

CHRIST CHURCH PURLEY

News

MAKING PASSIONATE DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST

"God is in the salvation business, and so are we" (APCM May 2025)
*¹⁴ For we are all **partners with Christ** if we hold firmly to the end the confidence we had at the beginning. (Hebrews 3:14)*

Welcome to Christ Church News:

Sunday 14 th September		Romans 15:23-33 - PLANS
	8.45am	Traditional (Holy Communion with hymns)
	9.30-10.15am	Coffee
	10.15am	Worship service with Communion, CCKids & CCYouth
		Coffee
	11.45am	Third service
Monday	9 am 9.15am	Foyer reopens Morning Bible Study
Tue	9.00am 9.30am	Foyer open Carousel baby and toddler group
Wed	9am 9.15am 12noon 1pm	Foyer open Morning Bible Study Midweek Communion 1 Timothy 3:14-end Luke 7:31-35 Midweek Lunch
Thu	9am 7.30pm	Foyer open Operation Christmas Child Vision Trip to Romania
Fri	9am	Foyer open

Sat		
Sunday 21 st September		Romans 16:1-16 - PEOPLE
	8.45am	Traditional (Holy Communion with hymns)
	9.30-10.15am	Coffee
	10.15am	Morning Worship, CCKids and CCYouth
		Coffee
	11.45am	Third service



ROAD OF THE WEEK

We are inviting you to pray for our parish road by road throughout the year.

This week we are praying in particular for **PURLEY WAY** and all who dwell, work or travel there.

Find the link on our website.



NEW SERMON MINI-SERIES After Romans (yes there is life after Romans!) we will be following a short series on ***How much more?***. Drawn from Jesus' promise in Luke 7:11 "*how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*", we will be exploring what it truly means to worship "*in Spirit and in truth*" (John 4:24), and what the more of God might look like. And specifically how we ask for more!

Starts 26th October.

INITIATION PROGRAMME AUTUMN 2025

	Baptism	Admission to communion	Confirmation
28 th September	3pm Welcome tea	11.30 am Prep class 1 (JB)	
5 th October	3pm Alpha 1 – Jesus?	11.30 am Prep class 2 (JB)	
12 th October	3pm Alpha 2 – die?		
19 th October	3pm Alpha 3 – faith?		
26 th October			3pm Prep class
2 nd November	11am Baptism including by full immersion	First Communion	3pm Prep class
9 th November			1pm Prep class (provisional - practice with actual service booklet) Evening confirmation service

IT is our joy and privilege to offer the following over the coming the weeks the following:

BAPTISM – is the sacramental pouring of water as a sign of God’s grace and welcome into God’s church and family of God; available for any age

ADMISSION TO COMMUNION – available to children or adults who feel ready to take communion as part of their Christian life and worship but not yet ready for confirmation (see below); an intention to be confirmed in the future is assumed

CONFIRMATION – a service led by a Bishop allowing the baptised to make a statement of their faith and be confirmed in full membership of the Church of England; available to those who are ready but generally teenage plus..

Notes: Baptism can be on 2nd November (for either route) OR if going forward for confirmation can be baptised by the Bishop in that service on 9th November. If admitted to communion and requiring baptism a **separate preparation session** to be arranged with Rev Doug (30-60 minutes) before 2nd November and after 5th October (prep classes for admission to communion).

Use QR code to register your interest and to find out more:



Baptism



Confirmation

Please speak to Doug, Jude or Charlotte if this is something you are considering or complete the relevant online form via the website links (by clicking the images above).

Unpack the Christian *faith* together.

Meet new people and explore the Christian faith together. Alpha is for anyone who's curious. No judgement, no pressure. Each session unpacks a big question of life, faith, and purpose, and is designed to spark conversation. Come along, see what you think.



Try Alpha.



ALPHA COURSE 2025

The next Alpha course starts coinciding with the Welcome Tea on **Sunday 28th September at 3pm.**

Who is Alpha for?

Alpha is for anyone who's curious. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and explore Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish.

Alpha has been running all over the world for the last couple of decades in churches, pubs, prisons & homes where nearly 30 million people have taken part and loved the experience.

How does it work?

Sunday Afternoon Alpha starting 28 September 2025

This course starts at 3pm. Each session includes a short video and a discussion in a small group where you can share your thoughts and listen to others.

Venue: Philippi Room at Christ Church Purley

Sign up online with this link to find out more.



Thinking about reading the bible more?

Need a daily routine to help you read the bible?

Need a daily bible reading plan?

**Alpha has 3 bible reading Apps available:
Classic
Youth
and Express**



Alpha Bible App

"Join Nicky and Pippa Gumbel as we read the Bible each day. It's a practice that we have been doing for over 30 years and we hope it will benefit your life as much as it has ours."



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CCKids and CCYouth restarts – Sunday 14th September

Tuesday Youth restarts - Tuesday 16th September

Midweek Communion – Wednesday 17th September

Midweek Lunch – Wednesday 17th September

Welcome tea for Newcomers and Alpha – Sunday 28th September

Gospel Service – Sunday 28th September

Bereavement Support Group – Monday 29th September

Midweek Fellowship - Wednesday 1st October

Harvest Worship for Everyone (café style) - Sunday 5th October

Midweek Communion – Wednesday 15th October



Midweek Lunch – Wednesday 15th October

MISSION PARTNER SUNDAY (Refugee Centre) – 19th October

Muddy Church – Sunday 26th October

NEW SERMON MINI-SERIES – HOW MUCH MORE? 26th October

Bereavement Support Group – Monday 27th October

Wow party – Friday 31st October

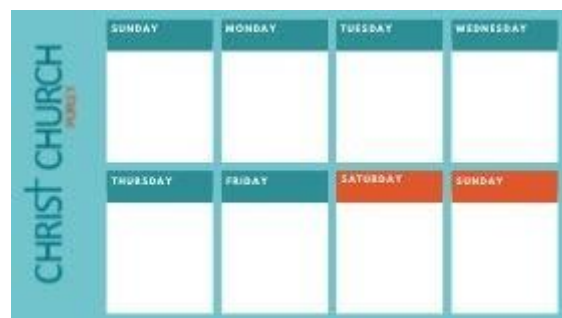
Veteran Car (unofficial) pit stop – Sunday 2nd November

Baptism service – Sunday 2nd November

Living with loss service – Sunday 2nd November

Confirmation service – Sunday 9th November 6pm at St John's Old Coulsdon

You can find our online calendar



EIUK have sent their thanks for our donation for their work in Tanzania for either the new water project, or the IMARIKA project.

They thank us for partnering with them to help churches in serving their communities, making a difference to people's lives while telling them of God's love.

For further details www.eiuk.org.uk

EXCITING NEWS FROM PASTOR YURIY

You may remember Pastor Yuriy and family blessed us with a visit last summer. Tiraspol church have exciting plans to plant a new church led by Pavel and a team of young adults. Please pray for this new venture including for the practicalities of a venue and finances. May God's Word spread like wildfire and many come to a living faith!



Doug's Blog

WHATS WITH ALL THE FLAGS?

In a wedding sermon recently, I advised the couple “*Discuss to learn, not to win*”.

That means dealing with facts not just emotions, and “knee-jerk reactions”.

There is one topic that has risen gradually in the public agenda and is now, according to one poll, the top issue for voters – immigration.

It’s a particularly pertinent topic for us too since in a few weeks’ time we will welcome representatives of the **Croydon Refugee Centre** to tell us some more of the work done for those entering the country as refugees, as Croydon is and has been for many years a first stop, with a Home Office centre located here.

A recent article by Ian Paul * gave some perspectives on the overall issues surrounding the immigration debate, focusing particularly on the response the Archbishop of York gave to the newly announced policy of Reform UK to immigration.

I did not agree all that Ian said or the unusual tone adopted (for him) in this particular piece but it does provide some high level perspectives that were helpful.

This public debate is rife with misinformation and hyperbole, especially from those opposed to immigration in principle.

Here are some features of the issue:

- Net migration is now (2024-5) falling compared to highs of 2022-23
- Illegal immigration accounts for approximately 3% of all immigration
- UK percentage of foreign born residents is mid range for high income countries at 16%
- UK population has grown by 20% over the last 25 years almost all of which can be explained by annual net migration
- Public services have not kept pace with this population increase, especially during a time of austerity

- The **vast** majority (95% +) of annual immigration is legal and for work or study at University
- Migrant workers pay tax on wages they earn in UK
- Many visas are offered to those working in the public services including the NHS and the social care sector
- International students pay much higher fees than UK students and in some cases allowing Universities to remain financially viable
- Asylum seekers can neither work nor claim benefits and receive a very modest (a few pounds) weekly allowance, reduced further if food is provided
- Asylum accommodation is usually neither spacious nor luxurious
- Claims that asylum seekers are more highly represented in crime statistics are not substantiated
- Those entering the UK illegally, eg in small boats, can apply for asylum but if no case can be made will be both deported and given no leave to return
- A refugee is an internationally recognised status as someone who would face harm, including potential death, if return to home country
- The asylum and immigration system is under severe pressure and recognised as being slow and inefficient in many cases, taking a very long time to decide cases

When I drove to Scotland a few weeks ago it was noticeable that almost every bridge on the M40 and M6 had a St Georges flag of England or a Union Jack on it facing each carriageway. Occasionally there would be another sign next to it that was unclear but seemed to indicate that it was something like "Make Britain Great Again" or a similar sentiment.

It was the weekend that a number of protests were planned outside so called "asylum hotels" in the wake of an incident, from which a conviction subsequently was confirmed by the courts, of a sexual assault committed by one asylum seeker.

The mood around the protests was ugly, and it was inflamed by local authorities taking central government to court (another sign of division).

Just this week there were reports on Sky news of the "Flaggers" movement where flags were appearing on lamp post (a criminal offence by the way, to attach anything public property without permission). To some interviewed it was welcomed as a sign of pride in the nation and in the national flag(s). To others it was a provocative signal of something more sinister. In the edited final film the organiser initially claimed that it was a "grass roots movement of the people". By the end, he admitted to affiliations to a prominent right wing extreme nationalist political leader and that the flags had been supplied by this person.

It seems that a nationwide movement of patriotism is being orchestrated by groups with a particular extreme right-wing agenda, but that does not mean that all who support, engage with it, are either right wing or extreme. It is an irony that the adoption of both the English and Union flag by certain groups with an agenda of isolationism, racism and nationalism (underpinned with a willingness or desire for division and violence) have tainted for many the very emblem that they seek to uphold.

There is nothing wrong with patriotism or pride in ones nation. We should not automatically assume motives of those who choose to display it.

I am a Scot. We know pride in the flag(s) (Saltire and Lion rampant) and a sense of “home” being in the heart.

But there **is** an ugly undercurrent in the public debate at the moment which can only be truly addressed by facts and nuance. By looking at the good and the bad and naming them for what they are. The true and the false.

So how should we respond?

I was challenged by Ian Paul’s main critique of the Archbishop’s response. At the macro level, there is a policy issue to address in terms of skills, labour markets , training, industrial policy, tax and spend – across the board. These are also international policy issues because they speak to the movement of people across borders not just here but between all nations.

There have also been huge upheavals in many nations – Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria to name just three in the last few years. These have led to mass movement of millions of people. There are also economic reasons for movement of people between nations.

All these need to be addressed and all of us can become more informed about what these pressures are and see this as a wider set of policies than just the immigration statistics, which are a symptom of the wider policy approach.

But at the micro level – this is where the Gospel speaks loudest.

The person next to you who started their journey is an “alien”. That biblical word means they come from a different nation. They have a story. And we are called to love them, to serve them and to be hospitable to them.

This is not inconsistent with a desire to get the big picture sorted.

If you are someone who wants to be proud of your nation and fly the flag. That is great. Use your influence at the ballot box and in debate to encourage policies that will enhance both economic, social, education, industrial and international policy towards coherent prosperous and peaceful living. And that could mean continued reductions in immigration as one of those policies.

But when we welcome the alien – the stranger – the one from a nation other than our own, especially if their story is one of hardship and fear and danger – our response needs to be one of compassion, hospitality and love.

*“Open your mouth for those with no voice, for the cause of **all** the dispossessed. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the cause of the poor and needy.”*
(Proverbs 31:8-9)

Here is a another thought though. This proverb applies to **all**. Including the dispossessed, poor and needy who call the UK their home nation.

The prevailing narrative of some in the public debate is to set the citizens of the UK against those who have arrived from elsewhere.

“Us” and “them”.

But on the micro level the Gospel is "love one another so that they will know that you are my disciples". The hated Samaritan, who was a "foreigner" in the parable, is not only exalted for seeing the injured man as his neighbour because he was exactly that – a foreigner. Not "one of us" to his Jewish audience. But he also had compassion because he was proximate, alongside him, and he could not walk on by (whoever he was).

³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' ³⁷He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.' (Luke 10:36-37)

The Old Testament imperative towards justice, mercy and humility before God applies to our dealings with all of his creation, wherever they were born or however we come across them.

Let us do likewise with humility, love and discernment. And continue to champion the cause of compassion and to call out inappropriate behaviour and nuance our part in the debate with the love of Christ in our hearts.

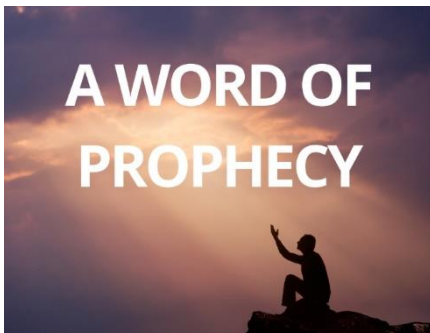
Every blessing

Doug

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* <https://www.psephizo.com/life-ministry/is-the-archbishop-of-york-right-about-migration/>

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/long-term-international-migration-flows-to-and-from-the-uk/>



A picture of some shoelaces. When put into shoes it allows the wearer to walk.

God may be saying "There are some here who need to get ready for My work of the Kingdom. Be bold take up My challenge and walk for Me as I direct by My Spirit. Take every opportunity to speak for Me and My Word. You have been given authority by My Spirit and Word so

use them. Do up your shoes! For there is much work to be done at this time for My Glory.

Sudden changes in temperature.

Left knee problem

WOULD THAT ALL WERE PROPHETS...Moses (Numbers 11:29):

The one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.' 1 Corinthians 14:1&3.

Got a picture or verse for Christ Church? Offer it to the service leader....

Family News

It is with great sadness that we can inform you that Ann Gowlland has died. Our prayers go out to Peter and Jon and all who knew and loved her. A service of thanksgiving will be held at Christ Church on Friday 3rd October at 12.30pm

Elizabeth a member of our worship and children's team is having a memorial for her sister who passed in Ghana on 21st July 2025 with her siblings in the UK and all those who are able to attend are welcome to join us. Saturday 20th September at 5pm

Please note that if you want to share family news, change of circumstances etc, good news or sad, please contact office@christchurchpurley.org.uk and we will try to include it under this section – Christ Church Family News.

Rotas

Are you on a rota?

If Yes

Please don't just click to decline your duty....

If you are unable to cover your duty, try to arrange a swap, then let the office know and if possible, make the changes on church suite.

It really helps to add your unavailability regularly onto ChurchSuite.



Peaced Together

“Brokenness is an opportunity for creative design”

By exploring mosaic, decoupage, quilting, weaving and painting, we will show you how the creative arts can ignite a hope in you that your life can also be pieced together.

9 week course
Tuesday sessions on 23rd
September-18th November 2025
3.00pm-5.00pm
in the Lebanon Room at Christ
Church, Purley CR8 2BN
Cost £25 includes all materials
email : francescaking23@gmail.com
to secure a place

Registered Charity England No: 1140209 © LifeLine Design 2012, LC049



Southern Oaks
Living happy in later life

Purley Rock Choir

Singing for pleasure

Join us for an afternoon of light popular songs,
with Tea & Cake, in aid of our Southern Oaks
Supported Living House in Purley

DATE & TIME:

Friday 17th October 2025
2.30-4.30pm

VENUE:

Christ Church Purley, CR8 2BN

To book, please email trevor55jones@gmail.com

Admission by Programme: £5.00

Payment at the door. Cash only please.

Southern Oaks
Southern Oaks Nonsuch, Old Schools Lane, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT171FLI
020 8394 0050 enquiries@southern-oaks.org
Registered Charity No. 247308

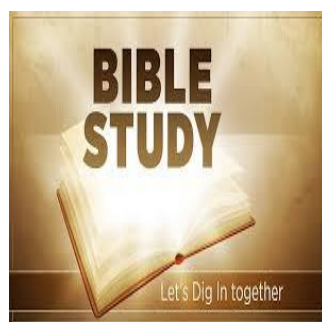
MORNING BIBLE STUDY IN FOYER:

The morning Bible Study that meets in the Foyer during term....

9.15am on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

A Psalm, an Old Testament reading and a New Testament reading, discussion of each and prayer for our parish and the world.

All welcome.



Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child Vision Trip to Romania

Thursday 18th September 7.30 in Philippi

Come and hear Helen Whitley's experience with Operation Christmas Child in Romania in May this year.

Light refreshment will be available. Donations to the OCC Shoebox campaign. Everyone is welcome.

Shoe Boxes 2025

Thank you so much Christ Church for the 101 boxes which you donated last year.

This year, because of

- the difficulty of accessing and wrapping empty shoe boxes
- the cost of preparing a good box.

we will again be offering:

Go-pack boxes complete with all the essentials for £5 each for cash,

(£5.20 for card payments or £6 for card payments and a bouncy ball).

There will also be the chance to buy a reconditioned soft toy for £1 and bulk-bought items at cost price.

They will be available from the Foyer on Sunday mornings during September and early October, **starting on September 14th**.

There will be plenty of space in the box to add additional things ('Wow' items, toys and 'Fillers') of your own choice to fill and complete the boxes.

Please complete your box by **November 2**.



SUNDAY TOILET FACILITIES:

The toilets on the **back corridor are for unaccompanied children** and youth only at all times (on Sundays).

The main block of toilets is for **adults only or parents who need to accompany their child**.

There will be signs on the toilet to remind everyone.

DBS PROCESS DATA BREACH

As mentioned at last Sunday's services there has been a data breach which will affect some of our church family who have had DBS checks done in the past year.

APCS sent the following information to forward. "We are writing to inform you of a data security incident that has affected some of your personal information held by our organisation.

What Happened On 31st July 2025, an external software contractor to our data processor Access Personal Checking Services Ltd (APCS) was affected by a cyber-attack. Some personal data from our records was accessed by unauthorised individuals.

Your data was not accessed from our systems directly - our own systems, and APCS's, remain secure.

Further information on how to protect yourself from the impact of a data breach can be found on the NCSC website www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/data-breaches

What We Are Doing

- This incident has been reported to the Information Commissioner's Office and we will be reporting it to the Charity Commission
- All affected systems have been secured and additional protections implemented
- We are monitoring the situation and will update you if we learn of any specific threats

Questions About This Incident

If you have questions about this breach, please contact us at: Doug or Jean office@christchurchpurley.org.uk

While we cannot guarantee that your information won't be misused, most people affected by data breaches do not experience any problems. The guidance above provides sensible precautions based on what information was actually accessed."

STREET EVANGELISM



Street Evangelism 1st Saturday of the month 12:30pm - 2:30 pm

- Meet in Purley Baptist Church car park.

Go out on twos (or threes) and strike up conversations with people you meet.

Speak of Jesus if the opportunity arises – but only after a conversation about them and if the Holy Spirit leads you to do so.

"A stranger is just a friend you haven't met yet"
(Irish proverb)

NEXT OUTING: Saturday 4th October



SAFEGUARDING AT CHRIST CHURCH

A reminder of the Safeguarding Principles we introduced in 2023:

SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES

Everyone protects boundaries and vulnerabilities by reporting.



Safeguarding principles

- 1. EVERYONE:** Everyone is the eyes, ears and heart of a safe church
- 2. PROTECTS:** *Safe Church* intends to protect the vulnerable and the innocent and put off the perpetrator
- 3. BOUNDARIES:** Safe Boundaries are key - if in any doubt, ask first
- 4. VULNERABILITIES:** Power imbalance is always part of abuse - that's why we particularly safeguard children and vulnerable people
- 5. REPORTING:** Report don't solve or investigate