

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 9 th November		Remembrance Sunday
	8.45am	Traditional service with hymns
	Coffee	
	10.15am	Remembrance Sunday Worship for all ages
		Coffee
	11.45am	Third Service
	1 pm	Confirmation preparation and rehearsal
	5pm	Confirmation at St John's Old Coulsdon

Monday	9 am 9.15am 8pm	Foyer open Morning Bible Study PCC
Tue	9.00am 9.30am 7pm	Foyer open Carousel baby and toddler group Tuesday Youth Group
Wed	9am 9.15am	Foyer open Morning Bible Study
Thu	9am	Foyer open
Fri	9am	Foyer open
Sat		
Sunday 16 th November		Visiting speaker
	8.45am	Traditional service with hymns
	Coffee	
	10.15am	Worship service with CCKids & CCYouth
		Coffee
	11.45am	Third Service
	3pm	Alpha

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY:

We have three candidates – Aaron, Angela and Nicola – who are being confirmed by Bishop Richard at St John's Coulsdon at 5pm on Sunday 9th November – all welcome to come and support our brother and sisters.



Please be **praying for our candidates** who were:

on 2nd November – Baptised and some be admitted to Holy Communion and taking their **first communion**

On 9th November – three other candidates who will be **confirmed** by Bishop Richard at St John's Coulsdon



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 **THE CLOSE** and all who dwell, work or travel there.

find the link on our website.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 9th November

Confirmation service – Sunday 9th November 5pm at St John's Old Coulsdon

Midweek Communion – Wednesday 19th November

Midweek Lunch – Wednesday 19th November

Bereavement Support Group – Monday 24th November

LOOKING FORWARD TO DECEMBER AT CHRIST CHURCH

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1-5 Dec | Christmas Unwrapped for schools |
| 7 Dec | 10.15am Worship for everyone Christingle service (8.45am and 1.45am as usual) |
| 13 Dec | Live Nativity |
| 14 Dec | Sunday services at 8.45am, 10.15am and 11.45am |
| 17 Dec | 12noon Midweek Communion and Midweek Lunch |
| 21 Dec | Sunday services at 8.45am, 10.15am and 11.45am |
| 21 Dec | 6.30pm Carols by candlelight |
| Wed 24 th | Crib service
Midnight Communion |
| Thurs 25 th | 10.15am Christmas day All age communion |
| 28 Dec | 10.15am All age Communion service |



ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP IN ANY WAY THIS CHRISTMAS TIME AT CHRIST CHURCH?

We would really appreciate as many offers as possible to make the services and events all run smoothly and so that we can bless our many visitors.
Sign up using this link



Veteran car pit stop (Unofficial)



Last Sunday we were able to bless so many people at the Unofficial pit stop

We had 177 visitor vehicles in the end, with the peak running later than in past years. The car park was still almost full at 10.15, but was just empty enough for the congregation to start parking at 10.30am. By 11am there were just 2 broken down cars.

Apparently Christ Church is in the official drivers briefing notes, in spite of being an unofficial stop. No wonder we are getting so popular, but a great opportunity.

*"Just a note to say thank you for your hospitality yesterday, it's always appreciated! So please say thank you to the whole team on behalf of a grateful driver and his passengers!
Kind regards, Julian."*

*"Dear All. Yesterday morning I was just one of hundreds of LBVCR participants who called in at your Church for a very, very welcome 'stop'.
You have no idea how welcome a sight it is to see all your team of helpers guiding us into the carpark with a cheery welcome and the offer of refreshments to warm us up and give us the opportunity to stretch our legs.
Thank you all so much for your hospitality, hard work, prayers and wishes for a safe onward journey to Brighton. We appreciate it enormously and the bacon 'butties' are delicious! I hope to see you all on November 1st next year.
God bless. Yours David G"*



Safeguarding Update

We are in the process of registering with a new DBS checking service – Thirtyone:Eight. Once the new system is in place we will once again be able to carry out DBS checks.

CONFIRMING WHAT?

We are in the middle of a glorious 8 days of Anglican rites and sacraments.

"You what?" you might say!

Let me explain.

Last week we left the service buzzing as we baptised by full immersion and several were admitted to communion before confirmation. And this Sunday three further candidates will be confirmed by Bishop Richard at St John's Coulsdon.

But what, you might ask, is actually going on here? If you come from a Free Church or Baptist background you may only recognise one of those three things!

To understand a bit more, **especially about confirmation**, and how it fits within all this, it would be helpful to go back in church history a little. For confirmation has been described as "a rite seeking a biblical theology" – in other words, you won't find it in scripture!

Before we do that, what is the difference between a rite and a sacrament?

A rite is an activity or ritual offered in worship – it's something we do in a service – and usually its associated with a set template of words, maybe written down in a book. But you could also say that singing a block of three songs in charismatic worship is a rite or an "altar call" is a rite. It's something we do as an element of a service of worship.

But there are sacramental rites which are special. In the Church of England only two sacraments are recognised – baptism and Holy Communion. These are sacramental because they indicate "a visible sign of an invisible grace" – something God is doing with something ordinary – water in one, bread and wine in the other. And crucially both are commanded by Jesus:

"Go, make disciples and baptise them ..." (Matthew 28:19)

"Do this in remembrance of me.." (Luke 22:19)

They therefore become sacramental rites and are an important part of Christian worship. We saw both in action last week – and the whole service was electric with the presence of God!

Confirmation is a rite but not a sacrament in the Church of England.

And the reason it is a "rite seeking a biblical theology" is that you will not find it in scripture. It grew out of the tradition of the church. In an article in 2014 Ian Paul says this:

"Confirmation made some sense as a rite of passage to adult membership of the Church in a Christendom context. If the majority of the population was baptised as infants, confirmation made sense as an opportunity for catechism (teaching) of

*candidates, and as a rite of full admission to Church membership, in particular, admission to Holy Communion.”**

In other words, if everyone was doing it, then it makes sense for everyone else to join in!

But over the last 15 years the case for confirmation has become less clear. It was:

- Access to “full adult membership” of the Church
- The gateway to be admitted to Communion

That is no longer the case because to join the Electoral Roll of a church (the closest the Church of England has to membership) then you just have to be baptised and an habitual worshipper. Also with the introduction of admission to Holy Communion, usually for children, but adults can be too, then the second key feature of Confirmation has been diluted at best if not removed.

It is also worth noting at this stage that Confirmation can only be done by a Bishop whereas baptism and admission to communion are administered by parish clergy.

So how did we get here and where does it leave us with Confirmation?

The early church was working out how to be church. For three hundred years theologians scratched their heads working out who Jesus really was, how to replicate the worship and practices of the very early believers firstly while facing persecution and then eventually as the official religion of the Empire (312 onwards). By 325 some of the big questions had been settled at Nicea, with an agreed creed (not the last word but an important one that we say today).

For 1500 years there was only one church effectively and historically its centre of gravity changed and split but settled in Rome in the West. There was a bit split between East and West in the 11th century and within a couple of hundred years there were at least two Popes in different cities! But in time it settled and rites and practices as well as structures and theologies settled, including with regard to baptism and Holy Communion.

A belief grew up within this tradition that to die unbaptised risked eternal damnation at a time when infant mortality ran very high. Therefore babies would be baptised as early as possible, similar to the Jewish rite of circumcision with 8 days. That meant that as the West was in a state of Christendom – where Christianity was the universal religion – then almost every one had been baptised.

A second stage sacrament of Confirmation grew up to complete what had been started with the infant baptism. The important features were firstly that the Bishop performed the rite, who has the cure of souls through “apostolic succession” (ie Bishops can be traced back through the generations back to the original Apostles, especially the role of Peter in Rome). Secondly it involved a laying on of hands that was seen as necessary for the work of God to be completed – by claiming that aspect from certain baptisms in the book of Acts.

An aside, is that every vicarage or rectory is supposed to have one bedroom with a sink. This is known as the “Bishop’s bedroom” and dates back to a time when

Bishop's would get on their horse or take their carriage and travel from parish to parish seeking people to confirm. When darkness came the local curate would be expected to put up the Bishop in the room set aside for the purpose, and clergy housing has a Bishop's bedroom to this day!

The Reformation in the 16th century challenged a number of aspects of mediaeval Roman Catholic practice. That included the access to the Communion in both kinds (bread and wine) as well as the Word of God in the language of the people. Some movements included a challenge to the idea of infant baptism, in favour of "believers baptism" (Anabaptists) where baptism required the profession of faith by the person themselves.

Turning the clock forward 500 years we see a very different situation. Baptism is the exception rather than the rule in society generally. Many are not baptised as infants, instead coming to the sacrament if they do as adult believers.

The Church of England is a reformed Roman Catholic church. The church in England that Henry VIII took control of was the Roman Catholic church. The Church of England reformed to an extent but kept much that was Roman (for that was Henry's heart really).

And so now, with changes in society and with a church that is neither one thing nor another historically – a *via media*, middle way – then we now have a rite that has moved away from its original purpose. And to some is unnecessary or worse makes no sense.

But this is where I commend it to you. To consider and to support. For it is the epitome of Anglican identity as a church that honours its history and offers opportunities in the flexible liturgy for expression of deep worship.

My contention is that Confirmation does not **add** anything to your baptism. But it can in some ways confirm what happened there, not least in the opportunity to speak a testimony of what God means to you and to restate baptism vows and ask the Holy spirit to meet with you special outpouring of grace.

My own experience was a late decision to be baptised by my Vicar in the morning and then presented for Confirmation in the evening. The morning experience was underwhelming, with water dripping down the neck of my shirt in front of the whole congregation. The evening on the other hand, I knelt before the Bishop and I can only describe it as like a powerful static electricity between his hand and the top of my head. Nothing to do with the Bishop and everything to do with the way in which God manifested his blessing and anointing that day. Literally electric!

As our candidates present themselves on Sunday please pray for them, and if you can, come along to support them as they make this free will step. They actually don't have to but they all feel called to meet with God in this way. It will be a special event.

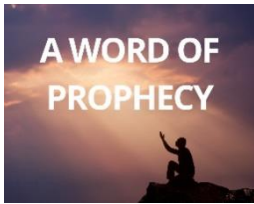
Every blessing

Doug vicar@chritchurchurchpurley.org.uk

**<https://www.psephizo.com/life-ministry/is-baptism-enough/>*

AREA DEAN FOR CROYDON SOUTH DEANERY

Rev Sue Thomas is stepping down from the role of Area Dean for Croydon South Deanery (Church of England Churches in Purley, Kenley, Coulsdon and Sanderstead) in February 2026. Bishop Christopher announced this week that **Rev Doug McHardie (Christ Church Purley)** has been nominated and appointed to succeed Sue in this role.



A picture of a large bridge over a river. God maybe saying "The bridge is what I threw across the divide between you and me on the cross. It is also a picture of faith and now it overcomes in life's divides between where we are and where we would like to be. How much are you longing for a more complete life? Throw your faith across the river that divide so that you achieve by My Spirit what I long for you to achieve and have prepared for you beforehand. So be bold and be as strong as the bridge over the river. It will take your weight of fear worries and have and obstacles that get in the way. You can live with confidence.

Supporting Jamaica following the devastation of hurricane Melissa



Bishop Rosemarie writes:
"The devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica has left behind a trail of destruction and heartbreak. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Jamaica and the wider Caribbean at this time of need.

I have written a prayer for those affected, which you are welcome to use and share. You can find it here: [Prayers for the people of Jamaica and the Caribbean - The Diocese of Southwark](#)

But prayer must also be accompanied by action.

In response to this crisis, **Croydon BME Forum** and the **Windrush Generation Legacy Association** are coordinating a relief effort. Their Head Office at **56a Mitcham Road, Croydon CR0 3RG** will be open - **weekdays – 10am to 4pm and Saturday 9am to 6pm** for donations. They are requesting items of tinned food, toiletries, and cleaning products specifically – see attached for the full list.

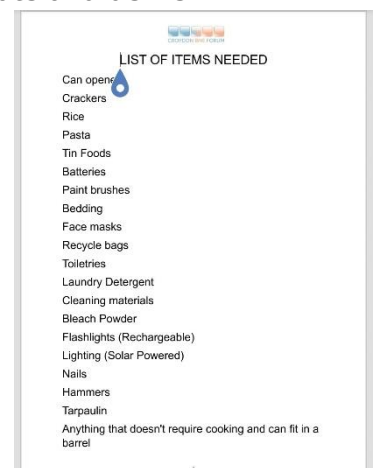
Over the coming weeks, volunteers will also be needed to help coordinate and deliver this vital support. If you can help, please contact: info@bmeforum.org

If you prefer to give financially, the Jamaican government has confirmed the following donation sites as legitimate and secure:

Jamaican Government site - [Support Jamaica – Official Disaster Relief & Recovery Portal](#)

Red Cross - [Donate to Jamaica | Hurricane Melissa | Disaster Fund](#)

With my prayers and blessings, Bishop Rosemarie"



JAMAICA NEEDS YOUR HELP



ITEMS NEEDED INCLUDE:

- Non perishable food items(lots of tin food, rice, instant noodles, sugar, sardines, corned beef etc)
- Solar lights
- Battery powered lights,tarpaulins, paint brushes
- Diapers for adults and babies
- Personal hygiene items

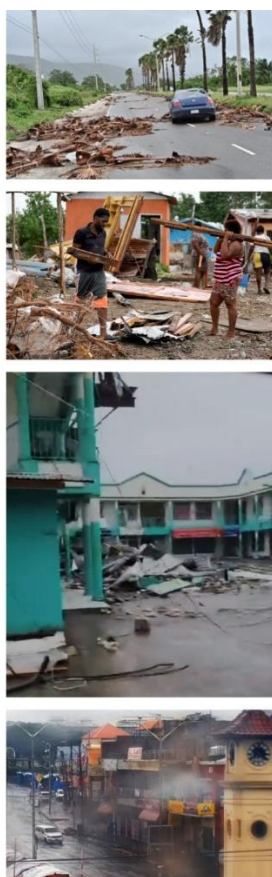
For more information
Email info@bmeforum.org

Items can be dropped off on Saturday 1st November from 9am to 6pm

Address : Croydon BME Forum, 56a Mitcham Road, Croydon, CR0 3RG

We will be using Jamaican National Bank to send financial donations





FEEL FREE TO SHARE




First Aid at Christ Church Purley



First aid boxes can be found – in the Foyer kitchen and each large room / kitchen.

Please complete accident form – use the QR code below for **ALL** accidents or alternatively there are accident books where paper copies can be completed – find these by the first aid boxes.

Please let Jean know if a paper form has been completed as we need to keep these securely in the office to comply with data protection.

If you spot items are depleted in any of the boxes please let Jean know in the office ASAP

Online Accident form



Online Incident form



Incident reporting form

Harley's Christmas Fundraiser

Saturday 29 November 2025 10am-2.00pm
At Christ Church, Purley, Brighton Road CR8 2BN
In the Philippi Lounge

All money raised will go towards providing specialist physiotherapy for Harley Stenning



Read Harley's story at
www.gofundme.com

Scan the QR Code



Tombola

Homemade Cakes

Flavoured Gins

Handmade Cards
and Decorations

Bric a Brac

Refreshments

Preserves

Handmade
Jewellery and
Gifts

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 #6 in the series*
of Positive Life Courses



How to get a good night's sleep every night

"Boosting the Benefits of Sleep" course

- Tackling insomnia & sleep-related problems
- Good sleep 'hygiene' & sleep strategies
- The impact of not getting enough sleep

Based on the books *Why We Sleep* by Matthew Walker and *Sleep - Harness the power of sleep for optimal health & wellbeing* by Petra Hawker

Duration: 2 sessions of 2 hours

When: Wednesday 3rd & 10th December 10-12noon

Cost: Free of charge

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

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

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

*For more details of other courses in the *Positive Life* series search: [PositiveLifeCourses](https://www.positivelife.org.uk)

CROYDON CITADEL PRESENTS

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

A CONCERT IN AID OF CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER 2025

7PM

PURLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

BANSTEAD ROAD, PURLEY CR8 3EA

A FREE CONCERT TO GET YOU INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

[HTTPS://CAPCHARITYCONCERT.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK](https://capcharityconcert.eventbrite.co.uk)

FEATURING MUSIC FROM OUR

BAND
CHOIR
TIMBRELS

Celebrating Christmas - CAP Charity Concert, Friday 5th December 7pm to 9.30pm The Salvation Army Band will make a return visit to Purley Baptist Church on **Friday 5th December** to help get us into the spirit of Christmas. This time their choir will join them so it promises to be an extra special event. It's free to attend by registering at <https://capcharityconcert.eventbrite.co.uk>. Any voluntary donations will be used to support the work of Christians Against Poverty (CAP) in our local community. Nigel Davidson Christians Against Poverty

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.



FIRE EVACUATION

On a Sunday morning in the event of the fire alarm going off the following procedure will take place:

- An announcement will be made in church
- Fire Marshalls will open the exit doors
- All should leave by the closest available door that can be safely accessed
- Fire Marshalls will direct everyone to leave the building and assemble at the assembly points in the car park – in the far corners at front and back
- There are four evacuation zones – church, foyer, hall and back of the building
- Go to assemble with others at your nearest assembly point and wait for further instructions
- Children will remain in the care of the Childrens' team until it is clear that parents can safely collect their children or if a false alarm/drill will be taken back into groups and adults return to church

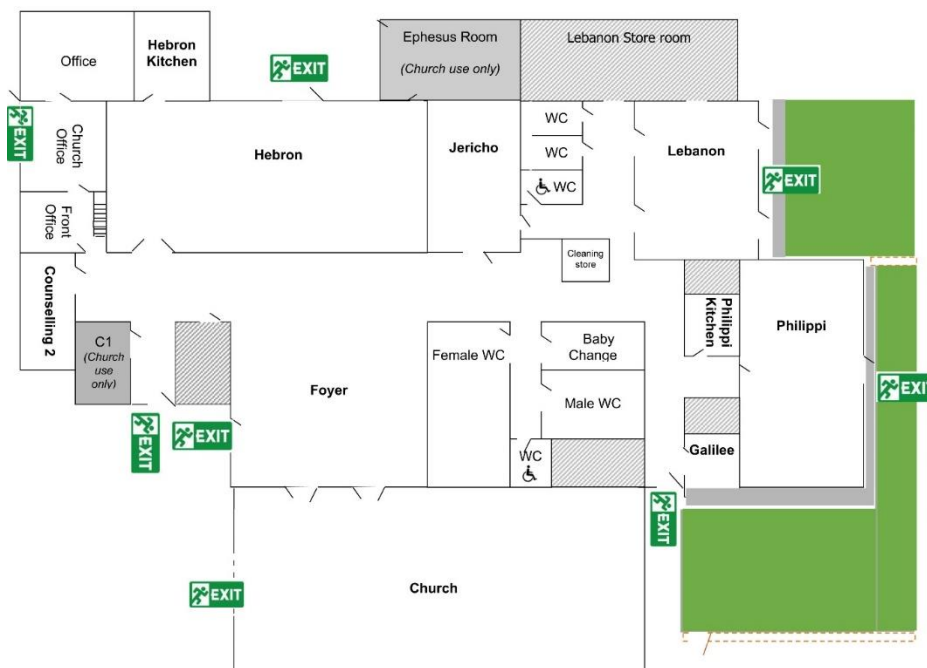
If you have any questions please contact the

office@christchurchpurley.org.uk

This notice was given in church on Sunday for clarification.



Emergency evacuation procedure for services



Can you help Henry?

Henry is needing new people to encourage him out of his hiding place and to take a gentle weekly stroll around the church.

Are you interested?

Please contact Jean in the office



CHRIST CHURCH
PURLEY

Safeguarding Principles

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

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



Christ Church Privacy notice