

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 14 th December | Advent 3 | 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) |
| Monday | 9am 9.15am | Foyer open Morning Bible Study |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Tue | 9am 9.30am 7pm | Foyer open Carousel baby and toddler group Tuesday Youth Group |
| Wed | 9am 9.15am 12noon | Foyer open Morning Bible Study School service in church Midweek Communion Midweek Lunch |
| Thu | 9am | Foyer open |
| Fri | 9am | Foyer closes at 12noon until 5 th Jan |
| Sat | | |
| Sunday 21 st December | Advent 4 | How much more? – Intercession Romans 8:22-27 |
| | 8.45am | Traditional Communion service with hymns |
| | Coffee | |
| | 10.15am | Morning Worship |
| | | No third service |
| | 7pm | Carols by Candlelight |

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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

LOOKING FORWARD TO DECEMBER AT CHRIST CHURCH

- 13 Dec **Live Nativity**
- 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

21 Dec 7pm **Carols by candlelight**

Wed 24th **Crib service**
Midnight Communion

Thurs 25th 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

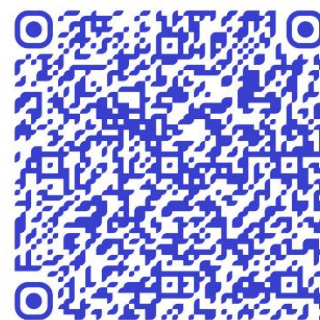
write it on the bauble using the sharpie pen enclosed, that **others may see the glory of God!**

- 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 [What will you discover behind the windows each day?](#)



[Advent Calendar 2025](#)

News from our Zimbabwe Parish Link

Greetings from St Martin's Parish, Amaveni.

The Church Council extends heartfelt thanks for your well-timed and generous donation. With your support, we were able to purchase two sliding doors for the ECD block. You can see the sliding screen doors behind us.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.
May God continue to bless you abundantly.



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

M.U events for everyone

- **Blue Christmas Service** (remembering those we love and see no longer)
7pm Thursday 18th December contact the office for venue details
- **Bishop Rosemarie sharing her life story** 6.45pm Monday 16th 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 Refugee 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



WHAT DO YOU MEAN ITS NOT ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

I have childhood memories of Christmases gone by. Tree lights that were big bulbs in shapes of Christmas images like snowmen, Santa and the like. They were wired in series so that if you loosened one of them they all went out. Dad's game was to unscrew one and we had to find which one it was until we

could tighten it and they would light up again!

We had an advent calendar that came out each year and each would get a turn at opening a daily window to reveal – no not a chocolate, or mini bottle of gin or perfume, but a line of the nativity story, and the reward was to be able to read it out.

And that calendar counted down the days to Christmas Day. A period we call Advent.

Counting down the days to the birthday of Christ. The nativity story, leading to the birth itself.

But that is a relatively new idea for Advent. Since the original meaning was an observance of the **coming again** of Christ.

*"The name comes from Latin *adventus* ('coming; arrival'), translating the [Greek *parousia*](#) from the [New Testament](#), originally referring to the [Second Coming](#).*

The season of Advent in the Christian calendar anticipates the "coming of Christ" from three different perspectives: the physical nativity in [Bethlehem](#), the reception of Christ in the heart of the believer, and the [eschatological](#) Second Coming." (Source: Wikipedia)

IT should not surprise us then that the well-known Carols we sing at this time actually speak more broadly of the Gospel story than just Luke's narrative of the birth of Christ we call the nativity.

Take *Hark the Herald*, which surely is just about the angelic host (?), for instance....

*1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"*

Ok, so yes we see the angels meeting the shepherds in praise in Luke 2 but aren't they getting ahead of themselves a little? Peace and mild mercy breaking in certainly – but God and sinners reconciled? Already? He has just arrived. Surely he has to die for that to happen? And that's Easter.

*Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;*

*with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

Ok, back to the nativity. An invitation for all to sing his praises (and yes he hasn't triumphed yet, the victory is not yet won – but we will let that pass). This is definitely a **Christmas** Carol!

*2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:*

Yep, so we can proclaim him Lord, even though he is a baby. That's his divine right. And still centred on Luke's miracle – the annunciation come to fruition – a virgin birth. This is definitely Christmassy!

*veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.*

This is the start of the incarnation, the "word made flesh" as John would have it. "Immanuel" , "God with us". This is the stuff of the Christmas story. His coming into the world. No straying here. Angels, shepherds, virgin and a baby that is God and man in one. Solid Christmas ground.

*3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.*

Wait a minute. Straying a little here perhaps? Bringing righteousness and peace – yep divine attributes certainly. Light, life and healing. Yet to come surely? Let's not get ahead of ourselves. Light perhaps – for he is the "light of the world", hence the Christingle candles last week (!) – but promises of life in abundance and eternal life yet to come. And as for healing – he's not there yet in his swaddling cloths surely?

Mild he lays his glory by,

That's more like it. He's away in a manger, no crying (perfect baby) – his glory is to come. For now, let's concentrate on his baby humanity. He is a miracle child, but just that, a child.

*born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.*

Right there it is. Eternal life (John 3:16) (*"no more to die"*), our resurrection to the new creation (*"raise us from the earth"*) and life in its fullness now (John 10:10) (*"give us second birth"*)

In a final flurry Messer's Wesley and Whitfield infuse this nativity story with the Gospel fulfilment to come. Jesus the teacher and healer, brother and friend, master and suffering servant. Who came for one purpose – to save us and all who would believe. To enable and enact the rescue of all humanity that would receive him.

Christmas cannot stand alone. It points to so much more – healing and rescue, redemption and healing. Miracles and supernatural kingdom breaking in. A destiny which means that the baby who was will come back as a mighty saviour with swords of truth and flames and riding a white horse while also filling a throne like a lamb as if slain.

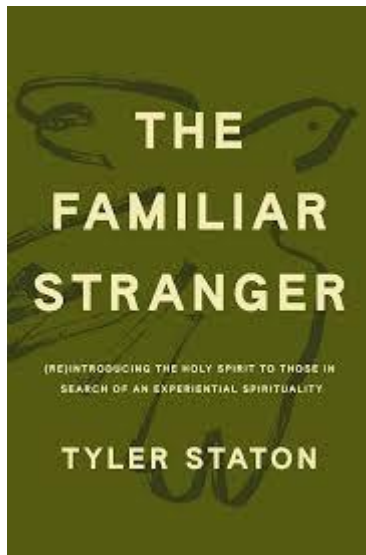
As we wait and watch. Let us not just wait for the roast and the message from the King and the gatherings and the presents. Important as they are.

Let us be found watching and waiting for the son of man to come on the clouds and for the fulfilment of the end of evil and the enemy. For the new heaven and new earth where healing will be no more for there will be no more tears or sorrow or pain or death and God will be with his people and they with their God. For eternal salvation.

Amen and Amen!

Doug

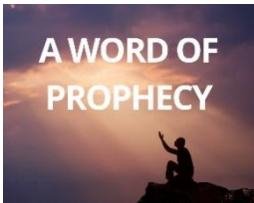
ADVENT READING RECOMENDATION:



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.



A picture of a rock standing out in the countryside.

God may be saying "I am your rock, movable, strong and eternal. I make the rock – a place to view the situations you are in. A place of escape and security. As a person can see all around them from rock, so can I see you all and indeed the wide world from My perspective. So trust in me and salvation, and lean on Me for I have come to give you a future and a hope in the midst of this world's turmoil. In Me you will have peace if the enemy attacks he will come by come up against the Rock and be defeated so remember Me as your rock. One who is dependable at all times"

A picture of a large courtyard in a fortress

God may be saying "I am your fortress and I have given you a large space in which to grow and be free within the security I have given you. Now is the time to show that you are secure in Me. The world looks for security and finds none. In Me you have security. At this time of Christmas you have the opportunities to share My good news by word and deed. Look the part. Meditate on what gives you joy and peace at this time it will show you where you are in your relationship with Me. No one can break into My fortress for I stand for security, love, peace and joy. Find your place in My plans - for this gives security and peace and fulfilment"

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....

Family News

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.

Channon Family News:

Mark has asked me to let everyone know that his Mum died last Sunday after some months of illness. Mark, Liz and the family are of course finding this really hard.

Mark's request is that you allow him to carry on as normal when at church and would like all to know that the whole family appreciate the love and support that they have had and continue to experience.

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. (Copy of e-mail sent to CCP members on 3rd December).

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 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
Website: www.purleyfoodhub.net
Charity no: 1152807 | Company no: 08557885

**Churches
together**
"Purley & Kenley"

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.