

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 29 th March	Palm Sunday	CLOCKS GO FORWARD Fifth Sunday - two services. Doug's leaving tea
	8.45am	Holy Communion service with hymns
		Coffee
	10.15am	All-age Palm Sunday
		Doug's leaving tea
Monday	7.30pm	LENTEN PRAYER GATHERING
Tue		
Wed	2.30pm	Midweek Fellowship
Thu	8pm 9pm-12 midnight	8pm Holy Communion (Chancel) Matthew 25:31-26:30 Vigil
Fri	11am -1pm 2.30pm	Family Easter event Hour at the cross (Chancel) Matthew 26:31-27:61
Sat		
Sunday 5 th April	Easter Day	Doug's Sunday Matthew 27:62-28:20

	8.45am	Holy Communion service with hymns
		Coffee
	10.15am	All-age Easter service with Holy Communion and band

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

YouTube live link for Sunday's service

find the link on our website.



SAVE THE DATE

You are invited to a

*Farewell
Afternoon Tea*

FOR

Rev Doug McHardie

SUNDAY 29 MARCH 2026 AT NOON
AT CHRIST CHURCH PURLEY
RSVP to office@christchurchpurley.org.uk

HOLY WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH
PURLEY

Palm Sunday 29th March 2026

All Age Service at 10.15am

Maundy Thursday 2nd April 2026

Holy Communion and Vigil at 8pm

Good Friday 3rd April 2026

Easter Family Event at 11am

'The Foot of the Cross' Reflective Service at 2.30pm

Easter Sunday 5th April 2026

Celebration Service at 10.15am

CHRIST CHURCH
PURLEY

Easter FAMILY EVENT

CRAFT
ANIMALS
DONKEY RIDES
EGG HUNT
EASTER EXPERIENCE
REFRESHMENTS
GAMES

FRIDAY 3 APRIL 2026
11-1 PM

FREE!

BRIGHTON ROAD, PURLEY, CR8 2BN

LENT AND HOLY WEEK DATES		
Palm Sunday	29th March	
Maundy Thursday	2nd April	8pm Holy Communion (Chancel)
		Matthew 25:31-26:30
		9pm-12 pm Vigil
Good Friday	3rd April	Am Easter event
(Chancel)		2.30pm Hour at the cross Matthew 26:31-27:61
Easter Sunday	5th April	8.45 am and 10.15am
		Matthew 27:62-28:20
(Doug's last Sunday)		

LENTEN PRAYER GATHERINGS – Praying for the church.

A powerful time of intercession.

Praying for protection, direction, healing and blessing on the church at this time of change.....

All are invited to prayer gatherings during Lent (fasting during the day is optional):



All 7.30-8.30pm

Monday 30th March

All welcome.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE VACANCY?

The wardens , as Bishop's appointees, have formal responsibility for the parish church in a vacancy. There are a small number of things that only an incumbent vicar can legally do (usually signing bits of paper!) and in that case the Area Dean takes the role of incumbent for these. It is also the Area Dean's role to maintain contact with the wardens and offer some support during the vacancy (but note – the Area Dean is not "in charge" and is not the boss of local clergy – its very much "first among equals" role and acting as a conduit for information from the Bishops etc down to local clergy).

The **Archdeacon is directly responsible and will be keeping a close eye on the parish** church and in fact is **your first visiting preacher** and clergy member, coming on 12th April (a week after I have left!) and will be at both services that day!

Services will run as normal as far as is possible and led by:

- Local clergy (Simon and Jeremy Groombridge have offered to cover many services)
- Visiting preachers from local churches including occasional mission partners
- Usual teams for Worship for Everyone
- A small team of lay leaders and worship band leaders for Third Service
- Other volunteer lay leaders for the 10.15am
- Your Readers
- Other visiting clergy to preside at the 8.45am
- The wardens (for gaps)
- You?.....if you think you might be able to help let me know....

Any questions, please let me know or speak to the wardens. Doug.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sunday 29th March – Clocks go forward

Sunday 29th March - Palm Sunday

Sunday 29th March – Farewell afternoon tea for Doug

Maundy Thursday 2nd April - 8pm Holy Communion followed by vigil

Friday 2nd – Sunday 12th March – office closed

Good Friday 3rd April -AM Easter event

Good Friday 3rd April – 2.30pm Hour at the cross

Easter Sunday 5th April - 8.45 am and 10.15am services

Easter Sunday 5th April - Doug's last Sunday at Christ Church

Foyer reopens on Tuesday 14th April 2026

Monday 11th May – Installation of Doug at All Saints Sanderstead – more information after Easter.



I'm afraid I am not in a position to write any more blogs in these last three weeks. My thanks go to all who have inspired them and even more those who have read them!

Every blessing

Your brother in Christ, Doug.

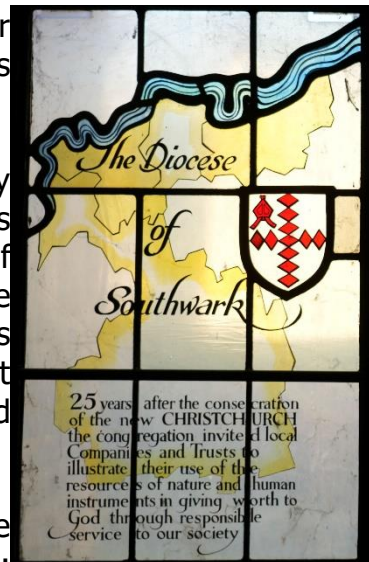
CONSULTATION ON BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK

The Diocese of Southwark has launched a consultation to gather views on what the next Bishop of Southwark should be like and what their priorities should be.

The current Bishop of Southwark - The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun - announced his retirement in late 2025 and is due to leave the diocese in August this year. This has triggered what's known as the 'Vacancy-in-See process' - the formal period when the diocese and the national Church work together to discern and appoint the next diocesan bishop.

A key part of this process is a public consultation to gather the views of people from congregations and communities across south London and east Surrey.

"We want to ensure that we hear the views of as many people from as diverse backgrounds and perspectives as possible," said the Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon and Chair of the Vacancy-in-See Committee. "We especially want to hear from people who feel their voices don't get heard very often. If that's you, please do fill out the survey – if it's someone you know, please help and encourage and support them to do so."



A range of resources to help parishes and schools engage with the consultation is [available online here](#). This includes:

- 'Explainer' documents
- Downloadable versions of the survey for completion locally and offline
- Ideas for engaging your parish
- Resources for use with children and young people
- Prayer resources
- Newsletter and social media copy
- Videos

The consultation will run throughout March and close at noon on 1 April 2026.



Feedback on last year's shoeboxes

I received this message from Operation Christmas Child UK.

*"To our incredible supporters,
Thank you so much for being a part of Operation Christmas Child 2025. With your help, we sent **232,844** shoebox gifts to children around the world. More information about the regions and countries where children received your shoebox gifts can be found here: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/2025-shoebox-destinations>.*

On behalf of the entire Samaritan's Purse team, our volunteers, and the children and families we serve, thank you so much for your support. This would not have been possible without you, and we are truly grateful."

The worldwide total was **12,205,900**. Christ Church sent **97** of the UK boxes. Thank you so much.

Another email informed me that my own boxes went to Albania, where it is likely that most of ours went. (Feedback on other destinations would be most welcome.)

In September (in six months!) the 2026 Shoebox Campaign will be launched at Christ Church with the box and bag of essentials for £5 being available again.

Now would be an excellent time to plan prayerfully what you might put in your box (as some are already doing). If you feel prompted to include a particular item, please take this as an indication that our Father God knows the child who is longing for it.



RESULTS OF ELECTIONS

Parish of *Christ Church Purley*

Deanery of *Croydon South*

At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the above parish held on *Sunday 22nd March 2026*

The following were elected as **Churchwardens**:

Name *Alison Frost*

Name *Robert Benn*

The following were elected as **Lay Members of the Deanery Synod**:

Name *Martin Ryan*

The following were elected as **Lay Members of the Parochial Church Council**:

Name *Caroline Obonyo*

Name *Simon Harding*

Name *John Curror*

Safeguarding and safer recruitment – all the stages of the process

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 from Thirtyone-Eight. When completed we will arrange a time to verify your identity documents. The normal documents we need to see are your driving licence, passport and proof of your address A PAPER COPY NOT INTERNET VERSION of a bank statement, council tax bill, utility bill etc.

3. A confidential declaration and references form to be completed online so we can then obtain 2 references.

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

5. You need to link your safeguarding online training account to report to safeguarding@christchurchpurley.org.uk

Any questions please speak to Jean , Caroline or Doug

New Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

Caroline Obonyo has been appointed as a new PSO, replacing Alison Flexman. The Safeguarding Team at Christ Church is therefore:

Jean Loh and Caroline Obonyo (PSOs)

We would like to strengthen this team further with voluntary admin support and a further PSO. If you think you might be able to help let Doug or Jean know.

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.

SAFEGUARDING AND THE NATIONAL CHURCH:

INEQE Safeguarding Audit

The Church of England has commissioned the INEQE Safeguarding Group to carry out an **independent audit of all Church of England dioceses and Cathedrals**. Southwark's audit has now started and we are being independently audited on five National Safeguarding Standards.

We will be making the survey documents available to all church members as follows:

- **Workforce** – clergy, staff and all volunteers
- **Community** – others in the church community
- **Children and youth** – 13 to 18 on own, under 13 with parent (will be sent to parents to pass on to children of any age)

Please note that if you have experienced harm or abuse in a church context at any time and place there is a further survey for victims and survivors.



Survey

All congregation are invited to respond to this national audit of safeguarding in the Church of England, and responses can be anonymous.

<p>DBF, DBE and Office of the Bishop Workforce</p> <p>Including all staff or volunteers of these entities and Diocesan Synod.</p> <p>COMPLETE SURVEY »</p>	<p>The Parish Workforce</p> <p>Including, for example, clergy, parish staff, volunteers, PSOs, church wardens, PCC members or bellringers.</p> <p>COMPLETE SURVEY »</p>	<p>The Parish Community</p> <p>Including, for example, parishioner, worshipper, or an attendee of another activity at the parish.</p> <p>COMPLETE SURVEY »</p>
<p>Victims / Survivors</p> <p>If you are a victim/survivor of church-related abuse, we value your input and insight into current Church of England safeguarding practices.</p> <p>COMPLETE SURVEY »</p>	<p>Child or Young Person</p> <p>If you are under 18, tell us about your experiences and what you want to change. However, if you are under the age of 13 then please do so with the help of a parent / guardian.</p> <p>COMPLETE SURVEY »</p>	

Tell the Independent Safeguarding Audit

The INEQE Safeguarding Group is an independent company of safeguarding professionals.

We have been asked to carry out Audits of the Church of England to make sure dioceses, cathedrals and palaces are doing all they can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.

Listening to and learning from dioceses is an important part of the Audit.

INEQE SAFEGUARDING GROUP

You can help us

If you have any information, concerns or worries about something that happened in or is related to your Church body, you can contact us via this webpage.

ineqe.com/churchofengland/southwark

Access the webpage by scanning the QR code

Tell us your views

Your participation is critically important and you can help by taking part in an anonymous and confidential survey.

We encourage you to be open and honest. We will only share information if what you tell us indicates a serious risk of harm.

ineqe.com/churchofengland/southwark
Closing date is **08th April 2026**

⚠ Don't forget - If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, it is important that you quickly get the right help – call the police on 999

NSPCC Helpline

- ☎ Helpline - 080 8800 5000
- ✉ Email - help@NSPCC.org.uk

Childline

- ☎ Helpline - 0800 1111
- 🌐 Web - childline.org.uk

Safe Spaces Support Service

- ☎ Helpline - 030 0303 1056
- ✉ Email - safespaces@firstflight.org.uk
- 🌐 Web - safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk

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Diocese
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MAKING SURE OUR SAFEGUARDS ARE UP TO DATE:

How to help us with our church safeguarding records:

Please make sure that you have linked your safeguarding training account now!

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 of the safeguarding portal).

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.

Any questions ask Jean

Thank you


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.

Boosting Life Skills

Unlocking potential in Wellbeing, Health & Interpersonal Skills – providing practical support to help make positive changes



course #6 in the series* of Positive Life Courses



How to get a good night's sleep every night

“Boosting the Benefits of Sleep” (ref. ‘BBS’) 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: **One 2-hour session**
When: **27th April 2026 7.15-9.15pm**
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*

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



Promoting a safer church

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church

House of Bishops
Safeguarding Policy
for children, young people & adults

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED

that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.

Local contacts available to speak to if you have any concerns:

Name: Jean Loh
Parish safeguarding officer
Tel: 07395 133640
E-mail: safeguarding@christchurchpurley.org.uk



Name: Caroline Obonyo
Parish safeguarding officer
Tel: 07395 133640
E-mail: safeguarding@christchurchpurley.org.uk



Name: Michael Browne
Role: Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Tel: 0207 939 9441 (Mon to Fri 9am – 5pm)
E-mail: safeguarding@southwark.anglican.org

Local Authority Social Services:

Croydon Single point of contact: 0208 255 2888 / 0208 726 6400 (out of hours)

If there is immediate Risk OR Danger please contact the police on 999.

OUR Commitments

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk.

Helplines

- NSPCC: 0808 800 5000
- Childline: 0800 1111 Stop
- It Now: 0808 1000 900
- NAPAC: 0808 801 0331
- Samaritans: 116 123
- Family Lives: 0808 800 2222 National
- Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247
- Men's Advice Line: 0808 8010 327
- National Careline: 0800 0699 784