

# CHRIST CHURCH

PURLEY

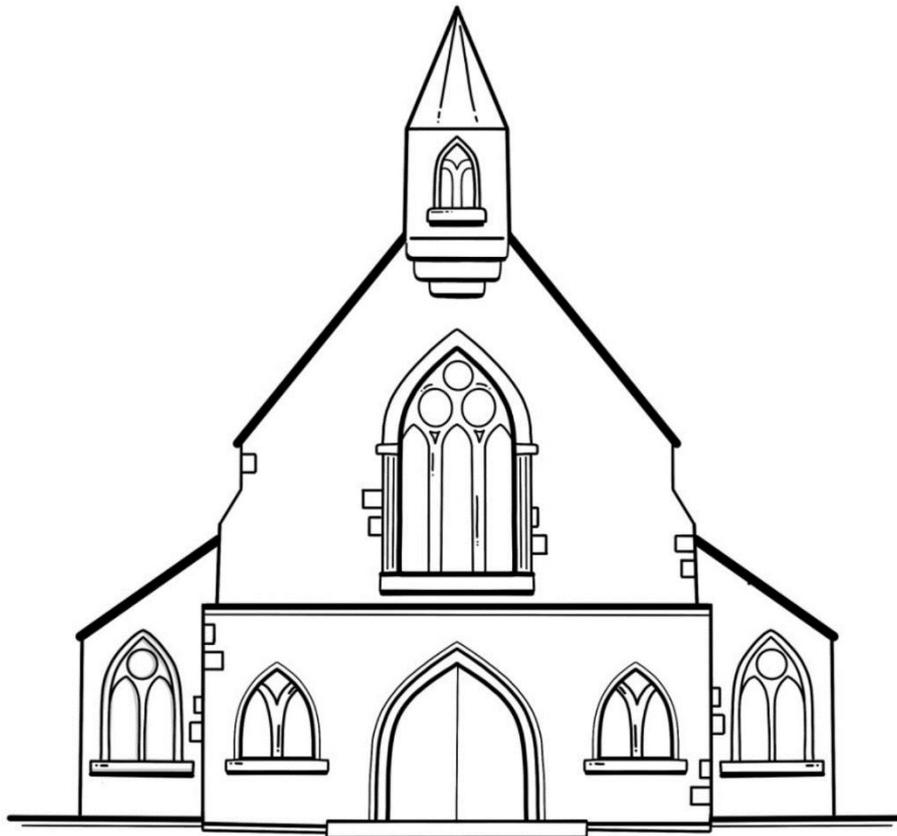


## ANNUAL REPORT 2025

A Celebration and review of 2025 as we report back, look forward and give Glory to God.

The Annual Church Meeting will start at 10.15am.

Close of meeting at c. 12.00pm.



## **AGENDA 2026**

Opening Worship

Under 18s review

CCK and CCY go out

Confession

Reading: Hebrews 4:12-13

**Vestry Meeting** – elect wardens (2 minutes)

2 vacancies

## **APCM**

### **FORMALITIES (2 minutes)**

Apologies

Minutes of last meeting

Matters Arising – no matters arising not covered in report elsewhere

### **ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS (3 minutes)**

PCC elections – Nominations for PCC (5)

Deanery Synod – 4 vacancies

Appoint stewards / welcome team

### **FINANCE AND ELECTORAL ROLL (5 minutes)**

New Electoral Roll report – 167 (last year 163)

Accounts – presented and questions welcomed

Appoint auditor for 2026

### **THE FUTURE (7 minutes)**

VICAR Review and Looking forward to 2026

Brief Questions & Answers

Closing worship

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY AND ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS 2025

Meeting	APCM Meeting	
<b>Date and Time</b>	Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 10:15am – 11:45am	Minutes taken by: Nick Whitley
<b>Present</b>	108 adults and 22 children present in the church.	
<b>1a. Vestry Meeting</b>	<p>Bob Benn, proposed by Nick Whitley, seconded by Richard Winser, and Alison Frost, proposed by Kim Watts, seconded by Cynthia Smith, were re-elected church warden.</p> <p>This was the second year in succession that they had agreed to stand for just one more year. An invitation was made for 2 members of the congregation to take on the role of Deputy Warden, to shadow the wardens over the coming year.</p> <p>Doug thanked Bob and Alison for their service.</p>	
<b>2. Welcome, Apologies</b>	Jenny Hird sent apologies.	
<b>3. Minutes</b>	The Minutes of the 2024 meeting were approved and accepted.	
<b>4. Matters Arising</b>	There were no matters arising not covered in report elsewhere.	
<b>5. PCC elections</b>	<p>4 Nominations for PCC membership had been received for 6 vacancies:</p> <p>Peter Wrench, proposed by Trevor Jones, seconded by Betty Jones; Harriet Howgego, proposed by Abraham Choong, seconded by Yuan Choong; Jenny Hird, proposed by Alison Frost, seconded by Kim Watts; Ruth Laws, proposed by Bob Benn, seconded by Paula Reed.</p> <p>All four were duly appointed, there being no need for an election.</p>	
<b>6. Electoral Roll Report</b>	<p>The new electoral roll, when closed for the run-up to the APCM, stood at 163, compared to the previous year's 264.</p> <p>A question was asked about the reduction in the number on electoral roll. While some can be explained by people moving, sadly also through bereavement, there are many other reasons why some people have chosen not to sign up to join the electoral roll, not all of which are known. It was also noted that 163 actively chose to do so and that this is a reasonable reflection of the active membership of the worshipping community.</p>	
<b>7. Accounts</b>	<p>Accounts to December 2024 headline income and expenditure plus reserves were presented by Rob Keeler.</p> <p>The Report from the independent examiner states there are no concerns.</p>	

	<p>This years' income is c.£373k, expenditure is c.£367k, leaving a surplus of c.£6k, which although less than last year, is nevertheless acceptable.</p> <p>There is an overall drop in income of 5%, with an 8% drop in donations, and a 2% reduction in expenditure.</p> <p>Net assets are c.£461k net, £200k being allocated to the refurbishment project. Plans are progressing, and are likely to cost in excess of £200k.</p>
<b>8. Appoint Examiners for 2025</b>	Shaw Gibbs Ltd were appointed by unanimous vote as Independent Examiners for 2025.
<b>9. Appoint Stewards</b>	<p>The current Stewards and Welcome Team were reappointed.</p> <p>Doug thanked all concerned and encouraged others to volunteer for this important task.</p>
<b>10. Vicars Review</b>	<p>Doug gave a brief review looking forward to 2025, the main theme being that God is in the Salvation business, and is inviting us to join in his work. The Word and the Spirit are everything.</p> <p>We are all called to be witnesses.</p> <p>There are many people – particularly the younger generation - hungry to know about Jesus. The Spirit is moving among non-believers.</p> <p>The question is, how best to equip the saints for this work.</p>
<b>11. Closing Q&amp;A</b>	Doug closed the meeting; the band led us in worship.

## AREA: VICAR'S REPORT

### Highlights of 2025



- Establishment of the worship for Everyone services
- Response to the call for new Christ Church Kids leaders as well as Youth Assistants on a Tuesday night Youth Cub
- Response to the data breach, providing clear communication of what happened, who was affected and what to do next
- Establishment of a new Gospel service in the evening
- Romans!
- Engagement with our community through public events in our car park, helping with Purley Festival and hosting events at Christ Church
- The church centre continues to be very well used offering opportunities to engage and support our community as well as generating income
- Diligence of our staff team despite several personal challenges, they work together and for others
- Expansion of our pastoral team after training which has brought greater capacity and new energy and ideas to the team
- Expanding worship teams with a desire to continue to grow and develop in spirit filled worship and encounter
- A continuing commitment to safeguarding despite the ever-increasing scrutiny and workload involved – we all have a part to play in this.
- Gospel choir and Black History Month events that have provided social events that have brought the church community together
- Continued support to seniors including Holiday at Home events through the year, Midweek fellowship, communions and opportunities to develop in spiritual support too
- Ongoing engagement with community in daily, monthly and annual ways such as the free Foyer Café, the Car Rally, relations with the school, connections with our local police, Purley Festival, street evangelism, Peaced Together, the well maintained and attractive gardens and more.
- A continued commitment to a diverse range of worship from quite traditional to contemporary and with a strand running through that we seek to engage and to encounter God in various ways; not everything is everyone's cup of tea but the diverse variety serves the many, not the few
- And all the other things not mentioned above!
- Thank you to all who have served in obvious ways and not so obvious – none of this would be possible without you!
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### Hopes for 2026

In 2026 – more Lord!

A community of faith that grows in confidence, clarity of your purposes, and seeks out the leader you have in mind to pick up the baton, to go from strength to more strength – in his name and for his glory. Amen!

## MINISTRY AREA: CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT



### Highlights of 2025

2025 has been another busy year at Christ Church. Christ Church Kids has begun again with renewed vigour, a new and enthusiastic Pastoral team is in place, many newcomers are coming to Midweek Fellowship, we have a regular monthly Gospel service, we have seen more new faces at our Sunday services and there is a happy buzz in the foyer on a Sunday between services as people meet over coffee. It has been lovely to see all this going on and especially good that we have provided opportunities for all those who come to Christ Church to become valued members of our Christ Church family

### Hopes for 2026

We have now been in post for almost six years and, whilst it has been a most rewarding time, Bob and I feel ready to hand over the mantle to two new Church Wardens. We firmly believe that it is time for the generation who come after us to step up and lead Christ Church with new ideas and fresh eyes. As Church Wardens, we have been privileged to represent the congregation and we have worked to do this to the best of our ability. It has also been a pleasure to meet lots of people and be involved more closely with the running of the Church.

Our hope for 2026 is that two prospective Church Wardens will come forward prepared to shadow us until they can be elected at the 2027 APCM.

*Alison Frost and Bob Benn*

## AREA: PCC REPORT



### Highlights of 2025

- Reviewed and adopted a range of policies including lettings, lone working, WIFI, investment and reserves, financial controls, discipline and grievance, diversity and equality and adopted the diocesan process for dispute resolution.
- Safeguarding dominated with the publication of Makin report, the data breach in the summer and need to adopt a new provider for DBS etc, Thirty-One Eight.
- Slow progress on the church refurbishment plus other fabric including the repair of the front wall
- Finances looking at stewardship and ways to increase our giving
- Need for Youth Pastor role as identified but also recognised that needed to be sustainably funded

- Several school Governors appointed and support for school noted, especially in their very difficult year
- Parish Support Fund pledge for 2026 was uplifted to the amount requested by the Diocese on the back of representations about the current concerns for clergy stipend and living standards of many clergy.
- Opportunities for evangelism were noted and encouraged
- September PCC had to be postponed due to chair being ill and a number of other apologies
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## Hopes for 2026

In 2026 that the PCC is able to support the wardens during the vacancy and that the recruitment process can progress well for a replacement. That PCC and Deanery will be carrying no vacancies and that work on vision, robust finances and upkeep of fabric and other requirements can provide a moving ship to the new incumbent to pick up in due course.

## WELCOME TEAM

We would like to thank all those who provide a friendly welcome and help our services run smoothly. Our welcome team members are:



Alison Frost	John Curror	Paula Reed
Amanda Shortland	Lola Bejide	Peter Wrench
Andy Hird	Marion Keys	Richard Parris
Angela Dainty	Mike O'Connor	Rowayda Mukhtar
Rob Keeler	Nicola Hawes	Adenike Adamo
	Bob Benn	Cynthia Smith

## ELECTORAL ROLL

Our Electoral Roll shows that we have **167** people signed up (last year we were at 163). However, this is not an accurate reflection of the congregation numbers, as not all our members are on the current Electoral Roll. If you are not on the Electoral Roll, your vote at the 2026 APCM will not be counted and you cannot be on PCC, Deanery Synod or a churchwarden. The current electoral roll is on display during March 2026 in the Foyer noticeboard and in the church.



If you are not already on the Electoral Roll, do think about joining– you are eligible if you have worshipped with us for at least 6 months (young people can join when they turn 16). It is not just a means of being able to vote at the Annual Church Meeting, or to stand for PCC or Deanery

Synod; it is a way of showing belonging to the church. Forms can be found in the Church, there is a QR code to sign up with and forms are in the church office or can be sent to you by email.

***Jean Loh Electoral roll officer***

**MINISTRY AREA: CARE - PASTORAL - *Elderly, Visiting, Bereavement, Meals Ministry, Prayer Network, Adults with Learning Disabilities, Peaced Together***



### **Highlights of 2025**

More people completing the Pastoral Training Course.

Increase in numbers at MWF.

Being upheld and seeing the work of the Holy Spirit when visiting, listening and getting alongside members of the fellowship.

### **Hopes for 2026**

Longing for non-Christian members of MWF and others to develop a personal relationship with Jesus.

Excitement at opportunities of more pastoral care with enlarged team, using their gifts.

The Hope that Jesus brings to difficult pastoral issues, especially the vulnerable.

***Jenny Hird***

## ***Bereavement***

### **Highlights of 2025**

Bereavement Support Group welcomed new members

Referrals from statutory and vol organisations

Support for Individuals

Bereavement Journey Course held in January

### **Hopes for 2026**

New bereavement volunteer following pastoral training course

Bereavement Journey course commencing March

Aim to Increase 1-1 support for bereaved individuals

***Pauline Chapman***

## AREA: SAFEGUARDING

### Highlights of 2025

This year we have completed 57 DBS checks.

There was a change of DBS provider during the year due a data breach with the previous provider. The new service provider is helpful and easy to work with for example they send out auto reminders to people who are being asked to complete a DBS check.



### Hopes for 2026

Our hope is that by the diligence of all our church members and visitors that we can through endeavour to make Christ Church be a safe place for all, especially the young and vulnerable adults. That where a concern is raised that it is dealt with appropriately and that we constantly learn from our experience that we always aim to improve.

We also have five principles that we advertise weekly in services, in the news (and therefore in the Foyer) to ensure that everyone knows that Safeguarding is their concern.

We are in the process of training a new parish safeguarding officer and thank Alison Flexman for all her work over the years as she steps down.

*Christ Church PSO's*

### A reminder of the Safeguarding Principles we introduced in 2023:

#### SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES



Safeguarding principles

***Everyone protects boundaries and vulnerabilities by reporting.***

- 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

## AREA: Worship: Word and Prayer

### Highlights of 2025

- Romans continued to bless us to the very last chapter with a range of preachers bringing insights
- Worship for Everyone services continue to grow our intergenerational ministry with great opportunities to explore biblical themes with all ages; it has challenges for some to be able to engage and the team are working on these aspects
- The institution of an evening Gospel Service has been a special addition to our service pattern and is especially pleasing that it is entirely lay led and offers opportunities to a wider range of people to lead and speak (maybe finding other opportunities to do so elsewhere?)
- The Third service has continued to be a place of encounter and the prophetic, with a smaller but dedicated congregation, including occasional words of encouragement from the floor
- A series on Spirit Filled Worship at end of year has laid foundations for new service format in 2026
- Weekly prayer meetings – whether Firelighters or the Lenten Fast, Lament and Repent meetings - continue to be a feature, with varied take up

### Hopes for 2026

In 2026 it is hoped that a diverse range of preaching voices, including external speakers, will give new and exciting insights and that the prayers and encounter through God's Word and prayer will deepen and grow. It would be great if the weekly prayer meeting not only continued but developed and grew through the vacancy – Christ Church together in prayer.

## MINISTRY AREA: YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### Highlights of 2025

- Praise God for our incredible CCP/CCK/CCY team! We began the year with closing our Sunday kids and youth ministry due to lack of team



volunteers. Yet within a month of prayer and fasting, we were blessed by an incredible team of 40 members who serve so enthusiastically, servant-heartedly and with joy!

- A wonderful restructuring of our Sunday ministry with children and young people that has led to greater support, encouragement and worshipping together as a team as well as focusing on encounter



and ministry with children and youth in their times together.

- Amazing family outreach events at Easter, summer and Christmas which blessed around 700 people in total within the local community. By sharing the message of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection as well as blessing each and every person with wonderful hospitality, prayer and fun, so many come to call Christ Church a welcoming place for families!



- An incredible time with kids from both Christ Church and Purley Baptist worshipping, praying and having fun together at Carrot Wood, with children encountering God, facing challenges and recognising that God is with us in all situations - all though VERY wet, the day was a great success and firm friendships were formed!

## Hopes for 2026

- continued development and growth of our Sunday CCP/CCK/CCY team.
- growth and deepening of each and every children and young person's faith in God through encounter, raising younger leaders and stepping into new opportunities and gifting.
- Pressing into developing and expanding our opportunities for mission in and through the children and young people,
- Further development of ministering together with other churches and helping to equip, enable and encourage collaborative ministry to the younger generations.



*Jude Barber*

## MINISTRY AREA: COMMUNITY: CHURCH CENTRE USER GROUPS

### Highlights of 2025

We have had another busy year with 57 one-off weekend hirers; 26 regular weekly and monthly hirers; 10 regular and semi-regular counsellors, 10 church groups and 2 uniformed groups.

I'd say say that our ability to cater for many different functions and activities (i.e training sessions, corporate meetings, company celebrations, workshops or birthday parties) as well as offer affordable rates and discounts are definitely the high points of our purpose as a venue provider, but we must not forget that being able to offer a free and safe space to the community is as important.

Our hirers leave positive feedback regularly, out of which a few examples are shown below:

\*\*\* Thank you so much for everything my son had an amazing first birthday! \*\*\*

\*\*\* Thank you for all your help, the party was a great success :) \*\*\*



\*\*\* The venue was perfect for us and we will recommend it to others who need a venue for parties. Thank you again and all the best. :) \*\*\*

\*\*\* We had a great time and thank you so much for your support.

## Hopes for 2026

Our biggest hope is to be able to sustain the current level of engagement in our current hirers as well as generate interest in new, prospective ones by offering them a good standard of facilities on site, maintaining the equipment, attending to all repairs; and consequently creating lasting relationships as well as developing a solid reputation

***Magda Faltynowicz***

## MINISTRY AREA: YOUTH GROUP - TUESDAY EVENINGS WEEKLY

### Overview

The Tuesday Youth Group provides a welcoming weekly space for young people aged 11–18 to gather, build friendships and explore faith with a weekly attendance of around 30 and reaching 40-50.



Each session seeks to ensure that every young person is welcomed, seen, valued and leaves knowing a biblical truth. Evenings include shared food, games, encouragement, and a "thought for the week" style Bible reflection and discussion.

Our thanks goes to the dedicated and joyful Tuesday Youth Group volunteer team: Kathy Bradford, Andy Cooper, Tomi Ejedenawe, Jean

Loh, Ken Lupata, Richard Parris, Martin Ryan, Liz Sarkodie and Doug McHardie and Jude Barber stepping in at short notice and William Hunn setting up. We thank Liz Sarkodie for all her commitment for many years as she steps down. We are thrilled to welcome new team: Graham Duncan, David Hunn, Sue Keeler, Andre Thomas and Cynthia Smith - thank you all.

### Highlights of 2025

Year 6 Reunion BBQ which lead to 20 new Year 7's

All together time sharing news, stories of God's goodness and birthdays

Enjoying activities like Bake Off - Apple Pies complete with Prue and Paul judging their designs, gingerbread house building and cooking pancakes

Two young people stepping up to be Assistant Youth Leaders helping with set up and welcoming.

Positive feedback from parents highlighting Youth Group as a safe and supportive space



Evidence of spiritual growth, even among those with different views or no prior faith background  
New attenders hearing word-of-mouth



## Hopes for 2026

Opportunities for young people to encounter the Holy Spirit through sung worship with other youth groups

Continue to recruit and train additional team members.

Strategies to retain the Years 9-13 and consider establishing an additional Bible study group centred around a shared meal.

Youth Alpha

Post-university discipleship.

*Charlotte Hunn*

## MINISTRY AREA WORSHIP: MUSIC

### Highlights of 2025

One very encouraging feature of 2025 has been our monthly Gospel Worship Nights, which are on Sunday evenings. If you haven't already been, why not give them a try.

In our other services, we have been gradually seeking to introduce worship songs which draw on a broader range of cultural influences; as well as suitable songs which enable 'Worship for Everyone'.

Richard Slade continues to be a great blessing to the church family, through his faithful leading of sung worship as the organist at the 8.45 service each Sunday; and in leading our choirs at the carol service and Good Friday service.

At 11.45, we have been exploring how to be responsive to the Holy Spirit in our times of sung worship and ministry.

It was good to merge our worship band with that of Grace Vineyard for a joint service in Christ Church School on the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Behind the scenes, we are grateful to those who have helped and advised as we introduce tablets for the worship bands. Once we've got the hang of them, they will save paper and should make things easier and more flexible.

To God be the glory, great things He has done.



## Hopes for 2026

As we adopt a slightly different service pattern, our hope is that those leading sung worship help to create a space in which God moves as we worship Him in song. We will continue to look for opportunities to welcome young people into the worship bands. On a practical note, we hope that the newly acquired tablets will help us in our ministry and that we learn how to use them to best effect.

We continue to be blessed by those who offer their musical gifts to lead us all into God's presence through sung worship. May each one of us at Christ Church have a greater hunger for Jesus in 2026, not just in times of collective worship but in our daily lives.

*Graham Duncan*

## AREA: DISCIPLESHIP – EQUIPPING

### Highlights of 2025



- The main focus on courses in 2025 was the Pastoral Course in which 20 more people were trained as potential pastoral assistants from two churches
- During Lent a Sunday bible study took place with approximately 15 or so participants using material that looked at the people at the cross
- Discipleship groups continue as a place of group strengthening and support (see separate report)

### Hopes for 2026

IN 2026 that more opportunities to support one another in faith walk and that more people will join or set up Discipleship Groups and prayer triplets to build up faith.

## MINISTRY: HOUSE GROUP

### Highlights of 2025

All the discipleship group leaders meeting together in person last June for the first time since COVID.

Many groups enjoying The Bible Course videos.

Groups getting to grips with Hebrews

### Hopes for 2026

Meeting together again with the discipleship group leaders, hopefully on a couple of occasions this year. Hebrews 10:24-25: " And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and do good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..."



*Martin and Sara Ryan*

## AREA: EVANGELISM

### Highlights of 2025

- Usual opportunities to share the Good News include our seasonal events, especially at Christmas and the outdoor events in the summer and Easter
- The Task Force did not meet this year



- Alpha ran a couple of times and while small we had fruitful conversations with people who developed in their faith
- Many stories of individual opportunities to share faith with others in conversation
- Earlier in the year joining in with the street evangelism initiative led by Purley Baptist Church
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### Hopes for 2026

In 2026, a rejuvenated emphasis on sharing the Gospel and equipping and training members of Christ Church to be confident witnesses and raising up evangelists too.



## ALPHA

### Highlights of 2025

- Alpha ran twice this year with relatively small numbers but which included a member who brought along family members as the course developed!
- A number came only on the early block of the course as part of our requirement for preparation for baptism
- We have a very capable and enthusiastic team who both welcome and guide guests with warmth and openness
- Thanks to the whole team including those providing meals

### Hopes for 2026

In 2026 there will be more Alpha courses that will bring people to faith and build up those already of faith. That those who went through Alpha will continue to meet and grow together.

## MINISTRY AREA: SCHOOLS MISSION



### Highlights of 2025

- Mission and outreach to local schools through 'CSI:EASTER - the case of the missing body,' sharing and explaining the incredible gospel story of Jesus' death and resurrection to approximately 300 pupils, and 'Christmas Unwrapped' an immersive project with 5-7yr olds explaining the miraculous birth of Jesus to approximately 300 pupils.
- Fantastic links to Christ Church School and a warm open invitation to church for weekly collective worship, 'Peaced together' workshops, cake Wednesdays, Coffee and a cuddle, weekly prayer, regular services and ongoing support to staff and children.
- Great links with several local schools through collective worship, workshops, church visits, services and seasonal outreach projects.

### Highlights of 2025

- a deepening of support with Christ Church School
- an expansion of mission and outreach to local schools
- development for more worshipping opportunities within school context

Absolutely NONE of all that we are able to do to serve the children, youth and families well within the community and church could be done without the incredible prayer, support, encouragement and ongoing commitment of an INCREDIBLE team of volunteers - THANK YOU!

***Jude Barber***

## MINISTRY AREA: THE FOYER



**THE FOYER**  
CHRIST CHURCH PURLEY

**Open Monday to Friday  
9am to 12 Noon  
(Term Time)**

**Serving Filter Coffee, Teas,  
Soft Drinks  
Fabulous Homemade Cake**

**Free to all**

A great place to stop for a catch-up with friends after the school run or before/after your activity in the Church Centre

Live nearby?  
Come in for a chat with us, neighbours or friends

Need a change of scenery  
from working/studying at home? (free wi-fi available)

The Foyer is a lovely bright environment.  
Children welcome - plenty of space for pushchairs



## AREA: SOCIAL ACTION/ OUTREACH

### Highlights of 2025

#### Purley Food Hub

1. Much the same as 2024, variable numbers of clients attending the Food Hub, overall a slight decrease.
2. Decreasing numbers of volunteers
3. Finance remains healthy, but concerns for the future as in 24-25 expenditure exceeded income.

#### Nightwatch

1. The continuation of our sandwich making for Nightwatch for the fifth year running, helping to reduce the financial burden on them at a time when demand for their service is at an all-time high.

Thank you to all the volunteers from Christ Church Purley who have participated this year, for your kindness and generosity.

#### Refugees

1. Talk from trustee at Croydon Refugee Day Centre (CRDC) to raise awareness of the hardships and destitution of asylum seekers and recent refugees in Croydon. Lots of questions and discussion.
2. Two donations given to CRDC of £275 and £100. Most gratefully received by CRDC and used to buy toiletries and underwear.
3. CRDC give thanks to the members and their families at CCP who have donated very much needed clothing, bedding and kitchenware throughout the year.



## Tea and Talk

1. 2025 was a difficult year as many refugees were moved away from the hotel at very short notice. As there were fewer refugees on Thursday mornings some of our helpers decided to go elsewhere to serve. One of our team was unwell. Two regular helpers continued but after lack of interest from our guests in the Autumn we decided to finish our support at the hotel at beginning of December.

3. All helpers now support/teach refugees in other places.

Ivanka Lennon is a MU member who spoke at a Mission Partner Sunday and will ask if the CRDC needs anything. We are still involved with refugees but serving in a different way.

## Open Kitchen

1. We ran an open kitchen for refugees at our CC kitchen which gave them the opportunity to cook their own food. It was well received.

2. In August all our refugee cooks were moved to other locations. We tried to get others interested but to no avail. We have not run an open kitchen since August 2025.

## Hopes for 2026

### Purley Food Hub

1. Primary concern is that we are having to reorganise the Food Hub at the United Reform Church to use less space

2. We will be reducing to one day a week and no longer be a delivery service, but will the Food Hub be able to keep up with demand?

3. Clients will visit and hopefully be able to meet Client Support Volunteers to discuss their situations.

4. Volunteers and the need to recruit a new Chair of Trustees from 2027

### Nightwatch

1. To fill a few gaps in provision. Please pray that more churches will come forward to participate as we have had some needing to withdraw this year.

2. Protection, warmth and safety for our brothers and sisters who are homeless or vulnerably housed.

### Refugees

1. MU support in spreading the word for homeless shelter in Nov 2026 - this helps many local street homeless and a few homeless refugees.

2. Collecting bedding.

### Tea and Talk/ Open Kitchen

1. Our hope and prayer is that the refugees who have moved on will find God's love and care in their new destinations.

2. Continue to support the Croydon Refugee Day Centre.

## AREA: BEAVERS

### Highlights of 2025

The Beavers have had another fantastic and fun-filled year! We are delighted that our numbers have continued to grow steadily, and we now have 21 Beavers supported by two Young Leaders in our colony. It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm and energy each week.

This year's highlights have included a brilliant Beaver Sleepover and an exciting trip to Godstone Farm. We have also enjoyed visits to Frylands Wood, Pets at Home, and cycling adventures at Kenley Aerodrome.

Our Beavers have worked incredibly hard on their badgework this year. Badges earned include Animal Friend, Builder, Communicator, Creative, Experiment, Cyclist, Explore, and many more besides. It has been inspiring to see the Beavers challenge themselves, learn new skills, and grow in confidence.

We were also fortunate to welcome special visitors. A paramedic joined us to teach essential first aid skills, and a member of the Croydon Beekeeping Society visited to share fascinating knowledge about bees. The Beavers even had the opportunity to make their own beeswax candles — a hands-on experience they thoroughly enjoyed.

### **Hopes for 2026**

As we move into 2026, we hope to build on this year's momentum by offering even more adventurous activities, outdoor experiences, and opportunities for skill development. We aim to:

Organise another exciting sleepover experience

Increase opportunities for outdoor learning and nature-based activities

Continue expanding badgework opportunities

Strengthen links within our local community

Support our Young Leaders as they develop their leadership skills

Most importantly, we hope to continue fostering a colony where every Beaver feels confident, included, and proud of their achievements.

Heartfelt thanks go to my fellow leaders across all sections for their continued teamwork and dedication, to the parents who support us every step of the way, and finally to our wonderful Beavers, who never fail to put a smile on my face. I am immensely proud of each and every one of them.

***Louise Benn***

## **MINISTRY AREA: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT- MOTHERS' UNION**



### **Highlights of 2025**

Continuing as a group - no longer have a leader.

Fund raising, campaigning and service against domestic violence, Blue Christmas Service and regular craft and chat and news and prayers for families.

## Hopes for 2026

Celebrate our 150 years by encouraging others to join. Taking the service on Mary Sumner Day 9<sup>th</sup> August and organising a family picnic. Members to attend Quiet Day at Southwark Cathedral and special service at St Paul's and much more. We are arranging for a speaker from a woman's refuge to come and speak.

## MINISTRY AREA: MISSION PARTNERS

### Highlights of 2025

1. Continuing with quarterly Mission Partner Sundays.
2. It was a joy to welcome the Boyds from Oasis, Dan Burrows from the London City Mission, Bishop Lucy from Rush UK and Ivanka from the Croydon Refugee Centre during 2025 and find out more about the valuable work they do.
3. A Beetle Drive to raise much needed fund for Rush UK.



### Hopes for 2026

1. To continue with the Mission Partner Sundays and forge a closer relationship with our Mission Partners.

*Indrani Balachandran*

## CROYDON SOUTH DEANERY SYNOD 2025-26

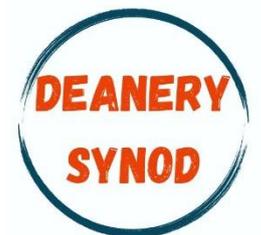
### Highlights of 2025

The year started with a meal at Christ Church on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The meeting concentrated on various aspects of recruiting and training volunteers for the work of the Church:

Ven Carol Coslett, diocesan Assistant Director of Lay Ministry, described the Southwark Vision for Lay Ministries.

There were various kinds of Affirmed (local/parish), Commissioned (diocesan) and Licensed (nationally recognised) Lay Ministries, each with their particular training pathway. Deanery Lay Vocations Champions would play a significant part here. Mrs Linda Etheridge (All Saints', Sanderstead) accepted the role for our Deanery.

Rev Sue Thomas then described the techniques used in a recent, highly successful, volunteer recruitment campaign at St John's. Volunteers, once recruited, need to be trained. Rev Doug McHardie then described a course in Pastoral Care delivered at Christ Church. Christ Church was very happy to assist other churches in similar endeavours. A very successful course had since been run at All Saints', Sanderstead Finally, Jude Barber, Lead Children & Families Pastor at Christ Church gave a fascinating presentation on work in this area in the parish. This included statistical information on attitudes to a spiritual matters among children and families, which very



much chimed with the information from Imani McEwen at an earlier meeting, demonstrating how vital this work is to the future of the Faith.

At St Andrew's on 11<sup>th</sup> June, we welcomed the Archdeacon of Croydon, Ven Greg Prior, as visiting speaker. Greg's theme was Global Mission. He had just returned from a visit to Zimbabwe, in the context of the Southwark- Zimbabwe link. Croydon Episcopal Area is particularly linked to the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe. Greg had been hugely impressed by the pastoral and community work done by churches in the diocese, with extremely limited resources. The Mothers' Union was a very powerful force in the country. He challenged us to reflect on what our churches were doing -and, more important, could do- for Global Mission, particularly the link with Central Zimbabwe. Many useful ideas and practices were identified. On 9<sup>th</sup> October, at All Saints', Kenley, our guests were Rev Peter Wyatt, St Francis', Selsdon, and community worker, Sam Pearson. They described the community work being done by St Francis' for the Monks Hill Estate. It had previously been rated one of the worst council estates in Croydon but was now much improved, with much lower levels of anti-social behaviour and crime. St Francis' community projects include breakfast and lunch clubs, a Men's Shed and a food pantry. Peter described the sources of funding available for community work, such as the National Lottery, Co-op and Croydon Area Mission grants, and how to access them. Several of our churches have now embarked on projects using the approaches described.

At All Saints', Sanderstead, on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026, the Rt Rev Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon, Archdeacon Greg Prior and George Clarke from the Diocesan Communications Team attended. George gave a talk on digital communications as an increasingly vital part of churches' communications toolkits. A particular need was to tailor our language, imaging and design to the intended audience and the devices they used – increasingly mobile phones. "Keep it short and keep it simple" were the watchwords! At this Synod we also bid a fond farewell to Rev Sue Thomas as Area Dean and welcomed our new Area Dean, Rev Doug McHardie, who was commissioned into the role by Bishop Rosemarie. The February Synod was the last of an exciting triennium, which had featured meeting focused on key issues facing our Churches and practical ways of tackling them, as well as wider topics of which we all need to be aware. As we conduct elections for Deanery Synod at the forthcoming APCMs, we would encourage church members to consider putting themselves forward for election. Membership of Synod involves hearing fascinating talks on a wide range of relevant topics, and the companionship of colleagues from other Churches. With grateful thanks to Chris Babbs, whose brilliant summary of the year I have very slightly shortened.

***Nick Whitley***

## **MINISTRY AREA: CAROUSEL BABY & TODDLER GROUP - TUESDAY MORNINGS WEEKLY**

### **Overview**

Carousel continues to provide a welcoming, relational space for families, with a focus on helping parents and children draw nearer to God. We welcome around 45 families weekly, reaching approximately 100 families overall.



We have a wonderful team of volunteers who make it all happen: Mary Sharpe, Gabby Welch, Yvonne Brown, Mags Polyviou, Sheri Brown, Gill Bell, Cynthia Smith, Amanda Shortland, Frank Coburn, Mandy James, Julie Cooper, Graham Duncan and William Hunn. We are so grateful for all you give Carousel.

## Highlights of 2025

Bible story time remains central and well received by families of little or no faith background.

Children engaging with faith at home (e.g. singing the lullaby).

Relationships built with long-term families and child minders continuing with multiple children over several years

Fabulous to re-meet teenagers joining Tuesday Youth Group who were attenders of Carousel Provision maintained during the Summer Holidays and hugely valued by parents when all else closes



## What guests said

"Thank you for all your love, play, games and bible stories. We can't wait to come back for 2026" a weekly attender and her son

"Thank you so much for brightening up our Tuesday mornings over last 4 years. Carousel is a fantastic place to come and we've enjoyed playing, crafting, drinking coffee, making new friends and listening to Scruffy! May God Bless you as you continue to serve the Purley

Community" a grandmother

## Hopes for 2026

For the Holy Spirit to nurture seeds sown through the bible stories and grow a desire to want more of Jesus.

For parents to be fully aware of and take up invitations to seasonal services, events, Sunday 'Stay & Play', Alpha or other courses.

*Charlotte Hunn*

## AREA: LIFE EVENTS

### Highlights of 2025

- We sadly lost members of Christ Church last year which occasioned services to remember them and celebrate their lives. They included Marjorie Bird, Margaret Hyde, Barbara Blackmore, Kathy Jhurry and Margaret Hall.
- We have also hosted a couple of services for parishioners which have presented logistical issues merely because of the numbers of mourners involved. Thanks go to the whole team whole funeral team who managed these expertly and with compassion.



- We have baptised a few during the year including one special service of baptism on the day of the Car Rally when both adults and children were baptised and came to be admitted to communion.
- Three of our candidates were confirmed at St John's, Old Coulsdon during the year.
- There was one wedding during the year.

## Hopes for 2026

In 2026 we hope to be able to continue to serve as the parish church and meet people at key events in their lives offering hope and love.

## AREA: OFFICE SUPPORT

The office is open Monday to Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm.

### Church Suite:

Please can everyone take time to check all your details are up to date and if you are on a rota that you show your unavailability. If you are unable to carry out a duty please make sure that you arrange a swap and don't just decline your role. You are all vital to the smooth running of Christ Church Purley.

Please, review whether you are displaying the personal information that you want to share because Church Suite default is "hide" so as to meet GDPR requirements!

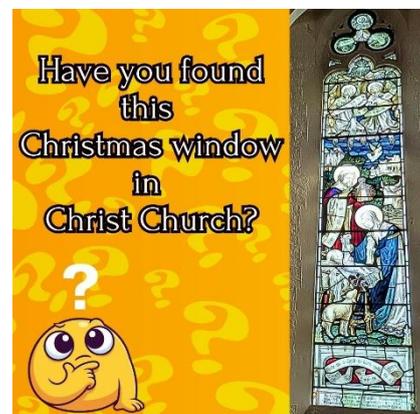
If you would like any help in using Church Suite please let Jean know.

The **Website** is updated weekly to reflect what is happening at Christ Church.

The Advent calendar on the website has proved to be even more popular this year with the individual day interactions being from 949 to the highest of 1582!! Did you find the Christmas window?

**Publicity:** Using posters, making use of Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Podcasts continues to be an area of development with a growing number of followers. Have you liked any posts? Are you following us on Facebook and Instagram – there are at least 2 posts every week?

**Services support:** We our use of Worship tools planning and presenter. Everyone that needs to has their own login and can add items to the service remotely. Worship leaders are as a result able to add their own songs in the correct keys and with the correct verses. We now also have a set of tablets for the band members to use thereby reducing the need for printing out paper copies each week.



**Jean Loh**

## AREA: CHURCH FABRIC TEAM



Our team has two aims: to keep the Church and Halls in good condition, and to make sure the various missions and activities of Christ Church are fully enabled and supported.

Routine maintenance has been carried out, repairing things as they go wrong. The following major maintenance contracts were carried out:

- Boilers, heating and control systems for the halls complex.
- The hot air heaters for the Church
- "PAT" checks of mains cables, extensions, and portable equipment.
- Annual check of security systems and fire alarms/ extinguishers.
- Multiple minor repair works, drain clearance, and repainting.

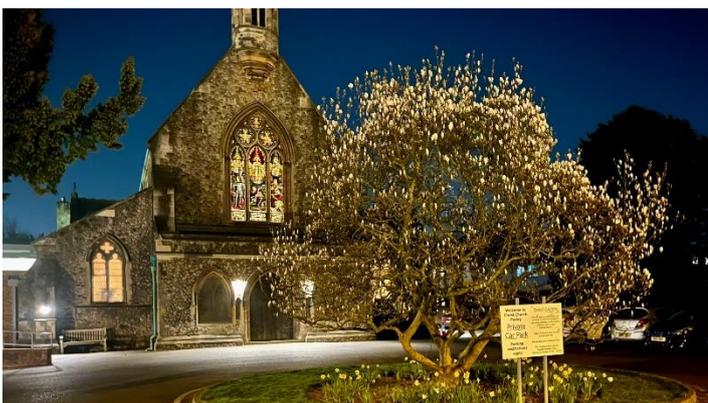
### Additional items

- More roof repairs at the junction between the Parish Hall roof and the entrance doors 'dormer' roof, which seems to have cured the leak outside the office reception.
- The 5-yearly electrical test was carried out. There will be some follow-on works, but none is urgent.
- A fire evacuation practice took place during Sunday services. It was very successful.
- New fire alarms have been installed in areas which had none before: the 'Hebron' sports hall and the original church itself.
- The front wall has been repaired by a heritage brickwork specialist.

The work of keeping our gardens and grounds clean and looking good continues, organised currently by Cynthia Smith.

***Tom Griffiths***

CHRIST CHURCH  
PURLEY  
Unofficial  
PIT STOP





*Registered Charity 1133205*

*Christ Church Purley, Brighton Road, Purley CR8 2BN*

*[www.christchurchpurley.org.uk](http://www.christchurchpurley.org.uk)*

*March 2026*