

# CHRIST CHURCH PURLEY *News*

MAKING PASSIONATE DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST

*"God is in the salvation business, and so are we" (APCM May 2025)*

*<sup>14</sup> 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 7 December**

**8.45am -Traditional  
Communion service with hymns**

**10.15am - Worship for  
everyone: Christingle service**

**11.45am - Third service**



Sunday 7th December	Advent 2	HOPE Luke 1:26-38
	8.45am	Traditional service with hymns
	Coffee	
	10.15am	Worship for everyone Christingle service
		Coffee
	11.45am	Third Service
	3pm	Alpha Holy Spirit "Away Day" (here!)

Monday	9 am 9.15am	Foyer open Morning Bible Study
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		LIVE NATIVITY
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Advent 2	How much more? – Healing James 5:13-20
	8.45am	Traditional service with hymns
	Coffee	
	10.15am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		Coffee
	11.45am	Third Service (last one in 2025)
	3pm	Alpha (last session in 2025)

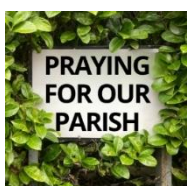
# LIVE NATIVITY EVENT

CHRIST CHURCH  
PURLEY

Saturday 13 December 3.30pm  
Starting at Tesco Purley

Follow the donkey as we tell the Nativity story,  
sing carols on our way to Christ Church,  
for craft, animals, mulled wine & mince pies





**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 **Woburn Avenue** and all who dwell, work or travel there.

Find the link on our website.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



## LOOKING FORWARD TO DECEMBER AT CHRIST CHURCH

Joy  
peace  
**JESUS**  
Magi  
Joseph  
shepherds  
Mary  
star  
Miracles  
angelic host  
Holy Spirit  
supernatural  
Nothing is impossible  
with GOD

**CHRISTINGLE - THE LIGHT OF JESUS**  
Sunday 7 December 10.15am  
ideal for all ages with oranges, candle and sweets

**LIVE NATIVITY EVENT**  
Saturday 13 December 3.30pm  
Starting at Tesco Purley  
Nativity story and carols as we follow the donkey  
with craft, animals, mulled wine and mince pies

**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**  
Sunday 21 December at 7pm  
with choir and quiet reflection  
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

**CRIB SERVICE**  
Christmas Eve 4pm  
ideal for all ages with craft, tea and coffee from 3.30pm

**MIDNIGHT HOLY COMMUNION**  
Christmas Eve 11.15pm  
with choir and quiet reflection

**CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION**  
Holy Communion Service 10.15am  
ideal for all ages with festive fun

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 7 Dec  | 10.15am Worship for everyone <b>Christingle</b> service (8.45 am and 1.45am as usual) |
| 13 Dec | <b>Live Nativity</b>  |
| 14 Dec | Sunday services at 8.45am, 10.15am and 11.45am  |
| 17 Dec | 12noon Midweek Communion and Midweek Christmas Lunch                                  |

18 Dec    Holiday at Home Christmas party

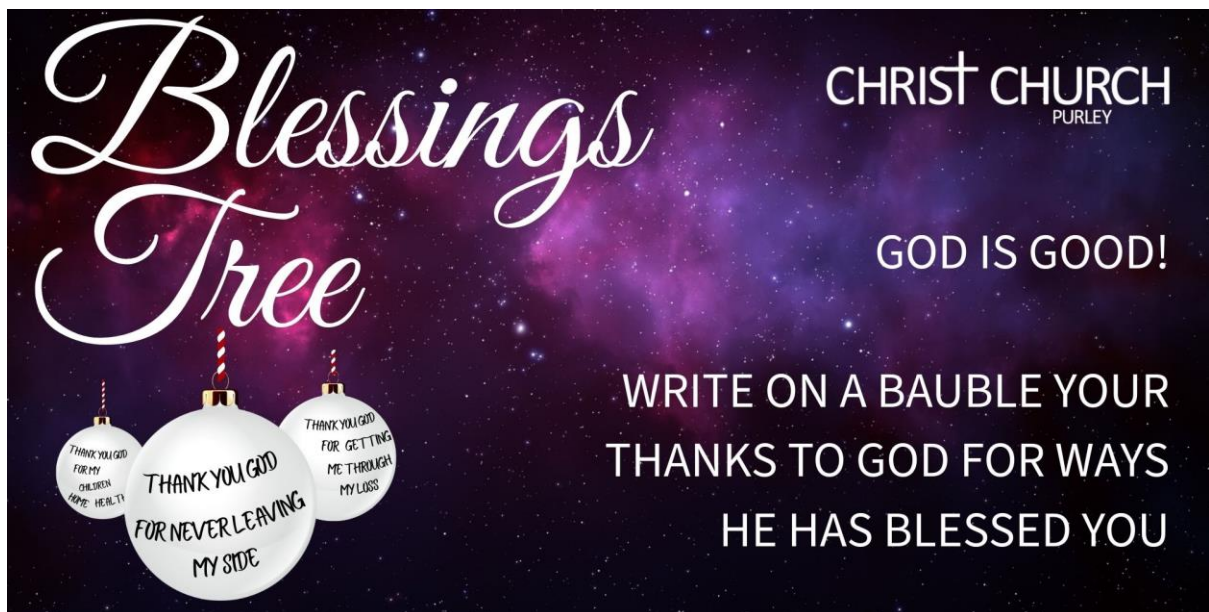
21 Dec    Sunday services at 8.45am, 10.15am and 11.45am

21 Dec    7pm **Carols by candlelight**

Wed 24<sup>th</sup> **Crib service**  
**Midnight Communion**

Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> 10.15am **Christmas day All age communion**

28 Dec    10.15am All age Communion service



### **THE BLESSINGS TREE:**

Visit our 'Blessings tree' to add your blessing bauble to the tree in the church car park!

- Think of **how God has blessed you!**
- take a bauble from the crate and write it on the bauble using the sharpie pen enclosed, that **others may see the glory of God!**
- hang the bauble on the tree
- replace the pen in the crate and put the lid on the crate.

Full instructions for the blessing tree will be in the box under the tree with everything that is needed. There will only be a few baubles in the box at a time and a pen.





The Christ Church Advent calendar is now available on our website - find it at



Advent Calendar 2025

[christchurchpurley.org.uk](http://christchurchpurley.org.uk) or use this QR code. What will you discover behind the windows each day?

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

M.U events for everyone

- Making Christmas table decoration in the Foyer **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December** 10am - 12noon
- **Blue Christmas Service** (remembering those we love and see no longer) 7pm Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December contact the office for venue details
- **Bishop Rosemarie sharing her life story** 6.45pm Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 in the Foyer

## CHRISTMAS CARD BOXES:

The boxes are out in church for you to post your Christmas cards to each other. Please post them according to the first letter of their surname. Make sure you check each week and collect your own 'post'.



**CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS:** Our custom is to take a retiring collection at each of our Christmas services. This year we will be supporting two local charities: **Nightwatch**

who act as first line of contact for homeless people and sign-post them to other agencies and the **Croydon Refuge Day Centre** who provide support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the Croydon area.



**Card donations can be made either in the church or in the foyer at the Bookstall**



**Can you help?** Live Nativity Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December (15:30-17:30 plus set-up/rehearsal where appropriate).

Can you help? We have a fantastic opportunity to share the Christmas story of Jesus' birth with the local community through our 'Live nativity' which is taking place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December starting outside Tesco's and moving along the street until we reach church. This wonderful family-friendly event involved a re-enactment of the Nativity, Christmas Carols, crafts, refreshments and donkeys!

### **We still need:**

7x stewards

5x refreshment team

7x actors (to mime to narration)

2 craft leaders (DBS required)

4x prayer tent leaders (DBS required and prayer training)

We also need 6-7 people to help with set-up and pack down.

If you can help, please either fill-in the form here  
<https://christpurley.churchsuite.com/-/forms/dsygacbe>

or contact Jude on: [jude@christchurchpurley.org.uk](mailto:jude@christchurchpurley.org.uk)

Please may we ask you to pray for this event as we seek to share news of Jesus' incredible birth!



## 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



## DELIVERING CHRISTMAS PUBLICITY

**There are still some bundles for the streets in our parish waiting to be claimed! street by street.**

**Please look at the sign-up sheet and sign up when you take a bundle so that we can cover the whole parish this year again!**

**If you find the numbers are wrong in your bundle please email**

**Jean [office@christchurchpurley.org.uk](mailto:office@christchurchpurley.org.uk) and I will update it for the next time.**



## BREAK THE ROOF TILES...

As I started making notes for this week's blog I was sitting in the staffroom at our local church Primary school amidst the devastating news. A teacher has died suddenly and unexpectedly and the ripples of shock were emanating throughout the school community and for her family. Being present felt the right thing to do but also helpless in a way, because there are no words at this time.

I had some time to contemplate scripture as I waited between break and lunchtime and everyone was in the classroom again. The passage was the story of the man who could not walk who was brought to Jesus by his friends but who could not get through the crowds. They therefore used an unusually determined route – through the roof. It's a well-known passage. On this occasion a particular key concept spoke into the situation surrounding me.

But before getting into that, I also had an interlude of contemplation when my eye fell upon the school values hanging up in the corner of the staff room. I know that these give inspiration to the staff, especially at this time, and I couldn't help relating them to the strength that they all needed right now.

The demonstration of **love** in their loss was palpable, for their lost colleague and for each other, and now for the children and parents who were yet to hear the news. The **courage** required to firstly come back into school the day after finding out the terrible news let alone to go back into the classroom carrying it for the children as well as themselves was immense. The **honesty** required to be open with feelings, and there are always myriad of these at a time like this, was evident and would ultimately be the message given to the children, to be honest about how they were feeling. And the **faith** (and faithfulness) that inspired many and was shown to their dedication to do their job was foundational.

Yet there were many unanswerable questions. To which the answer can only be "*We don't know*". The why questions that inevitably arise with the shock of a sudden loss.

And at times like this all we have in the helplessness is Jesus.

And his character as a loving, merciful, compassionate son of God.

So as I read through the passage I wondered what it might reveal about Jesus in this school right now. The context is that we find two sets of calling of new disciples – the fishermen who would fish for men and Levi the tax collector – sandwich a series of healings. A man healed of leprosy who was told not to tell anyone and a man who could not walk who was healed in front of a large crowd!

Call – healing – call.

Jesus was teaching and religious leaders had come from far and wide to hear him (and challenge him). He was healing people and the power of God was evident. So much so that the crowd blocked the doorways of the house he was in and so when the friends turned up with their invalided compatriot, paralysed by something unknown, he cannot access the healer.

How much does the shock of sudden loss and unexpected grief paralyse us? Our emotions and our minds can become numb and disoriented. Protecting us from onslaught of sadness or anger or all the other emotions that can flow at a time such as this.

The faithful loving courageous friends did not give up. Instead they found an unorthodox mode of entry. Climbing up on the roof, removing some tiles, making a hole big enough to fit a man on a blanket, they lowered him down into the centre of the crowd who had previously blocked their way.

And here is the key. They did all this **to place their friend in front of Jesus**.

The religious leaders churlishly challenge Jesus for offering forgiveness (which happens to be the final school value), seeing this as blasphemy for "*only God can do that*". They had waited for a messiah and now he was here they could not see. Jesus knows their thoughts, answers their query and heals the man.

Everyone was amazed (they had seen another miracle and a glimpse of who Jesus actually is), praised God and were filled with awe. They saw remarkable things that day.



Jesus made a promise when preaching on the mount – *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted"* (Matthew 5:3-4)

We say Rest in peace and Rise in Glory of those who die – because God is merciful to those who die and for those who believe there is a promise of life eternal, that they *"will not perish but have eternal life"*. That is a life with God in the perfect new creation to come.

For those who are left behind in grief and sorrow, amidst the pain, we can feel helpless.

But the courageous, faithful, loving thing to do might just be to break through the roof and place them in the centre, right in front of Jesus.

They *will* be comforted.

That's his promise to us at this time.

Let us pray and continue to pray for all those affected, at school, in our church and for the family.

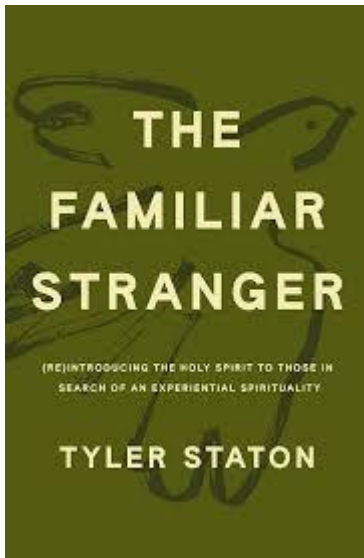
Amen.

<sup>17</sup> One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. <sup>18</sup> Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. <sup>19</sup> When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

<sup>20</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

<sup>21</sup> The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

<sup>22</sup> Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? <sup>23</sup> Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? <sup>24</sup> But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>25</sup> Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. <sup>26</sup> Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."



### ADVENT READING RECOMENDATION:

To read alongside our current series "How much more?": Spirit filled worship.

A clear and insightful read. Lots of examples. Wise advice. Huge encouragement that there is more of God for every believer.

Practical and accessible.

### CHRIST CHURCH SCHOOL: sad news

It is with great sadness that I let you know that Christ Church School is currently in mourning.

Julie Bleach, a year 2 teacher of many years and member of Christ Church, sadly died on Tuesday this week. Julie was a much loved and vital presence in the school and she is sorely missed.

The staff were informed yesterday after school and parents/carers were sent a letter this afternoon. The children were told later this afternoon and given some time to process and reflect before going home.

This has shocked the whole school community. **Please do pray for that comfort and peace that only our Lord Jesus can bring by his Spirit.** His hand has been upholding senior leaders and staff as they navigate this terrible situation.

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit , for theirs is the kingdom of heaven;  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted" (Matthew 5:3-4)*

If you need to speak to or pray with someone regarding this news please do contact me [vicar@christchurchpurley.org.uk](mailto:vicar@christchurchpurley.org.uk).

*(Copy of e-mail sent to CCP members on 3<sup>rd</sup> December).*

## TO CHRIST CHURCH PURLEY

DEAR ALL,

**BIG** thanks from Purley Food Hub to everyone at Christ Church Purley for the £1,533.70 proceeds from the 2025 Veteran Car Race that you kindly donated to us in November 2025.

I have attached our Thank You Certificate which we hope you can display in the building.

As you know, at the Food Hub we give three-day emergency food parcels plus toiletries and household essentials to local people in crisis and to date we have provided food for **400,000 meals for 45,000 people** since we opened in 2013.

It is directly because of the fantastic support we receive from local churches like Christ Church, as well as from schools, community organisations, and many families and individuals, that - together - we can make a real difference for families facing real hardship at this time.

And, in the words of Trevor Jones, it means we can continue to be here for them for as long as there remains a need.

With our thanks again and best wishes to you all, Steve



This certificate is presented to



**CHRIST  
CHURCH  
PURLEY**

for the £1,533 you kindly donated to Purley Food Hub from the Veteran Car Run on 2/11/25.

As always, we are very grateful for your support - it helps to make a real difference to local families facing hardship at this time.



PURLEY FOOD HUB  
Tel: 07546 635295 | Email: purleyfoodhub@gmail.com  
Website: www.purleyfoodhub.net  
Charity no: 1152807 | Company no: 08557885

Churches  
**together**  
Purley & Kenley



## CHRIST CHURCH COURSES – News

The latest cohort of the Pastoral Training course has come to the end of the internal sessions (with 4 sessions from external speakers planned for the new year).

It has been a joy to join with members of All Saints Sanderstead in this course.

Next courses:

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

*Prayer Ministry*

*How to hear God's voice*

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



## FOOD LIST CHRISTMAS / DECEMBER 2025



At Purley Food Hub we provide food and household essentials to local people going through tough times. Please consider donating any of our **Top Ten priority items this Christmas time:**

-  Tins of Plain Meat - Chicken, Ham
-  Packet & Tinned Potatoes
-  Tinned Peas & Carrots
-  Cartons of Long Life Whole Milk
-  Tinned Dessert Fruit
-  Puddings / Jellies / Packet Custard
-  Small Bottles of Squash
-  Small Packets of Christmas Biscuits
-  Children's Chocolate / Sweet Treats
-  Small Bottles of Washing Up Liquid

Thank you so much everyone for your generous support.  
In the past 12 years you have kindly helped us to provide food  
for over **400,000 meals** for more than **45,000 people**.



### PURLEY FOOD HUB

Tel: 07546 635295 | Email: [purleyfoodhub@gmail.com](mailto:purleyfoodhub@gmail.com)

Website: [www.purleyfoodhub.net](http://www.purleyfoodhub.net)

Charity no: 1152807 | Company no: 08557885

Churches  
**together**  
\*Purley & Kenley



## Advent Sunday

30 November 2025

BISHOP CHRISTOPHER, Bishop of Southwark, announced that he will be retiring in August 2026 and that Bishop Rosemarie (Bishop of Croydon) will be Acting Diocesan Bishop until a replacement is appointed.

Our Prayers go out in thanksgiving for + Christopher's ongoing ministry and leadership.

The full statement issued last Sunday can be found here



BISHOP CHRISTOPHER,  
Bishop of Southwark

We have been asked to share the following request:  
"As I'm sure you're aware, each year we 'Paint Purley Purple' to raise awareness and funds for the South East Cancer Help Centre – it is a wonderful campaign which sees us adorn the trees in Purley with purple knitted panels. The campaign is due to take place in July and August 2026.

We are now at the stage of trying to recruit 'knitters' who would be happy to knit panels for the trees so that we can increase the number of trees covered in purple."

### Parking at Christ Church

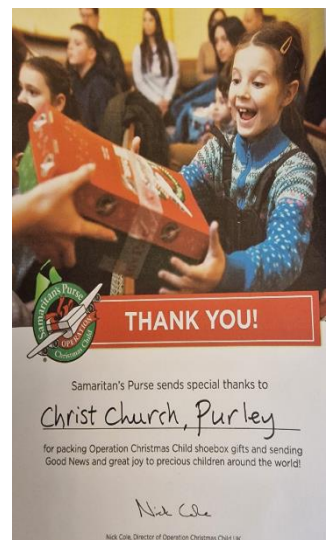


Parking should only be in in marked bays – on Sundays and during the week. Special attention should be paid to areas needed for access by emergency vehicles such as outside the oak doors and on the roundabout.

### Shoebox Appeal 2025

Thank You Christ Church for your kindness and generosity packing 97 shoeboxes this year. Please continue to pray for their life-changing impact.

We were a Church Collection Centre again, during the week of 10 – 17 November, when another 626 shoeboxes were brought to Christ Church from the community, making a total of 723. They were collected on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone who helped with this.



## 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



### SUNDAY TOILET FACILITIES:

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

The main block of toilets is for **adults only or parents who need to accompany their child**. There will be signs on the toilet to remind everyone.



## 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