018 annual campaign, Christian Aid is highlighting some of the work undertaken to help survivors re-establish their lives, and livelihoods. We are hoping that West Byfleet can really help to contribute towards their current work in Haiti – for example training local builders to build secure and safe homes for those affected by the disasters, and strong enough to withstand the next storm, hurricane, or earthquake.

This year, with our Spotlight magazine, we again include a Christian Aid envelope for each household, with a request to either donate online, or bring the envelope to the annual 'Frugal Lunch' – this year to be held on Saturday 19th May from 12-2pm, or to our service at 10am on Sunday 20th May.

Thank you to everybody who contributed towards Christian Aid last year – let's see if we can do even better this year!

For more information see www.christianaid.org.uk

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Daniel cuts the grass at St John's Church and comes highly recommended

KEEP THE DATE: 19TH MAY 2018

12-2pm Frugal Lunch for Christian Aid

Groups @ St. John's

Pain Support

A monthly group for those living with chronic pain
 Contact Jayne Collins 01932 343794

New Horizons

An over 50's group; meets monthly on Monday afternoons for activities, discussion and refreshments
 Contact Eric Atkinson 01483 827894

Junior Choir/Adult Choir

Juniors (from age 7) meet every Tuesday at 6.15 pm for an hour of musical games and singing. Adults (from age 16) meet every Wednesday at 8.15 pm. Experience not essential, but enthusiasm and the desire to develop your voice is! Contact Ian Church 01483 564939; ianchurch@ntlworld.com

Cornerstone Centre

Did you know the Cornerstone Centre (attached to St. John's) is available for hire?

It comprises the main hall, a smaller meeting room (the Dora Honnor Room) and an upstairs office (the Langsmead Room).

Prices start from £10.00 / hour. Contact

cornerstone-bookings@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk



West Byfleet Baby & Toddler Group

Meets weekly on Wednesday afternoons (1pm) for parents with babies and toddlers
 Contact Mary Blackwood 01932 344520 / Bridget Smith 01932 844202

Wit Knits

Meets weekly to produce knitted soft toys, and raise funds for West Byfleet Health Centre. No experience necessary!
 Contact Janet Hodges 01932 402525

Daily Prayer – gam in church

Open to everybody, not just members of St John's, this short service provides a quiet and reflective start to the day with readings from the Old and New Testaments and prayers for the community and our world. On the 1st Thursday each month we join with our neighbours at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church (check our Diary of Events on p2 for the venue). We also meet at St John's on the 1st Saturday of each month for those in our congregation or community who work during the week. If you can't join us, but would still like to take part, you may want to download the daily prayer app from the Church of England's website at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer.aspx>

WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS

**8 am - Holy Communion**

A said service - a time for quiet worship at the start of the day.

10 am - Parish Communion

A service with hymns and a choir to help the congregation take part in the sung parts of the service. There is a sermon - looking together at what God may be saying to us. This is a time to worship and celebrate the work of the Lord Jesus Christ among his people, seeking strength and guidance for the week ahead.

Children are welcome to sit with their parents, but there is an optional in-church **Toddlers** area for children under three; children between 3 and 11 may leave our worship for a **JAM SESSION (Jesus and Me)** in the Cornerstone Centre and will rejoin the rest of the congregation later in the service.

Family Communion

On the Second Sunday of the Month, although this may vary for special occasions, the service is tailored more for children, and is shorter. It provides an opportunity for parents and children to be in church together for the whole of the service.

Refreshments after ...

Each Sunday the 10.00 am worship is followed by coffee or squash and biscuits. This is a good opportunity to get to know each other better and to share news of the week.

6.30 pm - Evening Worship

There is usually an act of worship on the first Sunday in the month. A variety of formats are used.

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

On Wednesday**10 am Holy Communion**

A quiet said service to set you up in the middle of the week.

Weekdays**9 am Daily Prayer**

New Family Service at St John's

In the Christmas edition of Spotlight we introduced you to Emma, our Children and Families Co-ordinator. Since then Emma has been enjoying working in the community; you may have seen her at our toddler group, or your children may attend the Faith Club she runs in West Byfleet Junior School. Emma has also been busy with local children's groups and working alongside our Family Service Team to develop our worship for families.

We are now extremely pleased to announce that we will launch a new look monthly 'Family Service', starting on the 9th September at 10am. This is very exciting as we are hoping to welcome new children and families into St John's by providing an accessible service for everyone - whatever your stage in faith, or your age. Of course, you don't have to bring your family, come along and be a part of ours – you are always welcome here.

We cannot wait to see you to live, love and learn together with Jesus!

If you would like to know more please do contact us at:-
childrenandfamilies@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk

Look out for our posters over the Summer!



More news on the arrival of our Curate...

In our December issue, we announced that our Vicar, Revd Chris Hollingshurst, has been asked to supervise the parish based training of a new Curate. One challenge which this gave us was to provide accommodation, and many of you will have seen the prospectus that we included with our magazine, which outlined our plans to raise funds to purchase a suitable property. We are delighted to tell you that we have now raised sufficient funds - from a number of parishioners, together with the promise of a loan from a specialist charity lender - and also that we have now found a house! A huge 'thank you' to everybody who has helped with this project! We hope to complete on the transaction during May, ready for the Curate - Matt White, and his wife Niki - to move in at the start of June. Matt will be ordained a Deacon in Guildford Cathedral on Sunday 1st July, and will immediately begin his training and ministry to West Byfleet. In particular, there will be a 'bring & share' lunch at St John's on Sunday 8th July following our 10am service. Do come and join us if you can to meet Matt & Niki, and welcome them to West Byfleet.

CONTACTS

If your enquiry is not urgent, please contact the Parish Administrator on 01932 342263 (voicemail available), or email admin@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk. The Office is usually open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 09.10-11.50am (voicemails/emails will be answered when the office is next open).

If people need the services of a Christian minister in an emergency, please contact [Chris Hollingshurst](mailto:Chris.Hollingshurst@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk) on 01932 400198 or email chris@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk

Our Pastoral Assistants are trained to deal with specific issues and life events:

Fanny Cross (General Assistance and Broadoaks Estate) 01932 345415
Anthony Hopkins (communion for the housebound) 01932 349995
Geoff Jones (Baptisms) 01932 851830

The Cornerstone Centre

Our church centre is available for hire by local organisations and residents for meetings, parties and family events. Click on the 'Cornerstone' tab of our website for more details. For bookings, email cornerstone-bookings@stjohnswestbyfleet.org.uk or call 07534 633 859 (voicemail and text). www.facebook.com/stjohnswestbyfleet