

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 18 th January		MISSION PARTNER SUNDAY – The Ascension Trust
	8.45am	Traditional Communion service with hymns
		Coffee
	10.15am	Morning Worship with CC Pre-school, CCKids CCYouth
		Coffee
Monday	9am 9.15am	Foyer open Morning Bible Study
Tue	9am 9.15am 9.30am 7pm	Foyer open Morning Bible study Carousel baby and toddler group Tuesday Youth Group
Wed	9am 9.15am 12noon 1pm 7.30pm	Foyer open Morning Bible Study Midweek Communion Midweek Lunch Intercessory prayer for Christ Church at this time of change – all welcome
Thu	9am	Foyer open

Fri	9am	Foyer Open
Sat		
Sunday 25 th January		Hebrew 1:5-14 Greater than angels
	8.45am	Traditional Communion service with hymns
		Coffee
	10.15am	Morning Worship with CC Pre-school, CCKids CCYouth
		Coffee
	11.45am	Third service
		Alpha



How Much More? – Spirit filled worship...what next?

SERVICE CHANGE FROM FEBRUARY 2026

Advance notice that a small change will take place to the service schedule from February 2026.

There will **NOT** be a **Third service** on the **third and fourth Sundays**.

	FIRST SUNDAY (Unchanged)	SECOND SUNDAY (Unchanged)	THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH SUNDAYS	
8.45AM	HOLY COMMUNION	HOLY COMMUNION	HOLY COMMUNION	Traditional Common Worship with hymns and organ
10.15AM	WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE	MORNING WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION	MORNING WORSHIP "THIRD SERVICE" STYLE	Various styles with band led worship

11.45AM	THIRD SERVICE	THIRD SERVICE	NO THIRD SERVICE	Sung worship led by band with short reflection and ministry time response
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*"how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"
(Luke 11:13)*

For more details please see **this week's Doug's blog.....**

CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS:

Our retiring Christmas services collections this year amounted to £1,254.72 and have been split 50/50 between Nightwatch and the Croydon Refugee Centre.

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 **Atalanta Close** and all who dwell, work or travel there.



YouTube live link for 10.15am and 11.45am services

Find the link on our website.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 21st January Midweek Communion

Wednesday 21st January Midweek Lunch

Sunday 25th January Gospel Service

Monday 26th January – Bereavement Support Group

Sunday 1st February – Worship for Everyone

Wednesday 4th February - Midweek Fellowship

Tuesday 17th February – Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 18th February – Ash Wednesday

Sunday 22nd March - APCM



CANCELLED - Bishop Rosemarie sharing her life story Monday 16th February 2026 in the Foyer

**SAFEGUARDING UPDATE
LETS GET ORGANISED FOR 2026**

HAVE YOU STARTED THE DBS PROCESS BUT NOT COMPLETED ALL THE STAGES?

**ARE YOU ON A TEAM, ON PCC or HAVE A CHRIST CHURCH DBS?
IS YOUR SAFEGUARDING TRAINING UP TO DATE?
HAVE YOU LINKED YOU TRAINING ACCOUNT WITH
safeguarding@christchurchpurley.org.uk**

Safeguarding training - All training should be renewed every three years. Basic Awareness (C0) and Foundation (C1) training which you can do individually online at: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>.

Please choose the Diocese of Southwark from the drop-down menu and give the full name and location of your church ie Christ Church Purley.

How to report that you have completed your training

You can now provide this record directly to your local Parish Safeguarding Officer as follows.

To do this use the [edit profile](#) screen (accessed through the top right of your screen).

Scroll down to the last field entitled Local reporting 'Allow a user with the following email address to look at my training record'
: safeguarding@christchurchpurley.org.uk - this corresponds with the profile of the person you would like to view your training records.

WHAT ARE THE STAGES IN THE DBS PROCESS?

We want to make the safeguarding process as robust and yet as simple to follow as possible. All of the following are required to act in most volunteer roles as the church seeks to be as safe as possible. If you find any difficult to find time for or onerous in

any other way please contact us and we can find ways to help (eg arrange a group to do online training together).

We want to make volunteering as easy and enjoyable as possible while maintaining a healthy approach to being a "Safe Church"....

As part of our safer church recruitment we need to complete certain checks for all volunteers.

1. Complete an application form (online) for your role.

This will then trigger the following stages which can be completed in any order:

2. You will be emailed with DBS application information through ChurchSuite. When completed we will arrange a time to verify your identity documents.

3. A confidential declaration to be completed online.

4. An online reference form so we can then obtain 2 references.

5. Safeguarding training – at basic and foundation level – the quickest option for this is the online course and a link will be sent to you.

How to report that you have completed your training - You can now provide this record directly to your local Parish Safeguarding Officer as follows.

When we have all these stages completed you are ready to be part of the team! 😊

Once completed this will not need to be repeated for another 3 years.

Any questions ask [Doug](#) or [Jean](#)



TRAJECTORY

Sometimes it's only by looking in the rear-view mirror that one can see where you have come from to make sense of where you are. Especially when following God's lead.....

Our mission has been *Making Passionate Disciple for Christ* with a threefold sub title – *Rooted and grounded in God's Word, Led by the Holy Spirit and Giving it away.*

We see these coming to fruition in the story that continues to unfold for Christ Church.

Let me take you back to lockdown in 2020-21....

We were required to close the church and stop services. When we were allowed to return we replaced a church capacity of 250 to a mere 20 chairs, two meters spaced, with a one-way system and limiting service times to 45 minutes – only the leader

could speak and no singing. We had some profound times of a sense of God's presence by greater focus and emphasis on the words that we could use – and the silences in between as we waited on the Lord.

Then came "Car Park worship" – do you remember those? It rained the first time but it didn't matter – we could sing and preach and pray together – socially distanced but spiritually aligned. We only received two complaints from neighbours about the noise – which given the power in the speakers was quite remarkable!

Then we were able to meet again inside and sing. We kept a distance but by row this time. The services were designated as "Welcome Back" services. There was something special about being able to meet again in this way – with Jesus as the centre. For it is he that would make people return, not our hospitality (important as it is) , but the attraction of the presence of our Lord and saviour. There was a buzz in the room.

The practicalities of what we had learned, how to minimise the risk of infection, were fewer numbers, less time and distance. So we returned with THREE services instead of the pre-Covid two. All designed to be 45 minutes long. After adjusting the timings to the quarter hour (yes they did used to be 9 am and 10.30 – remember those times?) we could fit in three services. That means less time and fewer people in each.

Now, if we have three services we need not just do the same thing twice, surely? – why not try something new?

And so the THIRD SERVICE was born.

Broadly fashioned around the New Wine / Vineyard / HTB format of Worship-Word-Ministry it started falteringly. I remember saying to the congregation at the first one *"I don't know what this is, but let's see where it goes..."*. I think it probably showed!

Band leaders both saw the extra burden of up to 10 songs across a morning but also the opportunity that it gave us for extended sung worship and creating a space for waiting on the Lord and pressing in to what he might be doing.

The flow began to establish with new ways of being.

Sometimes stopping between songs in response to a sense of his presence. Changing up the order in response to words of knowledge. Deep prayers of response at the back during ministry time. Words and pictures being shared – sometimes by very unusual suspects.

And increasingly, week on week, we would find that the song words and message from scripture, independently chosen, would dovetail and complement in a remarkable way. I wonder how that happened?

We have had occasions where the Lord has spoken to members of the congregation who have shared a word with everyone. We have seen healing. We have had messages in tongues spoken out and an interpretation of that tongue (which is the condition for speaking tongues out loud – all ordered according to Paul's instruction in 1 Corinthians 14).

None of this was a weekly occurrence but it was a place where stuff happened and God's presence was manifest in different ways each week. Many being filled by his Spirit.

The message was always based on a bible passage or two but not so much written as shared observations. Sometimes these were profound and landed in a way that the ones crafted in the study over two days were not!

Rooted and grounded in God's Word and led by the Spirit.

Then last summer I was invited to watch some teaching from the New Wine Leadership Conference from the previous March. It was a welcome invite and I accepted looking forward to great company and a bit of inspiration.

What I found was that I was moved, prompted and challenged.

God is on the move and there is always more of God if we want to receive.

From this profound experience and a sense of God's call on Christ Church, the end of our series on Romans needed a new theme. And from this *"How much more"* was created. It was a mini-series running from October through to just before Christmas. The verse that inspired it was Luke 11:13 *"how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*. The context is a passage which suggests that God is much more generous than we are. And in other Gospels that is how it can be read.

But Luke is very specific about the gifts that God bestows. *"His Holy Spirit"*. God wants to pour out his Holy Spirit on his people. And so the sub-title of the series entitled *"How much more?"* was **Spirit Filled Worship**.

As the sermons unfolded they hung on two repeated quotes:

"Churches are not museums that display perfect people. They are hospitals where the wounded, hurt and broken find healing" (Anon)

"We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God.... we must not assume that our schedule is our own to manage, but allow it to be managed by God" (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

Over the weeks that followed we explored the role of the Spirit in faith, worship, confession and repentance, prophecy, healing and intercession.

In each case it became clear that we are called to both rely on and make space for the work of the Holy Spirit and that our expectation of what that means for us should rise.

In staff team, while contemplating what services could look like, Jude shared something of teaching she had heard at a Regional Leaders conference about Spirit filled worship.

"The Holy Spirit is my pastor"

"Presence of God is always transformational"

"God is the most important person in the room"

These chimed very much with where God had been leading us.

The plan therefore is to bring the essence of what was going on in the Third service, for a few, to the majority who attend the larger service at 10.15am. Band leaders and staff team had been consulted and what emerged is the service pattern that will come into play from February. Dropping the Third service from two weeks a month and bringing that same format into the 10.15am service.

The anticipation is that these services will develop to include:

- More extended sung worship with space for reflection and ministry time
- A continued focus on God's Word
- A more free-flowing service that might be slightly different each week but with a recognisable shape
- An opportunity for all to ask to be filled by the Holy Spirit
- A "Healing Hub" where people can ask for healing prayer
- Creative approaches to intercession which allow the intercessors to intercede

The service pattern retains the following features:

- A Common Worship service with Holy Communion
- *Worship for Everyone* – showing our commitment to intergenerational worship
- Third Service twice a month

This plan, as you will see above, has been gestating longer than my perceived call to move to Sanderstead. I did consider whether it should be dependent on the outcome of that process. I very strongly feel that this is **Christ Church's calling** into more of the Holy Spirit and is the next step on *your* journey, not dependent on mine.

This is the basis of the changes that will come into place in February (and will therefore be reflected in your Parish Profile when you come to seek your next leader).

I commend them to you.

It will develop over time. But I encourage all involved whether you are leading or part of the congregation, to take seriously Bonhoeffer's advice – "*allow it to be managed by God*" – and I truly believe that He is leading you into a new season of fruit and blessing.

Any questions please do contact me.

Every blessing in the Lord.

Doug

vicar@christchurchpurley.org.uk

VACANCY – a brief introduction



What happens when the Vicar leaves?

A brief outline...

- Announcement that Vicar appointed elsewhere
- *(Nominated PCC members Draft Parish Profile – shh don't tell anyone....)*
- Vicar leaves
- Vicar installed at new parish (could be a month later)
- Vacancy legally starts – **Church Wardens become legally responsible for running of the parish church***
- PCC agree Parish Profile and application process with Archdeacon
- Advertise (probably) and receive applications
- Interviews with candidates – Archdeacon, Bishop and two Christ Church representatives appointed by PCC
- Appoint
- Wait for vicarage to be finished and Vicar moves in
- New Vicar installed by Bishop....

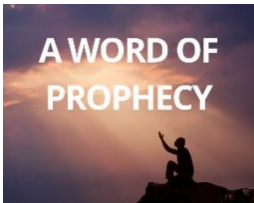
(please note that this **will** take a number of months).

* **Meanwhile**during the vacancy the Wardens have legal oversight of parish as Bishop's appointees and services will be supported by clergy, visiting clergy and members of Christ Church....

NOTE: Alison Frost and Bob Benn have indicated that they are willing to stand as Wardens for another year to oversee the vacancy; the PCC (and I) express their gratitude to both wardens for taking this on and have offered whatever support is needed to enable them in this role

You too can step in – if you think you might be able to **lead the occasional service** and be involved in **supporting the existing team** and visiting clergy please let me know.

Doug



A picture of a large building with many windows letting in the light. God may be saying "You know that I am the light of the world. So if you want more light in your life come to Me, lean on Me, rely on Me and My word. My word will give you all the light you need - for in there you will find out all about Me and My message to you all. I desire that you make

this coming year of the word of God. Then others will read you as a letter from Me. Let the light in don't needlessly live in in darkness. I am light.

A picture of a lawn mower doing its work all over the lawn God maybe saying "Although it doesn't seem possible there will be growth for the mower to cut. Rejoice in that and give thanks. This is for each and every member of the congregation so that you can you all can be encouraged. In the seasons of life spring is coming, warmed by the heat of love for Me and My word. When the lawnmower has done its work the picture will be one of beauty as well as tidiness. Like the lawnmower I am on the move within your lives. Rejoice!

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....



CHRIST CHURCH COURSES – News

Next courses (dates to be confirmed soon):

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

Prayer Ministry

How to hear God's voice

Leading worship at the 10.15am service...

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



Family News

Bejoy Pal: Bej will soon be getting married and moving from the local area. He will therefore be **leaving Christ Church from 25th January**. This is a new season for him and he would appreciate prayers for them both as they enter a journey into marriage and a new home and new church. Bej writes: *"CCP will never stop being my family and having a place in my heart and prayers. It's been a big honour to have been welcomed and given the opportunity to serve in so many ways at the Church and whilst excited for the future, there will be sadness in leaving my family behind."*

Bej is speaking at the morning services this Sunday and then again at the Gospel Service on the evening of 25th January.

Julie Bleach: The funeral for Julie will be in church on **Monday 9th February at 12noon**.

We are expecting this to be a busy service and would ask that where ever possible church family do not park in the car park but walk here or car share and park elsewhere. Thank you.

Rance Millward: The funeral will be on Tuesday 27th January at St Mary Magdalene at 1.30pm. Contact Jenny for more details.

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.

Don't forget to sign up on the electoral roll!



SIGN UP NOW READY FOR THE APCM!!

Have you joined the current Christ Church Electoral roll?
This allows you to vote and stand for election at the annual meeting.

If you are not on the roll you will need to apply.

In order to apply you need to complete an application for enrolment form.

New Electoral Rolls will also be prepared in 2031 and 2037.

Are you new to joining the electoral roll?
You can use the QR code

or this link to sign up

<https://christpurley.churchsuite.com/-/forms/ktq9wuyh>



Why join the electoral roll?

Do you want to vote at the APCM?

Do you want to have a voice at the APCM?

Do you want to join the PCC or deanery synod?

- If the answer is **YES** to any of these you need to be on the church's electoral roll!

CAP Money Coaching - Help you better manage your finances

A dark blue rectangular box. At the top left is a small green hexagon with "pbc" in white. Below it, the text "Budget like a Boss" is written in white, with "Boss" underlined. At the bottom, "FREE, expert money coaching" is written in a smaller white font.

Free CAP Money Coaching Course
(spread over 3 weeks). Take control of your
money and build better budgeting habits!

A dark blue rectangular box. On the left, a green speech bubble says "SCAN HERE" above a QR code. To the right of the QR code, there are four icons with corresponding text: a calendar icon for "Mondays in June: June 9th, 16th & 23rd", a clock icon for "7pm", a location pin icon for "Purley Baptist Church Purley CR8 3EA", and a hand icon for "Scan the QR code to register". At the bottom left, it says "For more info email: Ian - rubes@btinternet.com or Nigel - nigeldavidson@capuk.org". At the bottom right is the CAP logo, which consists of the text "christians against poverty" above "CAP" in a stylized font.

Worried that you overspent over Christmas? Or perhaps you have a New Year resolution to better manage your money! Whatever your financial position, you can take control of your money with free expert money coaching provided by Christians Against Poverty (CAP).

The free workshop will be run over 3 sessions on Monday evenings, from 7pm to 9pm, on 19th Jan, 26th Jan & 2nd Feb, at Purley Baptist Church, Banstead Road, Purley, CR8 3EA.

For more information go to [Money coaching | money management | CAP UK](#).

And to reserve a free place, please

email: nigeldavidson373@btinternet.com

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.



Join us for our next diocesan racial justice gathering 7 February, Southwark Cathedral

*On Saturday 7 February 2026, Southwark Cathedral will host a gathering entitled **Truth-Telling in Sacred Spaces** to mark Racial Justice weekend (6-7 Feb). This event is for everyone in our diocese who believes the Church must be a place of truth, welcome, and belonging. Whether you are someone of Global Majority Heritage, an ally, a parish priest, a lay leader, a member of a congregation, or simply someone seeking to understand how faith responds to history — this gathering is for you! [Find out more and book your free tickets here.](#)*

Please do share details of this gathering with your congregations. [Click here to find out more](#) about our diocesan commitment to racial justice.



Lay Ministry Taster Day 31 January 2026, 10am-2pm

Come to Trinity House and find out more about the different types of ministries including Pastoral, Reader, Pioneer, Church Army and Children and Young People. With guest speaker Adjoa Andoh MBE — actor, writer, director, and Licensed Reader (Parish of Herne Hill). For more information and to book your place, email learning@southwark.anglican.org

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 #7 in the series of Positive Life Courses



How to be healthy with the right food & drink

"Boosting Our Health by Eating and Drinking" (BOHBEAD) course

The course: **Latest Guidance : UPDATED November 2025**

- **de-mystifies** guidance with **clear guidelines** on what food and drink keeps us healthy – & what to avoid – with **doable recommendations**
- explains how to **lose weight in a healthy way** – and keep it off
- gives 30 tips on how to **save money by eating & drinking healthily**.

Why join? You will learn about:

- the link between **diseases** (eg Alzheimer's, Type 2 diabetes, certain cancers and heart disease) and **poor nutrition decisions**
- how to apply just **Three Principles** (the foundation of good nutrition decisions) and 30 **nutrition myths** that can be 'busted' (eg it's a myth all saturated fat is unhealthy)
- what to look for on food labels to identify **Ultra-Processed Food (UPF)** – regular eating of UPF leads to obesity and ill health.

Course material is from latest research, mainly based on the books: *Food for Life*, *Spoon Fed* and *The Diet Myth* by Professor Tim Spector OBE and *Eat More, Live Well* by Dr Megan Rossi.

Duration: 2 sessions of 2 hours **Cost:** Free of charge **When:** see below for next two courses

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

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

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

Course #1		
Monday evenings	7.15-9.15pm	12 th Jan & 19 th Jan last date to register: 2 nd Jan 2026
Course #2		
Wednesday mornings	10.30am-12.30pm	28 th Jan & 4 th Feb last date to register: 23 rd Jan 2026



FOOD LIST JANUARY 2026



At Purley Food Hub we provide emergency food, toiletries and household essentials to local people living in great hardship. Please consider donating items from this month's priority list:

- Tinned Vegetarian Meals such as Princes plant based range
- Jars of Meat Paste & Fish Paste
- Jars of Peanut Butter
- 1 Litre Cartons of Long Life Whole Milk
- Jars of Pasta Sauce
- Tinned Dessert Fruit
- Packet Custard requiring only hot water
- Desserts for Children such as Angel Delight, Jellies
- Bars of Soap
- Washing Powder Pods/Capsules

Thank you everyone for your continued generous support.

Since 2013 you have kindly helped us to provide food for **more than 46,000 people - equivalent to 415,000 meals.**



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

Churches
together
Purley & Kenley