

# 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<br>7 <sup>th</sup> September |              |  |
|                                     | 8.45am       | Traditional (Holy Communion with hymns)      |
|                                     | 9.30-10.15am | Coffee                                       |
|                                     | 10.15am      | Worship for Everyone- Pearl of great promise |
|                                     |              | Coffee                                       |
|                                     | 11.45am      | Third service                                |
| Monday                              | 9 am         | Foyer reopens                                |
|                                     | 9.15am       | Morning Bible Study                          |
| Tue                                 | 9.00am       | Foyer open                                   |
|                                     | 9.30am       | Carousel baby and toddler group              |
| Wed                                 | 9am          | Foyer open                                   |
|                                     | 9.15am       | Morning Bible Study                          |

|                                      |              |  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--|
|                                      |              |  |
| Thu                                  | 9am          | Foyer open   |
| Fri                                  | 9am          | Foyer open   |
| Sat                                  |              |  |
| Sunday<br>14 <sup>th</sup> September |              | Romans: Plans Rom 15:23-33                         |
|                                      | 8.45am       | Traditional (Holy Communion with hymns)            |
|                                      | 9.30-10.15am | Coffee   |
|                                      | 10.15am      | Worship service with Communion, CCKids and CCYouth |
|                                      |              | Coffee   |
|                                      | 11.45am      | Third service                                      |



#### ROAD OF THE WEEK

We are inviting you to pray for our parish road by road throughout the year.

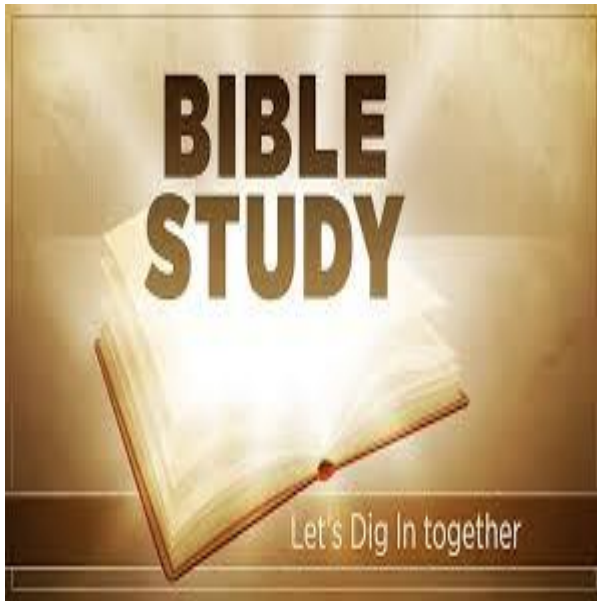
This week we are praying in particular for **PURLEY ROAD** and all who dwell, work or travel there.



**YouTube live link for 10.15am and 11.45am services**

Find the link on our website

This link will only work on this Sunday for the 10.15am Worship service and will return after a gap for the 11.45am service.



**MORNING BIBLE STUDY IN FOYER:**  
The morning Bible Study that meets in the Foyer during term....

*Returns (!) to 9.15am from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.*

*A Psalm, an Old Testament reading and a New Testament reading, discussion of each and prayer for our parish and the world.*

*All welcome.*



## ALPHA COURSES

If you think you might like to help with Alpha courses in September and January come along to a planning meeting on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 3pm in Foyer.**

Facilitating, catering, welcoming and befriending, praying for guests.

Dates and times to be advertised next week for the next course.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Foyer reopens – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

**Morning Prayer at 9.15am from this week**

**CCKids and CCYouth restarts – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

**Tuesday Youth restarts - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

**Midweek Communion – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

**Midweek Lunch – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

**Gospel Service – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

**Bereavement Support Group – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September**



**Midweek Fellowship - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October**

**Harvest Worship for Everyone (café style) - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

**Midweek Communion – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

**Midweek Lunch – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

**Muddy Church – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October**

**Bereavement Support Group – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

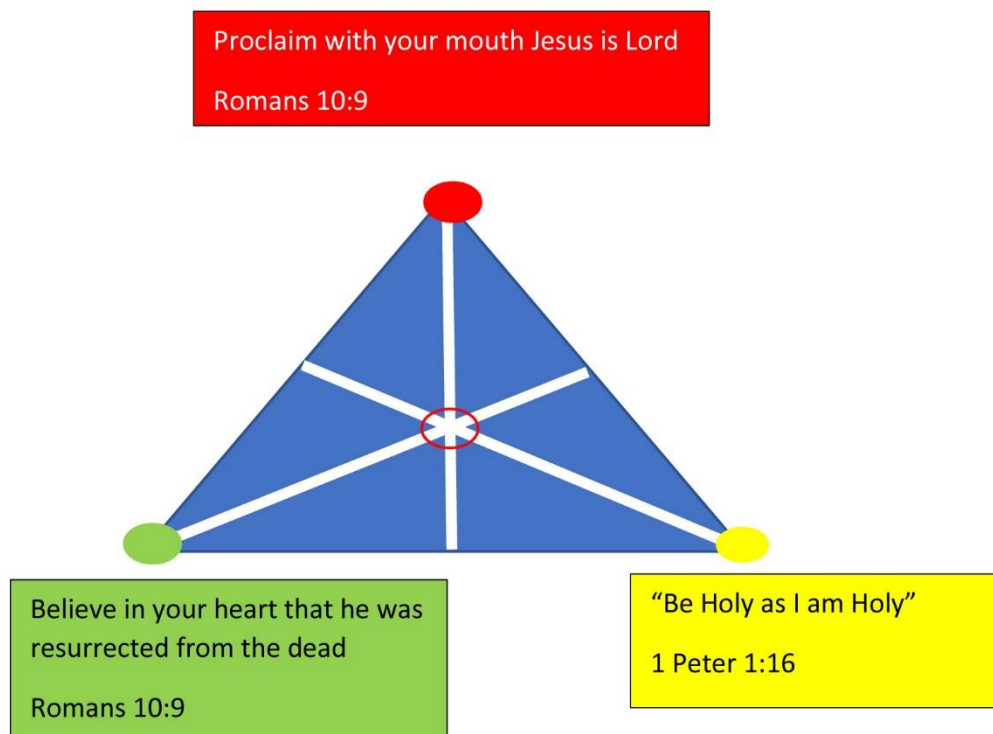
**Wow party – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

**Veteran Car (unofficial) pit stop – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

**Living with loss service – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**



## **HOLY TRIANGLE?**



To be honest there have been no summer blogs because there has not been the inspiration to write any. But I'm back!

And I have been pondering a very special verse in Romans that provides such assurance.

<sup>9</sup> *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* <sup>10</sup> *For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.* <sup>11</sup> *As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame."* (Romans 10:9-11)

My ponderings have moved in the direction of asking the question – what does this look like? And what does it mean for the individual believer and the witness of the church.

In my 15 years as an ordained minister one comes across a number of people who approach the church for a particular reason. It might be baptism of a child, or a wedding or thanksgiving for a long marriage or a desire to be buried in the churchyard. Very often people will support their case, often before being asked, by saying things like "I sang in the choir" or "I was in the Boys Brigade / Guides etc". A connection to a Church of England church can be as tenuous as "I live within the boundary of an ancient space called "parish"". And being a parishioner, means certain rights. A right to be baptised, a right to be married (the first time), and the right to be buried.

It's an interesting dynamic for an institution that represents a belief that carries with it no rights.

*"<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)*

There is a line in the Holy Communion prayer where we say *"we were not worthy to eat the crumbs from under your table"* which is quickly followed with **"But you are the same Lord**

**whose nature is always to have mercy"** – thereby we declare that we have no rights to salvation, but it is granted by God by his grace. And his grace alone. There is nothing we can do to earn it.

It is often said that God's love is unconditional – and it is. He loves us, almost despite ourselves. As our loving creator God, he loves us whatever we do and whomever we are.

But his offer of salvation is not **unconditioned**.

We have a part to play.

And that's where the holy triangle idea comes in.

Imagine a triangle, with its three corners or points.

The red corner is someone who proclaims Jesus as Lord. They have the words.

But Jesus himself said <sup>21</sup> *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."* (Matthew 7:21)

Just saying the words is not enough. And Paul would agree.

The green corner is where belief comes in. Specifically a belief that Jesus was raised from the dead. So that when Jesus shared with Nicodemus the most famous words of Christian Scripture, he had a specific belief in mind.

*<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever believes in him** shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*

This is not just a belief that Jesus existed, or that he was a good moral teacher or even a model human being who lived and demonstrated the love of God. For Paul, the believer, believes in the miracle. Believes that Jesus could be fully human and fully divine, Son of God at the same time. That he truly died a sinners death, although he had no sin, and was raised to actual, eternal life. And not just to believe these things intellectually but with faith, "in your heart". That this is a sure and certain hope of the resurrection that the believer absolutely holds as true and life transforming.

But Paul says, if we are in, what I have represented as the green corner; we believe this in our hearts but do not proclaim it on our lips, then it is insufficient.

Belief and words go together.

The conjoining word is "and" – proclaim AND believe.

So why a triangle? Why three aspects?

Well, the words of Jesus give the indication. There is another aspect – our words, our beliefs and our actions. How do we know if we believe? How do we know if our words are empty?

Obedience.

Holiness means being set apart by God. It means aspiring to become Christ like which is the sanctifying work of the Spirit of God sent into the very souls of the believer after the outpouring on that first Pentecost. And holiness looks like the fruits of the Spirit:

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

*<sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (Galatians 5:22-24)*

By being set apart, Christians following a way of holiness, also display God like characteristics that stand out and set them apart from the world. If the proof is in the pudding, then empty words and true belief are revealed in how lives are lived and the extent to which they are transformed!

To sit entirely in the yellow corner, is a life well lived, demonstrating things of the kingdom but without the proclamation of faith and belief in the heart, it's not enough for salvation.

To sit in either of the other two – red and green – is a what James described as “faith that is dead”.

*<sup>22</sup> You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. <sup>23</sup> And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," <sup>[b]</sup> and he was called God's friend. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. (James 2:22-24)*

We can judge where we are in the green and red zones (proclamation and belief) by how that impacts our daily lives.

Obedience and repentance when we falter – because we will!

So where is the sweet spot of faith?

The diagram would suggest that it is that cross lines in the centre. Where our words, our belief and our way of life are in balance with one another.

We will travel up and down those lines as we walk through the ups and downs and succumb to pressures of life and then fall back into spiritual disciplines.

But the aim is to move towards that sweet spot as much as we can.

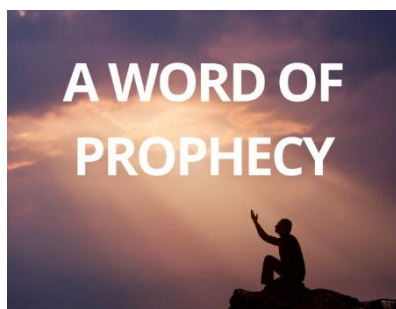
I have a chalk board in my kitchen. I have written on it as a reminder each morning:

“Today is a new day”.

I offer this to you as a thing to ponder too.

Every blessing

Doug



**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....**

A picture of a needle stitching clothes together.

Maybe God is saying “I have come to bring people together of different characters and backgrounds so that my perfect garment can come together. Unity in the Spirit will be the result of the needle and thread’s work. The binding together of the clothes is stronger than iron and will hold together forever. Allow Me to stitch you together within yourselves and to Me your Heavenly Father. The stitching will be maintained by prayer which is another form of connection with Me. A garment imperfection can be made-up of many cloths all in their proper place. So find your place in My plans and you will be strengthened like stitches which are a symbol of healing of the whole person.”

# Family News

It is with great sadness that we can inform you that Ann Gowlland died peacefully last week. Our prayers go out to Peter and Jon and all who knew and loved her.

A service of thanksgiving is planned at Christ Church and once we have the details we will pass them on.

*Please note that if you want to share family news, change of circumstances etc, good news or sad, please contact [office@christchurchpurley.org.uk](mailto:office@christchurchpurley.org.uk) and we will try to include it under this section – Christ Church Family News.*

## **Rotas**

**Are you on a rota?**

**If Yes**

**Please may don't just click to decline your duty....**

**If you are unable to cover your duty, try to arrange a swap, then let the office know and if possible, make the changes on church suite.**

**It really helps to add your unavailability regularly onto ChurchSuite.**





## FOOD LIST - SEPTEMBER 2025



**At Purley Food Hub we provide emergency food, toiletries and household essentials to local people going through times of crisis.**

**Please consider donating from our Top 10 priority items:**

- **Tinned Fish**
- **Packet Soup containing several sachets**
- **Tinned Meat Meals**
- **Tinned Baked Beans**
- **Packets of Savoury Biscuits**
- **500g Packets of Pasta**
- **Small Bottles of Fruit Squash**
- **Packets of Custard requiring only hot water**
- **Unisex Shampoo**
- **Small Bottles of Washing Up Liquid**

**We thank everyone for your continued generous support.  
Over the past 12 years you have enabled us to provide food  
*for over 44,000 people - equivalent to 400,000 meals.***



### 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



# Purley Rock Choir

Singing for pleasure

Join us for an afternoon of light popular songs,  
with Tea & Cake, in aid of our Southern Oaks  
Supported Living House in Purley

**DATE & TIME:**

Friday 17th October 2025  
2.30-4.30pm

**VENUE:**

Christ Church Purley, CR8 2BN

To book, please email [trevor55jones@gmail.com](mailto:trevor55jones@gmail.com)

Admission by Programme: £5.00

Payment at the door. Cash only please.

Southern Oaks  
Southern Oaks Nonsuch, Old Schools Lane, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 1FL  
020 8394 0050 [enquiries@southern-oaks.org](mailto:enquiries@southern-oaks.org)  
Registered Charity No. 247308



*The*  
**BRIDGE**  
*Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Southwark*

The latest edition of The Bridge is now available online:

[southwark.anglican.org/thebridge](https://southwark.anglican.org/thebridge)



The Bridge  
Diocese of Southwark



## Operation Christmas Child

### Operation Christmas Child Vision Trip to Romania

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 7.30 in Philippi

Come and hear Helen Whitley's experience with Operation Christmas Child in Romania in May this year.

Light refreshment will be available. Donations to the OCC Shoebox campaign. Everyone is welcome.

### Shoe Boxes 2025

Thank you so much Christ Church for the 101 boxes which you donated last year.

This year, because of

- the difficulty of accessing and wrapping empty shoe boxes
- the cost of preparing a good box.

we will again be offering:

Go-pack boxes complete with all the essentials for £5 each for cash,

(£5.20 for card payments or £6 for card payments and a bouncy ball).

There will also be the chance to buy a reconditioned soft toy for £1 and bulk-bought items at cost price.

They will be available from the Foyer on Sunday mornings during September and early October, **starting on September 14<sup>th</sup>**.

There will be plenty of space in the box to add additional things ('Wow' items, toys and 'Fillers') of your own choice to fill and complete the boxes.

Please complete your box by **November 2**.



### **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.

**UPDATE ON DBS PROCESS DATA BREACH:** As mentioned on 24<sup>th</sup> August at the Sunday services there has been a data breach which will affect some of our church family who have had DBS checks done in the past year.

APCS sent the following information to forward. "We are writing to inform you of a data security incident that has affected some of your personal information held by our organisation.

**What Happened** On 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025, an external software contractor to our data processor Access Personal Checking Services Ltd (APCS) was affected by a cyber-attack. Some personal data from our records was accessed by unauthorised individuals.

**Your data was not accessed from our systems directly - our own systems, and APCS's, remain secure.**

### **Everyone Should:**

- **Stay alert** to unexpected emails, calls, or letters that mention personal details about you
- **Never give personal information** to unsolicited callers, even if they seem to know details about you
- **Verify any unexpected contact** by calling the organisation directly using their official number

### **Be Aware of Potential Scam Attempts**

**Criminals may use your personal details to make contact seem more credible:**

- Phone calls claiming to be from official organisations who reference your personal information
- Emails or letters asking you to verify or provide additional details
- Any communication that creates urgency or pressure to act immediately

**Remember:** Knowing your details doesn't make them genuine. Legitimate organisations won't ask for sensitive information over the phone or email.

## **If You Notice Anything Suspicious**

### **If you notice any unusual activity or applications you didn't make:**

- **Report it to Action Fraud:** 0300 123 2040 or visit [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

- **Keep records** of any suspicious contact or activity

## **Support and Information**

### **For general advice:**

- **Citizens Advice:** 0808 223 1133
- **Action Fraud:** 0300 123 2040

### **For data protection concerns:**

- **ICO:** 0303 123 1113

Further information on how to protect yourself from the impact of a data breach can be found on the NCSC website [www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/data-breaches](http://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/data-breaches)

## **What We Are Doing**

- This incident has been reported to the Information Commissioner's Office and we will be reporting it to the Charity Commission
- All affected systems have been secured and additional protections implemented
- We are monitoring the situation and will update you if we learn of any specific threats

**Questions About This Incident** If you have questions about this breach, please contact us at: Doug or Jean [office@christchurchpurley.org.uk](mailto:office@christchurchpurley.org.uk)

While we cannot guarantee that your information won't be misused, most people affected by data breaches do not experience any problems. The guidance above provides sensible precautions based on what information was actually accessed."





## STREET EVANGELISM

Street Evangelism 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 12:30pm

- 2:30 pm

- Meet in Purley Baptist Church car park.

Go out on twos (or threes) and strike up conversations with people you meet.

Speak of Jesus if the opportunity arises – but only after a conversation about them and if the Holy Spirit leads you to do so.

*"A stranger is just a friend you haven't met yet"*

*(Irish proverb)*

**NEXT OUTING: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September – day of Purley Festival**



## 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