

CHRIST CHURCH PURLEY

News

MAKING PASSIONATE DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST

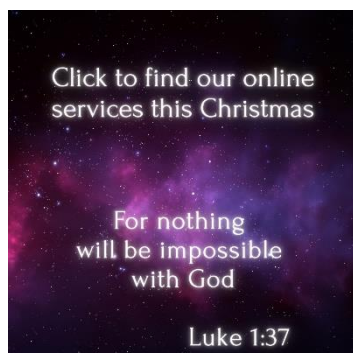
"God is in the salvation business, and so are we" (APCM May 2025)

*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 Christmas and New Year Christ Church News:

Sunday 21 st Dec	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
Monday		
Tue	12.30pm	Office closes today until 9.30am Tuesday 6 th January
Wed	4pm	Crib service with crafts from 3.30pm
	11.15pm	Midnight Communion
Thu	10.15am	Christmas Day celebration with Holy Communion
Fri		
Sat		
Sunday 28 th Dec		
	10.15am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Gospel service

Monday		Bereavement Support group – contact Pauline about where this will be held
Tue		
Wed		
Thu		
Fri		
Sat		
Sunday 4 th Jan		
	8.45am	Traditional Communion service with hymns
	10.15am	Worship for Everyone Morning Worship
	12noon	CCKids and CCYouth team meeting
Monday 5 th	9am	Foyer reopens
Tue	9am 9.30am	Foyer Office reopens
Wed	9am 2.30pm	Foyer Midweek Fellowship
Thu	9am	Foyer
Fri	9am	Foyer
Sat		
Sunday 11 th Jan		God's final word (intro to Hebrews) Hebrews 1:1-4
	8.45am	Traditional Communion service with hymns
		Coffee
	10.15am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
		Coffee
	11.45am	Third Service
		Alpha



Christmas Online services

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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
6.30pm Gospel Service

4 Jan

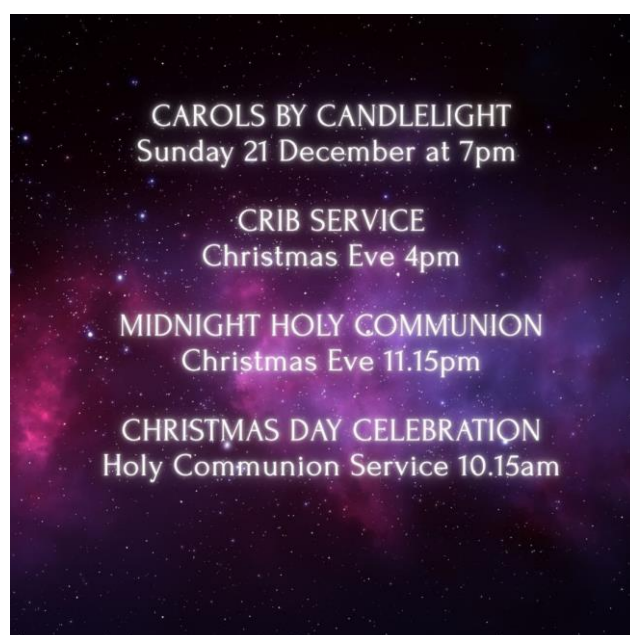
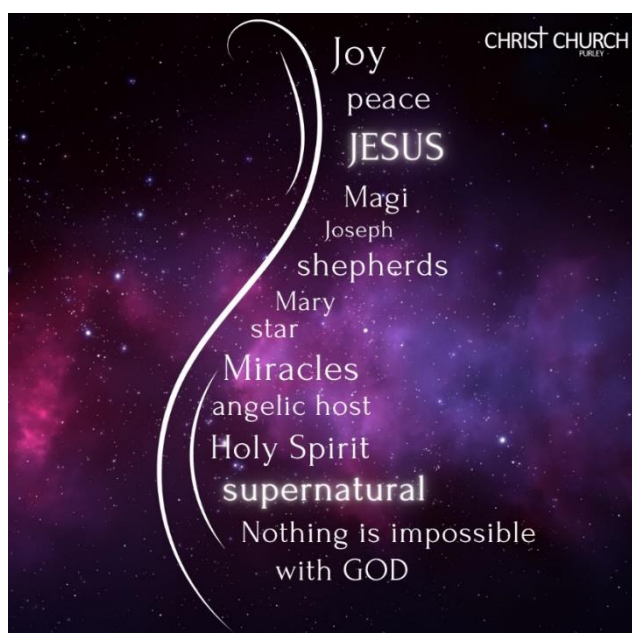
10.15am Worship for Everyone

6 Jan

Office reopens at
9.30am

9 Jan

Next Christ Church
News out





The Christ Church Advent calendar is now available on our website - find it at christchurchpurley.org.uk or use this QR code. What will you discover behind the windows each day?



Advent Calendar 2025

Let Jean in the office know what you thought of this year's Christ Church Advent calendar. office@christchurchpurley.org.uk

Which was your favourite window etc.

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



Announcement from 14 December 2025

Dear all,

It was announced today in church that I have been appointed **Rector of All Saints with St Antony in Sanderstead.**

The dates of my leaving Christ Church and starting in Sanderstead have still to be agreed (and are subject to the Bishop's diary!)

This is a call from God to one more parish and is a fresh start. In no way am I running away from Christ Church (!) and this news is tinged with some sadness at leaving as well as excitement for that new thing God has in store.

Further details to follow and happy to have a chat over coffee if anyone would like to.

Regards

Doug

Rev Doug McHardie
Vicar Christ Church Purley



WE HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE....

On many levels the announcement on Sunday 14th December may have come as a surprise. It may well have thrown up all sorts of questions.

Why is he going?

What's wrong with us and here?

Why only next door?!

What happens next?

It only occurred to me today how apposite is the quote that I have been sharing with Christ Church over the last few weeks – from Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

"We must allow ourselves to be interrupted by God.....we must not assume that our schedule is our own to manage , but allow it to be arranged by God"

How appropriate it feels as I write this blog!

So, what follows is some background, a form of the story that brings us to this place, some practicalities about what is to come, and some thoughts for the future.

2024 was a terrible year for me personally. 2025 has been a time of settling into a new routine.

The thing about being a vicar is that your home comes with the job. And so I remain in the family home even after that family has been separated and disrupted. This fact has not haunted me particularly but it sometimes hits me.

If that were the only reason to move it would be an insufficient one.

But it is true to say that the move will be a "fresh start".

My family connections are still within 6 miles of Purley and so a move to Sanderstead (or somewhere as close) would be convenient.

Again, helpful, but not a good reason to move on.

But God sometimes plants a seed, waters it and makes it grow.

I know a little of Sanderstead Parish. We were approached to maybe team up with them in 2019 to plant out in mission, in the Hamsey Green area. I knew the most recent Rectors, one quite well through New Wine. I know people currently in the church and, through them, after a year of talking about it, I got to meet, train and know a group of 12 members during our Pastoral training. All these were connections which allowed me to find out more of what will become my new parish.

Getting on with new friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, is not a reason to move.

But during the summer the Lord laid Sanderstead parish on my heart which led to a conversation with the Archdeacon. I knew that they had advertised before and that had not worked out. The profile came out and I could sense a match between my experience and what they were looking for.

It was at this time of discernment that I had a picture of my ministry. By looking back the picture was that I was "more the skipper of the tugboat than the captain of the ocean liner". By that I mean that what I have done, or at least sought to do in all three of my parishes so far is to help turn over the soil and prepare for fresh seed planting and growth. If you are still following the mixed metaphors (!) that started to confirm that one more parish might be what God was calling me to (note not away from!)

God's call is a reason to move.

One further dynamic is that I have 5 remaining years until I intend to retire (I am 62 in February). One more challenge, one more field to turn over and prepare, would require 5 or so years. There is a saying – "don't overestimate what you will see in one year or underestimate what you will see in five!"

So, combine all these factors, and you have the ingredients to my decision to apply. I was shortlisted and the interview was on Monday last – being successful the announcement was made as soon as possible.

Church appointments are always cloaked in secrecy mostly because no one wants churches to find out either that their vicar is leaving or who the new one is by rumour.

It was a huge relief when it was out in the open. And I apologise to all those who would have liked to have known beforehand. It's just how it's done.

God has interrupted us both. And that raises the practical question of what happens next?

Yet to be decided is my last Sunday at Christ Church and then some weeks later my installation at Sanderstead. The intervening period is available to allow me to move house, set up and settle in and have a pre-installation retreat.

Meanwhile all can be praying for my successor.

That may sound premature but let me explain. I remember when we entered a vacancy when I was a curate. The advice of the Rector as he left was "its easier to steer a moving ship". What he meant was that while no major changes can be made with no incumbent a vacancy is not a time to stagnate!

And the good ship Christ Church is a moving ship, following the lead of the Holy Spirit, into new waters.

The process from now is as follows:

- Write a profile about the parish and what sort of person you think you are looking for (after consultation and written by nominated persons and agreed by PCC on your behalf).
- Appoint representatives who will be on the interview panel with the Archdeacon and Bishop (most likely)
- Advertise and invite applications
- Short list candidates
- Arrange a visit to the parish for candidates
- Interviews
- Decide who should be appointed

Then an announcement is made in each church

Needless to say, the earlier the profile is compiled the earlier this process can start!

I have no influence on any of this, it would not be appropriate to do so.

However, I would like to close by suggesting to you all that Christ Church Purley will be a very attractive church to lead (even though I am biased, this is objectively true...). Here are a few reasons:

- Making Passionate Disciples for Christ - many externally have commented to me that this is a great mission statement
- Pressing into, and developing in, Spirit filled worship
- A developing diversity in the congregation
- Increasing opportunities for a wider range of people in leadership
- Worship for Everyone and intentional intergenerational worship
- Ever closer links with the schools

- Recognised as an evangelical church with teaching of God's Word aligned with that of the current teaching of the Church of England
- A church that has approached the issues facing the national church and come to a settled view on the Prayers of Love and Faith (this will need to be referenced in the profile)
- Sustained growth in Kids work
- A vibrant youth group
- Good relations with local churches including bilateral working
- An expanding pastoral team
- A Foyer that offers free hospitality and yet still makes a financial contribution to the church (a fact that I share with anyone who will listen – and many admire this immensely)
- Great support for the older community with events and activities
- Support for social action projects such as the local Food Hub
- A fantastic staff team and many extremely diligent volunteers
- Many other things – including a desire to improve and capitalise on all of the above!!
- Oh, and a pretty decent vicarage!! (also important...)

It is no surprise that the Archdeacon, when he visited last week, was very complementary about what he saw and heard on a one day "Parish Conversation".

So please do pray.

God has interrupted us. He wants to bless three things:

- My last few months with you
- My move and the new parish
- The person he has chosen as your new captain – you are exiting the harbour I think and have a great journey ahead – and your new captain will I am sure direct you to exciting places in God's mission here in Purley.

You are in my prayers too.

But I haven't gone yet – so let's make the most of the first few months of 2026!

May you all be blessed this Christmas and know the glory of the coming of the Lord.

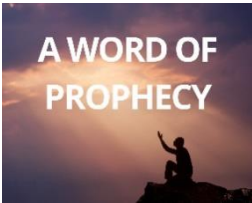
And may we be found ready and watching and waiting for when he comes again.

All for his glory

Amen.

Doug

PS always happy to have a coffee to discuss any of above...



A picture of a fried egg in a frying pan

God may be saying "keep close to the heat of my workings within you - confirm come and live for Me. The oil in the pan is My Spirit which makes nutrition possible. Do not believe out the workings of My Word in your lives for some of you are anaemic, lacking nutrition. Strengthen yourselves in reading My Word. Then your relationship to Me will be strong and have mighty effects. The Word will cause you to become examples of the Living Word, My son, Jesus. I came into this World to show My love for you and My involvement with you and your situations. Take My nutrition and live.

A scripture for someone "Come to Me, all who labour and are heavy laden and I will cause you to rest.

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....

Shoebbox Update

Our 97 shoeboxes were processed at the Chessington processing Centre last week. They are now in container lorries on their way to Eastern Europe. A total of 20830 boxes were processed at Chessington: each was opened and checked before being resealed. It was joyful work, witnessing such generosity and thoughtful love that had gone into each shoebox. Not all of the volunteers working in the several UK processing centres were Christians, but a small number committed their lives to Christ as a result.



Kings Church Chessington Processing Centre



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

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.

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.

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



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