

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 25 th January		Hebrew 1:5-14 Greater than angels
	8.45am	Traditional Communion service with hymns
		Coffee
	10.15am	Morning Worship with CC Pre-school, CCKids CCYouth
		Coffee
	11.45am	Third service
		Alpha
Monday	9am 9.15am 1pm	Foyer open Morning Bible Study Bereavement Support Group
Tue	9am 9.15am 9.30am 7pm	Foyer open Morning Bible study Carousel baby and toddler group Tuesday Youth Group

Wed	9am 9.15am	Foyer open Morning Bible Study
Thu	9am 7.30-8.30pm	Foyer open Intercession prayer meeting
Fri	9am	Foyer Open
Sat		
Sunday 1 st February		Worship for everyone
	8.45am	Traditional Communion service with hymns
		Coffee
	10.15am	Worship for Everyone
		Coffee
	11.45am	Third service
		Alpha



INTERCESSIONARY PRAYER MEETING

The next intercession prayer meeting is Thursday 29th January 7.30-8.30pm.

Praying for protection, direction, healing and blessing on the church at this time of change.

All both welcome and encouraged to join when free.

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

SERVICE CHANGE FROM FEBRUARY 2026



Advance notice that a small change will take place to the service schedule from February 2026.

IN ESSENCE:.....There will **NOT** be a **Third service** on the **third and fourth Sundays. Everything else is unchanged.**

	FIRST SUNDAY (Unchanged)	SECOND SUNDAY (Unchanged)	THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH SUNDAYS	
8.45AM	HOLY COMMUNION	HOLY COMMUNION	HOLY COMMUNION	Traditional Common Worship with hymns and organ
10.15AM	WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE	MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION	MORNING WORSHIP "THIRD SERVICE" STYLE	Various styles with band led worship
11.45AM	THIRD SERVICE	THIRD SERVICE	NO THIRD SERVICE	Sung worship led by band with short reflection

				and ministry time response
--	--	--	--	----------------------------------

*"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 **last week's 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 **Badgers Mount** and all who dwell, work or travel there.

YouTube live link for 10.15am and 11.45am services - find the link on our website.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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



The Mothers' Union craft and chat table is starting up this term from 10.00-11.30 am in the church foyer cafe. Anyone is welcome to bring their own craft project (knitting, crochet, cross stitch etc) or we have colouring sheets and pencils. This is a chance to spend time just relaxing and chatting

The Surprised by Hope Study Course
Wednesday 28th January (fortnightly) 2.30pm

'Rethinking what we believe about the Resurrection and Eternal life'

Do you ever wonder about the meaning of life on earth?
Do you ever wonder what happens after you die?

Current Course fully booked – contact Alison Frost to join waiting list or to find out more about future courses , especially (but not exclusively!) for Seniors.



Bereavement Journey-

The Bereavement Journey is for anyone who has been bereaved at any time and in any way.

By means of a series of films and discussion groups it gently guides bereaved people through the most common aspects of grief, enabling them to process the implications for themselves and

discern next steps.

Usually run by churches The Bereavement Journey uniquely offers a final session on faith questions in bereavement provided from a Christian perspective. This is optional, thus making The Bereavement Journey suitable for people of any faith or none.

Next course starts on **Tuesday 10th March at 2.30pm.**

Booking essential as places are limited.

<https://christpurley.churchsuite.com/-/forms/ahmsbt7p>



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE
LETS GET ORGANISED FOR 2026



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

To be on a Christ Church Team as part of our safer recruitment procedures all volunteers must have a valid DBS, complete their safeguarding training to the appropriate level, and complete a declaration form as well as provide references.

ALL are required and there are no exceptions.

Please make sure you have completed everything.

Please look for and respond to the email reminders that you are being sent so you know what is outstanding.



DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING TO?.....

I had the privilege to be a guest speaker at the Purley Baptist Church group CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) last Tuesday. I wasn't quite sure of the brief, which seemed to be quite open, "bring something of interest".

What I chose to speak about was to look at the idea of **call** – both individually and for the church. I told them a story of what has happened with Christ Church over the last 6-8 months or so (and further back to be perfectly honest) as well as the story of my call to Sanderstead.

It begins with the response post-Covid to our service pattern. For safety, introducing three services, all of 45 minutes, to minimise the numbers in each service and the time exposure of each individual in each service. The logic then followed – "*we don't need to do the same thing in each service, do we?*" – and so the Third Service was born and developed into the Spirit Filled space that it has become.

It was at this point I was able to point out in the talk that one of the things we increasingly see is how the message (with no published theme or bible reading – sometimes written that morning, and unknown to the worship leader) and the song lyrics complement each other brilliantly. The Spirit speaking to each of us independently, preparing the Third service for us!!

I offered the group two principles related to Spirit Filled Worship – firstly, the **Holy Spirit is our pastor** and secondly, **God is the most important person in the room.**

It so happened that I had been asked if there were any hymns that I would like to go along with my talk. I had missed this request so Gill, who chose them for me, mentioned that she had just had to choose three for the morning. It so happened the first hymn was "*Praise to the Lord, the almighty*" which has the following line "*Ponder anew, What the Almighty can do*". And that was my opening line – when seeking a sense of call, it is asking **that** question – **pondering anew, what the Almighty can doand asking our part in it!**

The rest of the talk outlined two senses of call.

Firstly, the journey Christ Church has been on, from inspiration through New Wine talks in the summer, through a sermon series on Spirit Filled Worship to a renewed

service pattern in February onwards. An emerging format for making space for more to be filled, for healing and for powerful, creative intercession from amongst the whole body of Christ Church. (see recent blogs for more details).

But alongside that, my own personal sense of call, a nudge and prompt from the Lord, towards a new challenge and specifically Sanderstead parish. And that leads us to this period of transition.

I finished with the short homily I gave at the interview. It was about how the friends who lowered the paralysed man through the roof, and that we, when we pray into what can feel like hopeless situations, where we feel helpless, can only do one thing – place the sufferer at the feet of Jesus and ask him to do the rest.

If you are facing a situation in which you feel helpless, where you have no words, I commend it to you. *

The talk seemed to go well. But I was also reminded that Christ Church is in that transition. Whilst we continue to work on a good departure, there is also a call on Christ Church to look forward to your new leader. My prayer to God is for that person, God's chosen to lead Christ Church after me, to whom the baton will be passed, so to speak.

Which is where you come in, as part of the work of the wardens and PCC. The new Parish Profile needs to be **informed by that sense of call** on the church and on each individual.

And then a song came into my head (not for the first time!).....

In 1975 Diana Ross starred in a film called *Mahogany*. The theme song for the film was released that year and is entitled "*Do you know where you are going to?*" If you know the film (it ends well by the way) then it's less about that detail, than the lyrics of the song....

Do you know where you're going to?
Do you like the things that life is showing you?
Where are you going to?
Do you know?

Do you get what you're hoping for?
When you look behind you, there's no open doors
What are you hoping for?
Do you know?

I invite you to start a conversation with God, asking afresh the answers to these sorts of questions.

As consultations on the Parish profile begin soon, my prayer is that all will hear from God the direction **HE** wants to take Christ Church, and each of its members over the coming year and beyond.

I also invite you to join a weekly intercessory prayer meeting, one hour a week to pray for the church and its people at this time of change.

Wishing all every blessing however this finds you

I'm always open for a coffee should you wish to chat over anything

Your brother in Christ

Doug

vicar@christchurchpurley.org.uk

** This was another blog in November by the way....*



SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Purley Partnership Federation* needs two more Foundation Governors (appointed by PCC). Please let Doug know if you, or someone you know, may be able to fulfil these roles. Full training is provided.

Contact Doug to find out more.

** Christ Church Purley School and Purley Nursery School*

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 – **Church Wardens become legally responsible for running of the parish church***
- 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....

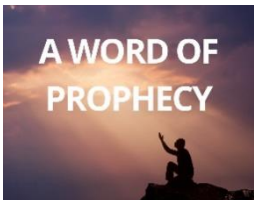
(please note that this **will** take a number of months).

* **Meanwhile**during 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....

NOTE: Alison Frost and Bob Benn have indicated that they are willing to stand as Wardens for another year to oversee the vacancy; the PCC (and I) express their gratitude to both wardens for taking this on and have offered whatever support is needed to enable them in this role

You too 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 lion roaring again and again however he cannot be cannot move because of a pool of blood around him.

God may be saying "the blood of Jesus Christ My son has overwhelming power over Satan he may rule but unless you give him opportunity that is all he can do. He is a liar and I am the truth the way and the life. You have the power to choose whom you will serve me and I will show you the paths of life. You are on the victory side so act like a victor not a victim my power is more than you will ever need."

Someone with a heart 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....

CHRIST CHURCH COURSES – News

Next courses (dates to be confirmed next week):

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.



Family News

Bejoy Pal: Bej will soon be getting married and moving from the local area. He will therefore be **leaving Christ Church from 25th January**. This is a new season for him and he would appreciate prayers for them both as they enter a journey into marriage and a new home and new church. Bej writes: *"CCP will never stop being my family and having a place in my heart and prayers. It's been a big honour to have been welcomed and given the opportunity to serve in so many ways at the Church and whilst excited for the future, there will be sadness in leaving my family behind."*

Bej is speaking at the Gospel Service on the evening of 25th January.

Julie Bleach: The funeral for Julie will be in church on **Monday 9th February at 12noon**.

We are expecting this to be a busy service and would ask that where ever possible church family do not park in the car park but walk here or car share and park elsewhere. Thank you.

Dress code - colourful!

There will be an informal reception at Christ Church following the service – if you can help serving tea and coffee, make a cake, set up or clear up please let Jean or Debbie know via the office.

Olivia and Tom Griffiths: It is with great sadness that Tom and Olivia share the news that their son Daniel (Owen's elder brother) died unexpectedly on Friday 16 January. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them and the whole family at this time.

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.



Digital Presence for All Churches

Croydon South Deanery Synod

Open meeting

All Welcome

7:30 February 4th 2026

All Saints' Church

Onslow Gardens CR2 9AB

7:30 Refreshments

8.00 Worship

8.10 Deanery business



**Don't forget to sign up on the electoral roll!
SIGN UP NOW READY FOR THE APCM!!**

Have you joined the current Christ Church Electoral roll?

This allows you to vote and stand for election at the annual meeting.

If you are not on the roll you will need to apply.

In order to apply you need to complete an application for enrolment form.



New Electoral Rolls will also be prepared in 2031 and 2037.

Are you new to joining the electoral roll?
You can use this QR code

Why join the electoral roll?

Do you want to vote at the APCM?

Do you want to have a voice at the APCM?

Do you want to join the PCC or deanery synod?

- If the answer is **YES** to any of these you need to be on the church's electoral roll!

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.



**Join us for our next diocesan racial justice gathering
7 February, Southwark Cathedral**

On Saturday 7 February 2026, Southwark Cathedral will host a gathering entitled *Truth-Telling in Sacred Spaces* to mark Racial Justice weekend (6-7 Feb). This event is for everyone in our diocese who believes the Church must be a place of truth, welcome, and belonging. Whether you are someone of Global Majority Heritage, an ally, a parish priest, a lay leader, a member of a congregation, or simply

someone seeking to understand how faith responds to history - you! Find out more on the Diocese website



Lay Ministry Taster Day
31 January 2026, 10am-2pm

Come to Trinity House and find out more about the different types of ministries including Pastoral, Reader, Pioneer, Church Army and Children and Young People. With guest speaker Adjoa Andoh MBE – actor, writer, director, and Licensed Reader (Parish of Herne Hill). For more information and to book your place, email learning@southwark.anglican.org

SAFEGUARDING AT CHRIST CHURCH

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

Safeguarding Principles

The parish of Christ Church Purley takes the safeguarding and care of children and vulnerable adults very seriously.