

House for Duty Associate Priest in the Benefice of West Byfleet and New Haw

We seek to appoint a house for duty associate priest to work with the Vicar and ministry teams in providing ministry within the benefice of West Byfleet and New Haw. The benefice comprises the parish churches of St John the Baptist in West Byfleet and All Saints' in New Haw.

The Benefice of West Byfleet and New Haw

The benefice was created in 2023 with Revd Dr Keith Elford as Vicar. Keith had been interim priest in charge at St John the Baptist, West Byfleet from 2021. Over the last two years our focus has been on establishing the partnership, developing common objectives, and starting to share projects and resources. The Diocese of Guildford requires its parishes to develop 'Church Development Plans' on a two-yearly basis. The plan developed in 2024-25 contains benefice level objectives:

- Identify and work with those seeking vocations/potential leaders
- Form an 'Open the Book' team to lead assemblies in local schools
- Develop coordinated strategy for children and families
- Share roles across the benefice (e.g. treasurer)

West Byfleet

West Byfleet is a leafy commuter village located some 20 miles south west of London, just outside the M25. The village grew up at the beginning of the 20th Century with the building of the railway station on the mainline from Waterloo to Woking (3 miles away) and beyond to the south coast. By road it takes 10 minutes to reach Junction 10 or 11 of the M25, 30 minutes to Heathrow, and 40 minutes to Gatwick. Fast or semi-fast rail services run regularly to London Waterloo (30 mins).

The ecclesiastical parish of West Byfleet (carved out of the ancient parish of Byfleet in 1917) is served by one large church, St John the Baptist, and both it and New Haw parish are part of the Deanery of Woking, Archdeaconry of Dorking, and Diocese of Guildford.

Survey data from the 2011 Census shows that West Byfleet recorded a population of 5626 (in 2320 households). There is a wide range of housing in West Byfleet, and most of it is of good quality. There are areas of large, detached houses. There is some social housing as well. The town centre is in the process of redevelopment and will include flats for older people. The work should be completed in the next few months. There is a combined military services estate for the families of personnel seconded to positions in London.

West Byfleet has a shopping centre including a Waitrose, restaurants, coffee shops, speciality shops, estate agents, charity shops, beauty salons and hairdressers. To the west end of the shops is a petrol station with a Tesco Metro, whilst to the east, beyond Byfleet, is the Brooklands Shopping Centre with a large M&S, Tesco and other stores.

There are a number of private pre-school day-care nurseries in the area. West Byfleet Infant and Junior schools are situated close to the Church and relationships between church and schools are positive.

St John the Baptist Parish Church, West Byfleet



St John's is a church that aims to be at the centre of the life of the community and works with others for the good of West Byfleet. We are traditional in our approach to worship, with a fine choir, an excellent organ and a devotion to good liturgy and good music. We have organ scholars, and a junior choir, and so aim to pass faith and skills on to the next generation. We are also open to the world, desiring to serve and engage with the concerns and issues of our time. We believe that the message of Christ is a message of hope and liberation for individuals and communities.

The church was built in 1912 as the daughter church for the western part of the parish of Byfleet. In 1917 it became the parish church for the new parish of West Byfleet. The architect was W.D. Caroe and his design is notable (especially inside) for its elegance, its magnificent barrel roof, its light and its marvellous acoustics for music. It is, we firmly believe, a wonderful and uplifting space to visit and in which to pray and sing.

The church's worship is primarily eucharistic with services at 8am and 10am on Sundays and 10.30am on Wednesdays. There are services featuring the choir in the evenings on the first Sunday of the month: this is most often a sung or choral evensong. There is a service for discussion, reflection and silence on third Sundays known as 'Talk, Think, Pray'. Morning prayer is held on Mondays at 9.30am. We work well with our Churches Together partners, especially on Advent and Lent Groups.

We are pleased to host a community fridge, offer groups for our senior citizens, babies and toddlers and those enduring painful health conditions. We provide a home for various fitness classes and community activities. Currently we are developing our grounds to make them more eco-friendly, more bio-diverse, more attractive and more welcoming to local residents and workers.

The parish has two LLMs, a Verger who combines sacristan duties with a range of practical tasks in the care of the church's interior and a Deputy Verger who maintains the buildings. We employ an administrator who works three days a week.

Here is an extract from our vision and strategy document adopted in 2022:

Who we are

We are a Church of England parish. Within that diverse church our own tradition is moderately Catholic: that is, we value order, ritual, choral singing and, especially, the eucharist in our worship. But we also value the Word of God; that is, learning and preaching. Our tradition is liberal, in the sense that we accept that God speaks to us through culture and reason as well as scripture. Christianity is not so much a set of timeless verities but a journey with the Holy Spirit through history and truth is continually being revealed. We are critical as well as faithful and we

aim to be open to the world and its concerns and wisdom and generous and compassionate in our outlook.

Our mission

We aim to:

Welcome all-comers, help people find their way in.

Serve our parish, that is, its individuals and families and the common good.

Celebrate all that God gives us as a church and wider community.

Grow as a community of faith and love. We need to be people of God, to be and become the church and value our own life

Engage with the world and its issues.

Share our faith in Christ

New Haw

All Saints, known locally as “the little church by the motorway bridge”, is at the heart of New Haw on Woodham Lane. Nestling at the centre of the residential area, it is adjacent to the internationally-known Animal Health Directorate (Weybridge) and close to the historic Brooklands race track. The Basingstoke Canal runs along the parish boundary, and it joins the River Wey Navigation beside the M25 motorway.

The parish population was 8,700 in 2011, of whom 66% were Christian, 88% British and 90% born in the UK. There is an even spread of age groups, with a strong family element. The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-Sec) showed that 37% were in managerial, administrative and professional occupations. However, 19% of the population aged 16+ had no qualifications and 11% of children under 16 were in poverty (2010), which put the parish in the most deprived 50% of all parishes within the diocese and nationally using these criteria.

Three schools serve the parish, the Grange Community Infant School, the New Haw Community Junior School and Fullbrook School, a specialist mathematics, science and technology college with academy status, which also has a 6th Form.

New Haw Broadway is our shopping centre, located beside the Black Prince public house and containing a sizeable Co-op. The chief local employers are the Animal Health Directorate (known as the Vet Lab,) Brooklands Industrial Estate and the local shops. Many residents commute to work in London, Heathrow Airport and companies in adjacent towns, thanks to the excellent transport links provided by the M25, West Byfleet and Byfleet & New Haw stations, which are on the direct line to Waterloo, Woking and Southampton.

All Saints', New Haw



The church (a schoolroom converted in the 19th century) has a warm and intimate atmosphere. The site includes mid 20th century large and small halls and a much newer building ('Boscos') for smaller meetings. Bosco's is the home of the church café open two mornings a week and of a number of church gatherings including Hearing Champions, Keep Fit, house group meetings, Mother's Union and a large and thriving toddlers group. The site as a whole hosts a range of community groups including a nursery, dancing classes, U3A, dog training and others.

The congregation of All Saints' is a faithful and loving fellowship. We have a Common Worship communion on Sundays at 10.00am and on Wednesdays at 11.30am. We hold a service of contemplation and reflection once a term on Sunday evenings. 'Café worship', held in Bosco's provides a much more informal style of largely lay-led worship, also at 10.00am on Sunday mornings two Sundays a month (alongside the Common Worship communion which is held every Sunday). Morning Prayer is held via Zoom Mondays to Thursdays at 9.00am.

The church has a retired but active locally ordained priest and a priest with PTO who offers help one Sunday and one Wednesday a month. The church employs a part-time administrator and a hall lettings officer.

Here are some extracts from our vision and strategy document adopted in 2024.

We are the parish church for New Haw, committed to seeking and finding the God revealed in our Lord Jesus Christ in worship and service to the community.

We have the open-minded and inclusive outlook, together with the love of the eucharist, associated with the Liberal Catholic ethos that formed the church here for many years.

We also emphasise the importance of personal faith, discipleship and commitment, and embrace newer forms of worship, typical of the more evangelical ministry of recent years.

We see ourselves as part of the whole people of God, each with a gift and a vocation for his service.

We understand ourselves to be called to serve Christ and our community

Our values:

Confident in God's love and grace

Inclusive and non-judgmental

Praying, listening and questioning

Faith, fellowship and kindness

Role Description

We are looking for a priest who will share in the leadership of services and contribute to the church's ministry across the benefice.

Responsibilities:

- Preside, assist and preach at the full range of services in both churches, including special and seasonal services
- Membership and attendance at meetings of the ministry teams (which meet monthly) in both churches
- Lead and support on the implementation of agreed areas of the strategies of both churches and of the benefice
- Encourage and support church members in the development of their faith and vocations
- Provide pastoral care as necessary
- Conduct occasional offices as necessary
- Attend morning prayer in person on Mondays at St John's and on one other day at All Saints' (this by Zoom)
- Meet safeguarding and health and safety requirements without exception
- Nurture personal faith through prayer, reading and other spiritual disciplines
- Maintain a good work/life balance, keeping appropriate time for family, rest and personal interests

There will be opportunity to get involved in projects reflecting the particular skills and experience of the person appointed.

The associate priest will be supervised by the Vicar with whom s/he will meet on a regular basis.

Person Specification

The successful candidate must be a priest ordained in the Church of England who has completed a curacy and is in good standing in his/her diocese.

We are looking for a priest who:

- Possesses a lively faith, is orthodox on core convictions and inquiring and thoughtful in relation to the questions of our time.
- Combines a commitment to the traditions of the Christian faith and the Church of England with a concern for finding ways to express faith authentically and appropriately in the contemporary context
- Wants to see the kingdom of God revealed
- Is committed to our relatively traditional style of worship but open to other forms as well
- Has experience of being a member of a team and is happy working in a team
- Is self-starting and capable of working on their own
- Values preaching and offers sermons that are thoughtful as well as inspiring
- Works well in large and small gatherings and one-to-one

The House

The priest appointed will have the use of the vicarage in West Byfleet free of rent, council tax and water charges. The property is a well-maintained, five bedroomed house built in the 1960s conveniently located near the centre of west Byfleet. A document giving more information and photos accompanies this paper.

The closing date for applications is 9 December 2025
Visits and interviews will be on 22 January 2026

This post is subject to Enhanced DBS clearance

3 Clare Close, West Byfleet, KT14 6RD

This is a 5 bedroom property.

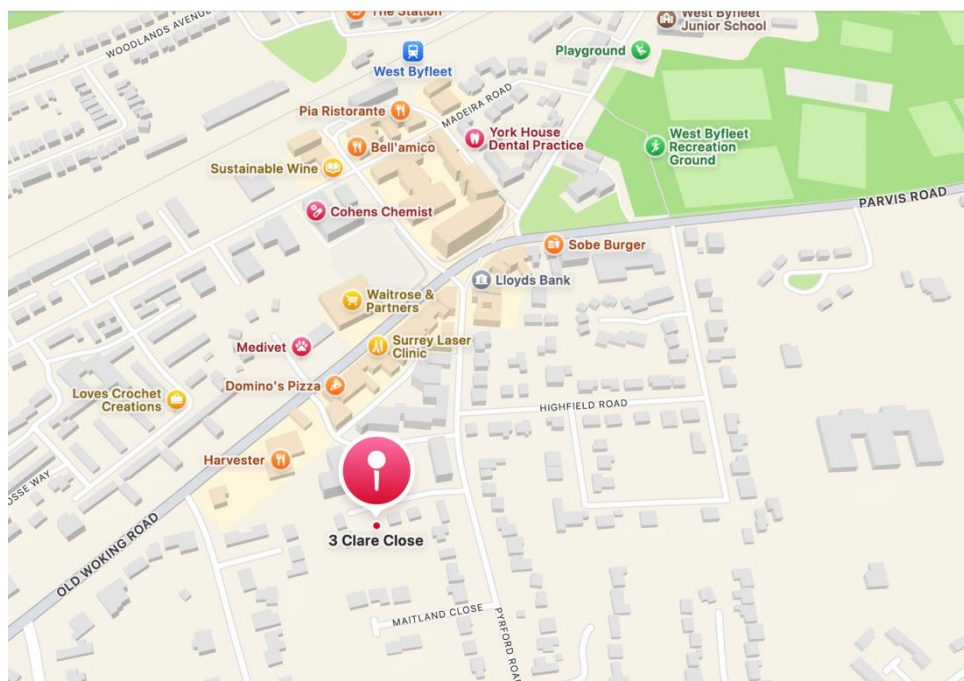


This is a well maintained, large, light, 60's style house at the end of a cul de sac of similar detached executive homes within 5-10 minutes walk of central West Byfleet and its mainline (non-stop/fast service) to Waterloo.

Accommodation includes: Large home office with shelving, huge lounge with double doors to dining room, patio doors to garden, large kitchen/breakfast room, separate utility – space for appliances.

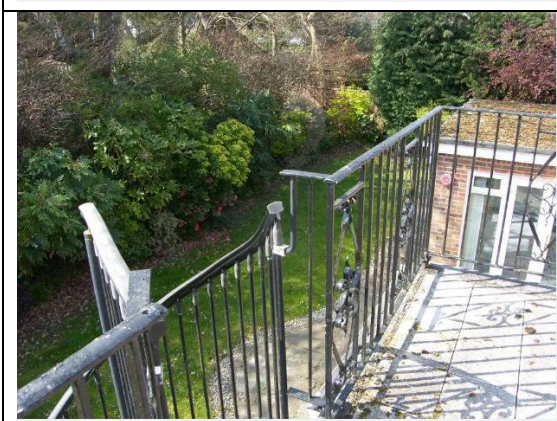
Internal stairs and external balcony spiral stairs to first floor: 5 bedrooms – mix of doubles and single (see floor plan), functional family bathroom and en-suite to master bedroom.

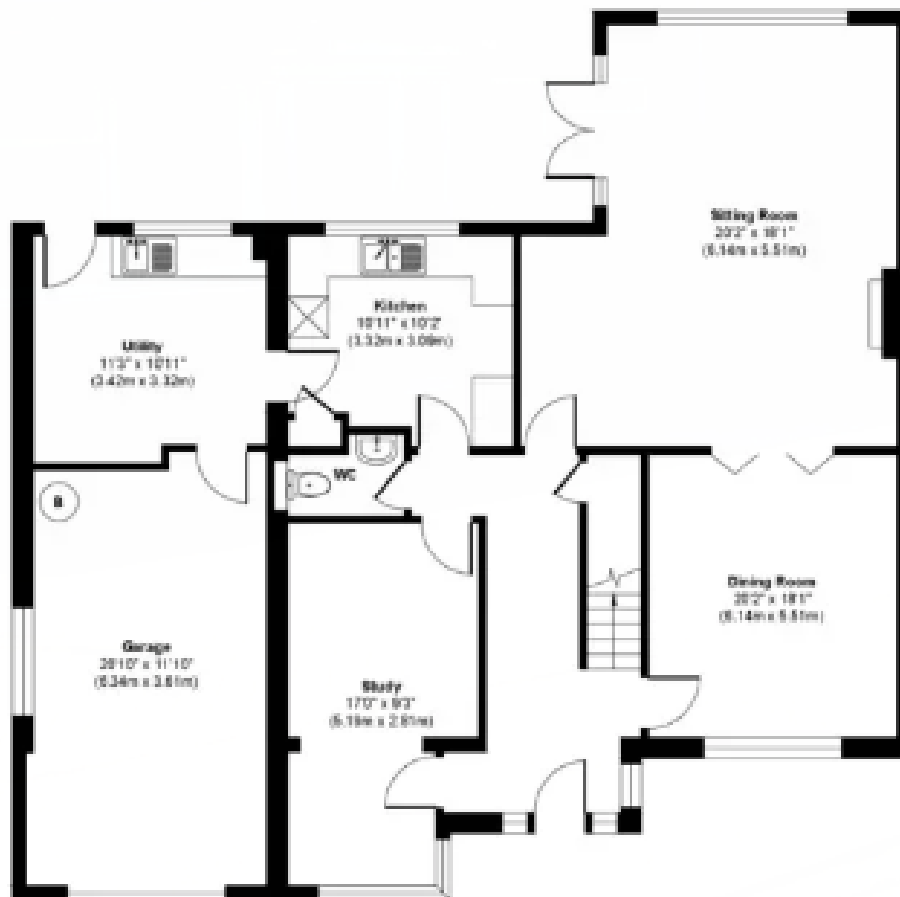
Outside: Garage and driveway parking for 3 cars, resident permit required for parking on the road. Quiet location, not overlooked, secure garden suitable for children and pets.



what3words: <https://w3w.co/trains.certified.bucked>







Ground Floor
Approximate Floor Area
1055 sq. ft
(98.03 sq. m)

Approx. Gross Internal Floor Area 2053 sq. ft / 190.75 sq. m



First Floor
Approximate Floor Area
998 sq. ft
(92.72 sq. m)

Approx. Gross Internal Floor Area 2053 sq. ft / 190.75 sq. m