

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 11 th Jan		God's final word (intro to Hebrews) Hebrews 1:1-4
	8.45am	Traditional Communion service with hymns
		Coffee
	10.15am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion And CC Pre-school, CCKids & CCYouth
		Coffee
	11.45am	Third Service
		Alpha
Monday	9am 9.15am 8 pm	Foyer open Morning Bible Study PCC meeting
Tue	9am 9.30am 12noon 7pm	Foyer open Carousel baby and toddler group Intercessory prayer Tuesday Youth Group

Wed	9am 9.15am	Foyer open Morning Bible Study
Thu	9am	Foyer open
Fri	9am	Foyer Open
Sat		
Sunday 18 th January		MISSION PARTNER SUNDAY – The Ascension Trust
	8.45am	Traditional Communion service with hymns
		Coffee
	10.15am	Morning Worship with CC Pre-school, CCKids CCYouth
		Coffee
	11.45am	Third service



How Much More? – Spirit filled worship...what next?

PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGE FROM FEBRUARY 2026

Advance notice that a small change is proposed to the service schedule from February 2026.

UNCHANGED: **First and second** Sundays the format of **THREE services** (8.45 am Holy Communion, 10.15am Morning Worship/Worship for Everyone, 11.45 am Third service) will **remain unchanged**.

RENEWED: **Third, fourth (and fifth)** Sundays there will be **TWO services** – 8.45 Holy Communion and 10.15 Worship service.

This reshaped Second service will encapsulate the essence of the Third service with extended sung **Worship, Word** teaching from the bible and **Ministry** and prayer time.

CCK and CCY will continue to be in the service for the first 15 minutes and then run alongside the second service as now.

There will therefore **NOT be a Third service** on the **third and fourth Sundays**.

*"how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"
(Luke 11:13)*

For more details please see **next weeks Doug's blog.....**

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 **Approach Road** and all who dwell, work or travel there.



Find the link on our website.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 13th January – Intercessory prayer for Christ Church leading up to the vacancy

Wednesday 21st January Midweek Communion

Wednesday 21st January Midweek Lunch

Sunday 25th January Gospel Service

Monday 26th January – Bereavement Support Group

Sunday 1st February – Worship for Everyone

Wednesday 4th February - Midweek Fellowship

Tuesday 17th February – Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 18th February – Ash Wednesday

Sunday 22nd March APCM



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

LET'S GET ORGANISED FOR 2026

HAVE YOU STARTED THE DBS PROCESS BUT NOT COMPLETED ALL THE STAGES?

**ARE YOU ON A TEAM, ON PCC or HAVE A CHRIST CHURCH DBS?
IS YOUR SAFEGUARDING TRAINING UP TO DATE?
HAVE YOU LINKED YOU TRAINING ACCOUNT WITH
safeguarding@christchurchpurley.org.uk**

Safeguarding training - All training should be renewed every three years. Basic Awareness (C0) and Foundation (C1) training which you can do individually online at: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>.

Please choose the Diocese of Southwark from the drop-down menu and give the full name and location of your church ie Christ Church Purley.

How to report that you have completed your training

You can now provide this record directly to your local Parish Safeguarding Officer as follows.

To do this use the **edit profile** screen (accessed through the top right of your screen).

Scroll down to the last field entitled Local reporting '*Allow a user with the following email address to look at my training record*

: safeguarding@christchurchpurley.org.uk - this corresponds with the profile of the person you would like to view your training records.

WHAT ARE THE STAGES IN THE DBS PROCESS?

We want to make the safeguarding process as robust and yet as simple to follow as possible. All of the following are required to act in most volunteer roles as the church seeks to be as safe as possible. If you find any difficult to find time for or onerous in any other way please contact us and we can find ways to help (eg arrange a group to do online training together).

We want to make volunteering as easy and enjoyable as possible while maintaining a healthy approach to being a "Safe Church"....

As part of our safer church recruitment we need to complete certain checks for all volunteers.

1. Complete an application form (online) for your role.
This will then trigger the following stages which can be completed in any order:
2. You will be emailed with DBS application information through ChurchSuite. When completed we will arrange a time to verify your identity documents.
3. A confidential declaration to be completed online.
4. An online reference form so we can then obtain 2 references.
5. Safeguarding training – at basic and foundation level – the quickest option for this is the online course and a link will be sent to you.

How to report that you have completed your training - You can now provide this record directly to your local Parish Safeguarding Officer as follows.

When we have all these stages completed you are ready to be part of the team! 😊

Once completed this will not need to be repeated for another 3 years.

Any questions ask Doug or Jean

Doug's Blog

IN THE BEGINNING....

The thing about the story of God is we know how it ends. Well...

As we stand here at the beginning of 2026 – a year of change for all of us – I wonder what we can learn from God's story of beginnings. For it is said that history is not linear – a beginning and an end and a series of events lining together in a chain from one to the other – but cyclical – a series of cycles that have a beginning and an end, moving onto the next, new beginning.

It's striking that both the writer of Genesis – Moses? – and of John's gospel begin with the same words – In the beginning. John specifically roots the trinitarian God of the Father, Son and Spirit in creation – through him all things were made - and famously the plural infers all three in the creation narrative including the *ruach* Spirit that hovers over the waters.

Father , Son and Holy Spirit were from the beginning – and ever will be – Alpha and Omega – beginning and end.

Genesis begins – in the beginning GOD. Belies the classic primary school question – who made God? No one is the answer – he always has been and always will be. He has no beginning nor end. But he is at the beginning and end of all existence , all creation , which is outside himself but he is in all. And he draws us into his eternity in the end.

But it has to start somewhere. And it starts with God.

Lesson one, let beginnings start with God.

God made all things just by speaking them into being. Including us. Formed from the earth – the meaning of Adam – his Spirit breathed into us , making us in his image. The pinnacle of creation given the task of filling the earth and stewarding it on his behalf.

Lesson two, the beginning of life is his Spirit. Our beginnings need to start with God and be filled by his Spirit.

Then if we move forward a couple of chapters we see a different beginning. The beginning of sin. Temptation was always there – as soon as God set a boundary, not to eat of the fruit, temptation was there. But it was the work of the tempter that the first sin was committed. By listening to the lies of the enemy.

Lesson three, beginnings need to listen to God alone.

Cast out we see the beginnings of the new extra-paradise existence, in the fallen world. The obedience of Adam and Eve to procreate leads to the first family feud and the first murder. Its only chapter 4! Cain's anger riled by Abel's obedience and favour as a result.

Lesson four, beginnings need obedience and celebrating the holy.

Within a couple more chapters God sees such evil in the world he determines to destroy it. He cannot live with that evil. Yet he finds one faithful man, Noah. And even after the destruction of the flood a new beginning is possible through his obedience in the face of ridicule – a boat in the desert!? And God promises never to do that again.

Lesson five, beginnings come with God's patience and compassion.

Then a new promise to a new patriarch – Abraham. To be a father of all nations. A promise fulfilled, despite his age (and Sarai's ironic laughter!)

Lesson six, beginnings come with promises from God – and he fulfils his promises.

Through Isaac and Jacob and Joseph the Israelites , a chosen people, are enslaved after centuries in Egypt. God sets out to rescue them through a man who is neither wholly Hebrew nor wholly Egyptian. He also thinks himself unworthy and incapable of the task. Yet God equips him and honours him. But it would take not one appeal to the Pharaoh but 10.

Lesson seven, we may feel unsure at the beginning but God supports and equips for his mission. And perseverance may be required – long term faithfulness and trust.

After years in the wilderness having escaped slavery Joshua it is who is tasked with taking the people into the promised land. The angel tells him “Be courageous, do not be afraid , for I am with you”

Lesson eight, God does not abandon us but encourages us and calls us to be certain of his promises and to trust in him.

In the wilderness God provided the law (twice – even though was broken before even delivered!) and sent prophets. The prophets were largely unsure (Jonah, Isaiah, Jeremiah) but God encouraged and used them anyway.

Lesson nine, God does not just start a beginning but speaks to his people by his Word – scripture and prophecy – to encourage and guide along the way.

God spoke to David and Solomon and others providing wisdom. The psalmist and the writer of proverbs both identify the beginning of wisdom is fear of the Lord. It means being in awe of, not frightened of.

Lesson eleven, remember always that God is awesome – literally!

Then, all other interventions having failed to ensure that God’s people remain faithful, even having sent them into exile and destroying the temple through invaders, God sends his only son. Christmas is a new beginning, the new covenant, the new promise, the new means of salvation. It starts with a birth, it launches with a baptism, it heralds the start of the end with an entry on a donkey, not a chariot, it finishes on a cross. Then a new beginning , a resurrected life, after 3 days. A new beginning with a new commission – God, make disciples, and teach them all I have commanded.

Lesson twelve, God loved the world in this way – by giving his only son, that all who believe in him will not perish, but have eternal life. That overshadows all beginnings as the cycle continues.

Having returned to his Father, God sends the Holy Spirit, as had been promised. This time poured out on all who would believe, not just a few for a particular purpose at a particular time. A universal access to God's very Spirit to guide and empower.

Lesson thirteen, the church began with an outpouring of the spirit and every new beginning is similarly filled with God's Spirit – eagerly seek the things of the Spirit.

God spread the word through the disciples, making one more unlikely one – Saul who would become Paul. Arrested on the road to Damascus, as he had violently arrested believers of the way. He became not only convinced of the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but a church planter who took the message and planted churches throughout the Mediterranean.

Lesson fourteen, God empowers church growth and planting new churches making new converts, by his spirit, through unlikely people.

Finally, John had a vision that is complex and is understood on many levels but includes a vision of Jesus' return. Every beginning, starting with God's promise, will come to a fruitful end. Every beginning is a staging post in the overarching story of God's rescue plan.

Lesson fifteen, it ends well. God is sovereign, trustworthy, faithful, loving, compassionate and wants to save as many as would receive the free gift of his grace.

So what can we learn from all of this at the beginning of a new year?

There will be the beginning of an interregnum.

The beginning of my new tenure in Sanderstead.

The beginning, hopefully this year, of the leadership by my successor.

Let us heed the lessons of the whole story of god as we enter these new beginnings.

In the mighty name of Jesus we pray.

Amen.

VACANCY – a brief introduction



What happens when the Vicar leaves?

A brief outline...

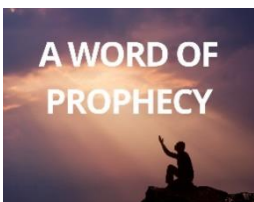
- Announcement that Vicar appointed elsewhere
- *(Nominated PCC members Draft Parish Profile – shh don't tell anyone....)*
- Vicar leaves
- Vicar installed at new parish (could be a month later)
- Vacancy legally starts
- PCC agree Parish Profile and application process with Archdeacon
- Advertise (probably) and receive applications
- Interviews with candidates – Archdeacon, Bishop and two Christ Church representatives appointed by PCC
- Appoint
- Wait for vicarage to be finished and Vicar moves in
- New Vicar installed by Bishop....

(please note that this **will** take a number of months).

Meanwhileduring the vacancy the Wardens have legal oversight of parish as Bishop's appointees and services will be supported by clergy, visiting clergy and members of Christ Church....

Which is where you can step in – if you think you might be able to **lead the occasional service** and be involved in **supporting the existing team** and visiting clergy please let me know.

Doug



A picture of a of a cow in a field other cows joined the first cow until they became a herd.

God may be saying "Each cow is a new creation and it is only as they come together that they may form a herd. So it is with you - if you are in Me and have made Me your Lord, you are new creations. As you come together you are a church with relationships and joys and sorrows. Let me be your leader, come together regularly, stimulate your own testimony when you go out into the world. I am your creator so worship Me as the one who cares for you all, provides for you all and will bring you into My Victory on the cross and through the resurrection know my joy for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

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....



CHRIST CHURCH COURSES – News

Next courses (dates to be confirmed soon):

Witness course – how to capture and tell your story of faith

Prayer Ministry

How to hear God's voice

Leading worship at the 10.15am service...

Please contact Doug vicar@christchurchpurley.org.uk to express your interest in any (or all!) of these short courses.





Parking at Christ Church



Parking should only be in in marked bays – on Sundays and during the week. Special attention should be paid to areas needed for access by emergency vehicles such as outside the oak doors and on the roundabout.



FOOD LIST JANUARY 2026



At Purley Food Hub we provide emergency food, toiletries and household essentials to local people living in great hardship. Please consider donating items from this month's priority list:

- Tinned Vegetarian Meals *such as Princes plant based range*
- Jars of Meat Paste & Fish Paste
- Jars of Peanut Butter
- 1 Litre Cartons of Long Life Whole Milk
- Jars of Pasta Sauce
- Tinned Dessert Fruit
- Packet Custard *requiring only hot water*
- Desserts for Children *such as Angel Delight, Jellies*
- Bars of Soap
- Washing Powder Pods/Capsules

Thank you everyone for your continued generous support.
Since 2013 you have kindly helped us to provide food for
more than 46,000 people - equivalent to 415,000 meals.



PURLEY FOOD HUB

Tel: 07546 635295 | Email: purleyfoodhub@gmail.com

Website: www.purleyfoodhub.net

Charity no: 1152807 | Company no: 08557885

Churches
Together
Purley & Kenley

Boosting Life Skills

Providing knowledge & tips to
boost life skills by unlocking
potential in Wellbeing, Health and
Interpersonal Skills...
and so have a 'Positive Life'



course #7 in the series
of Positive Life Courses



How to be healthy with the right food & drink

“Boosting Our Health by Eating and Drinking” (BOHBEAD) course

The course:

Latest Guidance : UPDATED November 2025

- **de-mystifies** guidance with **clear guidelines** on what food and drink keeps us healthy – & what to avoid – with **doable recommendations**
- explains how to **lose weight in a healthy way** – and keep it off
- gives 30 tips on how to **save money by eating & drinking healthily**.

Why join? You will learn about:

- the link between **diseases** (eg Alzheimer's, Type 2 diabetes, certain cancers and heart disease) **and poor nutrition decisions**
- how to apply just **Three Principles** (the foundation of good nutrition decisions) and 30 **nutrition myths** that can be 'busted' (eg it's a myth all saturated fat is unhealthy)
- what to look for on food labels to identify **Ultra-Processed Food (UPF)** – regular eating of UPF leads to obesity and ill health.

Course material is from latest research, mainly based on the books: *Food for Life*, *Spoon Fed* and *The Diet Myth* by Professor Tim Spector OBE and *Eat More, Live Well* by Dr Megan Rossi.

Duration: 2 sessions of 2 hours **Cost: Free of charge** **When:** see below for next two courses

Where: **Cube training room, Purley Baptist church**, Banstead Rd, Purley CR8 3EA

To book your place, or for more details, contact the Office (0208 668 0422 or office@purleybaptist.org).

There are limited places; so, to avoid disappointment, book early. 😊

Course #1		
Monday evenings	7.15-9.15pm	12 th Jan & 19 th Jan <i>last date to register: 2nd Jan 2026</i>
Course #2		
Wednesday mornings	10.30am-12.30pm	28 th Jan & 4 th Feb <i>last date to register: 23rd Jan 2026</i>