



CHRIST CHURCH



Parish Profile²⁰²⁶



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Bishop of Dorking & Acting Bishop of Guildford

It is a great privilege to live and serve in the Diocese of Guildford. Our part of Surrey and Hampshire (including a parish in London and Sussex) combines the stunning beauty of the North Downs with close proximity to central London. This makes it a highly desirable place to live. It has seen a considerable increase in population in recent years which continues to rise with extensive building of new houses.



We are a very friendly diocese with strong relationships across parishes, schools and chaplaincies. In the last five years, we have invested significantly in clergy wellbeing. We launched the wellbeing covenant in 2021 and, since then, we offer spiritual direction, clergy mentoring and pastoral supervision. We also provide clergy counselling when needed. As bishop, I take the love and care of clergy very seriously.

The Diocese has a strong vision rooted in Transforming Church, Transforming Lives. This was the result of considerable consultation in 2015 and was updated in 2023 when we discerned three priorities: Growing Discipleship, Growing Diversity, and Growing Community. Each parish is asked to consider what this overarching vision might mean in its local context and express it in a Church Development Plan.

There is significant support of parishes through the central team in Church House Guildford. In 2020, we launched the Parish Needs Process. This is our unique support system which recognizes that each parish in the diocese is different and it seeks to journey alongside each one of them, supporting in a way that is rooted in particular needs - whilst seeking to build a supportive learning community across the diocese.

Building on training provision that has existed for some time in the Diocese of Guildford, in 2026 we launched St Martha's College. This seeks to support our parishes in equipping leaders for all sorts of ministries (including ordained ministry). Its most exciting recent venture has been the two-year Foundations in Ministry Programme which has seen over 120 people explore calling and formation.



Whilst we have seen considerable growth in many parts of the diocese over recent years, our greatest challenge since the pandemic has been recovery of ministry to children and young people. We are in the process of prioritizing these areas – as we currently rewrite our children’s strategy and have launched the Youth Catalyst Programme which is providing an exciting platform for young people to explore faith.

We are therefore always looking for clergy with a proven ability - or at least the clearest potential - in leading change, fostering a vocational culture and growing the church younger, so that our vision of a Transforming Church, Transforming Lives might be more fully realised.

The diocese has been blessed with very able leadership for the last decade through the ministry of Bishop Andrew Watson, whose untimely death in March 2026 caused considerable grief for us as a diocesan family. Inspired by his example, however, we are committed to continue to ‘run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith’.

Wishing you every blessing in your discernment – and please do not hesitate to get in touch with one of the archdeacons if we can help in any way.

The Rt Revd Paul Davies
Bishop of Dorking
& Acting Bishop of Guildford

Welcome from the Simeon's Trust

Christ Church Guildford is a church with deep roots of faith, a strong commitment to Scripture, and a clear heart for prayer, discipleship and community. There is a beautiful faithfulness here, expressed in long-standing relationships, pastoral care, and a desire to see the good news of Jesus shared more widely. At the same time, this is a church aware that it stands at a moment of opportunity – seeking renewal, growth, and fresh energy as it looks to engage more deeply with its parish and to see younger generations come to faith.

As patrons, we are looking for a Christ-centred leader of godly character who will love this church as it is, while helping it become all that God is calling it to be. We long for someone who will teach the Scriptures with clarity and conviction, who will equip and release others into ministry, and who carries a heart for mission in everyday life. This next incumbent will need both wisdom and courage: wisdom to shepherd a faithful congregation with care and unity, and courage to lead thoughtful change, particularly in rebuilding ministry among children, young people and families.

In the spirit of Charles Simeon, we approach this appointment as a deeply spiritual process. We are committed to prayerful discernment, seeking God's leading at every stage, and serving all those who engage with the process with grace and integrity. Above all, we hold before us the needs of the parish, its current congregation and its wider community, and we pray that through this appointment Christ Church will be strengthened in its witness to the gospel for the years ahead.

May God bless you as you listen for His leading, and be assured of our prayers

Revd Richard Wilson

Contact: Richard.Wilson@stmaryreigate.org 07875 959339





Welcome from The Guildford Deanery

As you consider the role of Vicar of Christ Church Guildford in the Deanery of Guildford, please be assured of our prayers from across the Deanery for all those who put out their fleeces in discerning whether God is calling them to this rather wonderful corner of the kingdom. Guildford Deanery is a richly diverse place which includes the beauty of the Surrey Hills, the Cathedral and the Bishops' houses, and is diverse not only in terms of population but also ecclesiology.

Guildford Deanery is the largest in the diocese and consists of 16 parishes. We have 16 incumbents, and 40 clergy in total (a combination of Curates, retired clergy, Residentiary Canons, PTOs and Associates) who are welcomed to Chapter which meets each half term for food, fellowship and mutual support. Our Deanery Synod meets four times a year and together we join our 33 lay representatives, including 9 on Diocesan Synod and 3 on General Synod.

We rejoice in our diversity and work well together from across the traditions in the places we are all called to serve. If God calls you here, you would be joining an active and positive Chapter who would support and encourage you as a partner in the Gospel.

Canon Neil Roberts Area Dean of Guildford



Welcome from our Churchwardens

Welcome! We are so glad you have found us and are delighted you are taking the time to consider becoming our new vicar. We hope this profile will give you a sense of who we are, what our joys – and our challenges – are and help you to discern whether God is calling you to apply to join us to serve as vicar of Christ Church.

We are a welcoming parish church, with an evangelical heritage, based in Guildford, Surrey. We seek to know Jesus and to make him known in our parish, in our town and wherever we spend our daily lives. We need a vicar who will help, challenge and lead us in the mission God has planned for us. We have a strong seniors' ministry but we long to see more families, children and young people joining us. We feel the church has great potential and we are looking for the right person to help us unlock that and move forward. We have been greatly blessed by God over the years and we are excitedly looking forward to seeing where He wants to lead us next.

Christ Church is ready for a new chapter, excited for a new vision and ready to change. If you feel God might be calling you to Christ Church, we encourage you to have an informal conversation with our Simeon's Trustees Patron, the Archdeacon or with one of us to find out more about our church. We are looking forward to meeting God's person, might that be you?

Whatever you decide, we pray every blessing on you in finding where God is calling you.

Fiona and Sallie

Contact: churchwardens@christchurchguildford.com



Fiona McGowan
Sallie Garrod



Our Parish of Christ Church and the town of Guildford

The Parish of Christ Church lies to the north-east of Guildford town centre. There are a few modern office buildings within the parish. Otherwise, it is made up of residential with a mix of bedsits, flats, family homes, and some larger high-value properties. The Church Urban Fund shows the number of people living in the parish to be 8,141 and lists it as one of the least deprived parishes in the country.

The nature of much of the housing, may mean that younger people are unable to afford to live in the parish or they move on after a short time.

For more information about Christ Church:

Christ Church Guildford:

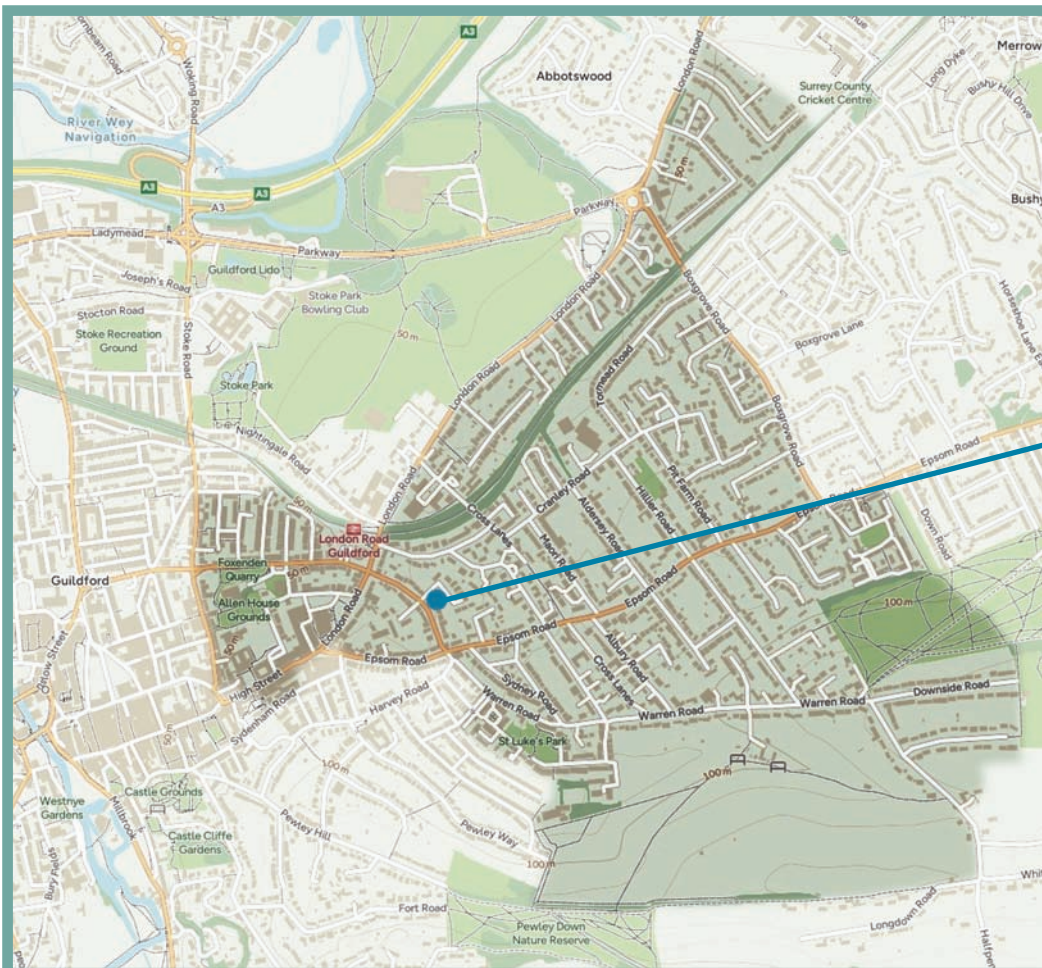
<https://christchurchguildford.com>

Diocese of Guildford:

<https://cofeguildford.org.uk/>

Church Urban Fund:

<https://cuf.org.uk/parish/170084>





The parish is home to two independent schools:

The Royal Grammar Prep School
(currently for boys 3 – 11, but co-ed from September 2027).

Tormead School (girls 4 – 18)

Just over the parish border is **Guildford High School for Girls**. In neighbouring parishes, within a short distance of Christ Church, there are a number of highly regarded state primary schools:

Holy Trinity Pewley Down,
St Nicolas C of E Infant,
Sandfield Primary and
Boxgrove Primary.

Local state secondary schools are outside the parish but within a short distance of Christ Church:

Guildford County,
George Abbot and
St Peter's Catholic School.

Also within the parish are:

Christ Church Pre-school Playgroup
and **Drayton House Day Nursery.**

Guildford is a relatively prosperous commuter town to the southwest of London. The population is around 144,000. The town is home to Surrey University and the area benefits from a wealth of local amenities including a castle, theatres, cinema, hospitals, sports centres, restaurants, pubs and nightclubs and lots more, to cater for a range of needs and interests. Guildford town centre is a busy retail area, mainly centred around the historic High Street, cobbled with setts. Surrounding areas and neighbouring villages offer local shops. There are several retail parks offering larger supermarkets and DIY stores.

Guildford is well served for green spaces including the Castle Gardens and Stoke Park and also fortunate to be within easy reach of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the River Wey. The town offers good transport links with the surrounding area via the A3 and by rail to London, Reading and Gatwick. It is also conveniently located for access to both Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

Guildford is at the heart of Guildford Diocese with the Cathedral on Stag Hill visible from many parts of the town. It is home to many churches; Anglican, other denominations and large non-denominational churches within our parish and Guildford generally. Several of these offer children's work and we have lost members to these churches.

For more information about
Guildford:

<https://www.visitsurrey.com/guildford/>



Guildford High Street looks towards the North Downs.



For some years Christ Church has had a long mission statement which was hard to remember. The PCC and Strategy Group have updated the statement.

Our Purpose – Who are we?

We are a Christ-centred, Bible-focussed, mission minded church, seeking to grow God's kingdom here in Guildford and beyond with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Our Calling – We are called to be...

- **Disciples** - equipping everyone, through teaching and worship, to know Christ better.
- **Missional** - enabling everyone, in their own way and in their own time, to make Christ better known.
- **Welcoming** - building relationships with all who come to Christ Church, those who use our buildings, and those who live in our parish.
- **Pastoral** - as a church that seeks to be inter-generational, we recognise our need to support people of all ages and all stages of life, those exploring faith as well as those who have been Christians for many years.

Our Beliefs – Everything we do is built on these foundations.

- We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe in Jesus Christ, crucified and resurrected, our Saviour and King.
- We believe in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit who daily guides and helps us on our journey of faith.
- We believe the Bible is the infallible word of God, essential for teaching and guiding us in our daily lives.
- We believe God calls us into a relationship with him through the intimacy of prayer.
- We believe in using our God-given gifts in the service of God and others.
- We believe in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in both word and action, loving and serving those around us.

Growing Disciples at Christ Church

Our Services

Members of the congregation attend one or more of the following services through the week. This can mean that members of separate congregations may not know one another. We try to overcome this by occasionally meeting together for events such as church family meals.

SERVICE	FREQUENCY	STYLE	MUSIC	ATTENDANCE	NOTES
Sunday 8am	Monthly	Book of Common Prayer	None	5 - 6	<i>Paused during vacancy due to low numbers</i>
Sunday 10am	Weekly	Informal with Holy Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays	Mix of traditional and contemporary led by band and organ	75 - 80	<i>Followed by coffee</i>
Thursday 11am	Fortnightly	Common Worship with Holy Communion on 2nd & 4th Thursdays	None	14	<i>Followed by lunch in church</i>
Evensong 6pm	1st Wednesday of month	Book of Common Prayer	Traditional hymns with organ	15	
Open Hands Saturday 4pm	Fortnightly on 1st & 3rd Saturday of month plus occasional services	Informal lay-led service for adults with learning disabilities	Band	40	<i>Service begins with tea & cake</i>

Occasional Services:

Throughout the year there are occasional one-off services including infant and adult baptisms which usually take place during regular Sunday service.

Services for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday which are shared with our brothers and sisters from St John's Stoke, Burpham Church and St Peter's Bellfields and held at Christ Church or in one of the other churches.

Good Friday morning All Age Service followed by hot cross buns before some of the congregation join with many other Guildford churches for the Walk

of Witness up Guildford High Street. Good Friday afternoon – an Hour at the Cross, a meditative service of reflection.

At Christmas there is a wealth of services to choose from: Reflective Carols, for those who find Christmas difficult, a Carol Service by candlelight followed by mulled wine and mince pies, Christmas Eve Crib Service, Christmas Eve Midnight Communion and Christmas Day All Age Celebration (this final service has been shared with King's Church for the past two years).



Teaching

Our sermons, delivered both by clergy or by our occasional preachers, offer Bible-based teaching from both Old and New Testament scripture. Sermons are recorded and available on the Christ Church website.

Open Hands follow their own teaching programme.

We regularly run Alpha courses, sometimes with other local churches.



Prayer

'And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.'

Ephesians 6:18

At Christ Church, we want prayer to be at the heart of all we do. We have some very faithful prayer warriors truly convinced of the inestimable power of prayer, but we long to be even more grounded and guided by it.

Sunday by Sunday a rota of intercessors leads prayers during the service. Prayer ministry is also offered after every Sunday service with two ministers on hand to offer support. Services and meetings are also preceded by prayer.

Since August 2025 we have held a monthly lay-led congregational prayer meeting on the 2nd Sunday of each month, attended by around 20 people. Prayer focusses on a specific topic

e.g. our parish, education, our mission partners, prisons and, currently, the vacancy. This ministry is run by an enthusiastic lay team who put great effort into creating structure and inspiration for the prayer meetings.

The 'prayer tree' offers the opportunity for individuals to ask for prayer support via email coordinated by the parish office. Over the years our prayers have brought comfort, resolution and healing.

During the vacancy, a prayer group is meeting weekly for half an hour before our Sunday service to pray for the vacancy.



Musical Worship

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.”

Psalm 100:1-2

Music-led worship has always played an important role in our services at Christ Church. Today, the congregation at our single Sunday service is made up of all age groups and the musical worship style offers traditional elements as well as contemporary ones. Our aim is to help our different age ranges engage in worship (providing something for everyone) but to ensure visitors to the church experience something of a contemporary worship flavour.

Our music team is made up of around ten committed volunteers: a mix of instrumentalists and singers. Four of the team lead worship regularly; two of them have been attending the Diocese Foundations in Ministry training and have taken contemporary sung worship as a specialism.

Worship tends to be band-led, often from the keyboard but sometimes guitar, with singers and occasional other instrumentalists. One of our worship leaders is an organist and services often include traditional hymns, led on the organ. In addition to the Sunday morning service, members of the team provide musical input to our monthly prayer meeting and our organ-led, once a month, traditional Evensong.

For major festivals such as Christmas and Easter, we aim to have a full band with bass and drums. At Christmas, members of the church family also form

a choir for our annual candlelit traditional carol service. Our annual summer holiday club for children has often included a band featuring some of our youth musicians.

Christ Church uses a list of regular songs and one of the worship leaders meets monthly with clergy to link songs with service themes for upcoming services. The music team meets occasionally during the year to review the introduction of new songs to keep our repertoire fresh. New songs are sometimes “rehearsed” with the congregation at the start of a Sunday service.





Life Groups

We believe that being part of a small group is vital to our commitment to growing our faith and to growing together as the body of Christ. Groups enable us to build lasting relationships with others through studying scripture together, worshipping and praying, caring and supporting one another and socialising together. Around 80 people are committed members of our seven small groups, typically receiving weekly questions to enable them to discuss the Bible in depth and reflect on the previous Sunday's sermon. Our life group co-ordinator helps place newcomers in groups, offers practical support to leaders and works with the vicar to organise termly leaders' meetings. We consider our small groups to be one of the significant strengths of the church, providing a good foundation on which to build the fellowship.



Men's Group

The Men's Group began about 25 years ago, developing from a Men's Alpha with a hunger to study God's Word. The group meets most Sunday evenings for an hour to study the Bible. Studies are generally based on a book in the Bible or sometimes explore themes and topical questions.

The Men's Group also meets socially to get to know each other better and provide mutual support. Every Tuesday we meet for coffee and chat. There are monthly dinners, a summer barbecue and a Christmas dinner.

From time to time we host events with a speaker and we also arrange walks in the Surrey Hills for the church family each term. Some of us also take on various DIY projects for the church buildings as needed.

The age profile of the Men's Group reflects that of the church family – higher than ideal. A challenge is to expand the number of younger families/men in the church.





Growing Diversity at Christ Church

Guildford Diocese is committed to the vision of a Transforming Church, Transforming Lives. This is a vision of a diverse, growing, intergenerational church at the heart of each community, living and proclaiming the Good News of God in Jesus Christ through its three priorities: Growing Disciples, Growing Diversity and Growing Community.



Our Congregation

'For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.'

Matthew 18:20

Primarily a parish church, Christ Church also has members who come from other parts of Guildford and beyond. We come from a variety of church traditions but are united in our shared faith.

Our services recognise that while individually we may all be different, we are all here to worship our living and loving God. There are currently 105 people on our Electoral Roll. Our congregation is made up of both people who have worshipped at Christ Church for many years and people who have only recently joined us – and are still joining us.

Children's Work

He said to them:

'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'

Mark 10:14

We are blessed to have some gifted, enthusiastic members of the church family with a real heart for working with children and young people. At present, we have very few families with children regularly worshipping with us, and rebuilding this area is a key priority. We have a strong history of fruitful children's ministry, including a well-loved summer holiday club that has drawn many families from the local community. We are eager to see this area of ministry renewed and developed under new leadership.



Youth

Our church youth group is a lively, welcoming space for young people aged 14-18 (school years 9-13) to connect, grow in their faith, and have fun together. Members of the group come from church family or have another connection to Christ Church.

We meet every Sunday evening during term time, with around eight registered members and a faithful core group of regulars. Each session blends high-energy games – often inspired by school playground classics with an added twist for competitive thrills – alongside card games and craft/cookery and special events like our popular ‘Among Us’ night.

We also head beyond church walls, enjoying summer sports trips to Stoke Park and winter ice skating adventures. At the heart of everything is faith: we explore the Bible together and share time in prayer using our “crackin’ and lackin’” model. It’s a joyful, supportive community where friendships grow



and young people are encouraged to explore life and faith together.

While our youth group is a lively and committed community, very few of the young people currently engage with our Sunday services. Reconnecting our youth into the wider worshipping life of the church is an important priority for the future.





Open Hands

Open Hands is the second largest congregation meeting at Christ Church, welcoming adults with learning disabilities, sight loss, restricted mobility and a range of mental health difficulties. The congregation is cross-denominational from Guildford and beyond and meets fortnightly on Saturday afternoons, with an average attendance of 40 people. Many of those who attend also attend their local church on Sundays.

We offer a warm and friendly welcome into church for those often marginalised by society and bring God's word to those who may otherwise not hear it. Services feature interactive worship, where everyone is encouraged to join in through music, prayer, drama and sensory activities. Central to our time together is Bible teaching accessible to adults with additional needs, ensuring that the message of hope is clear and available to all.

Open Hands benefits from the support of the national charity, **Count Everyone In**. There are also links with similar groups across Surrey and the South East, joining together for services throughout the year and for prayer and encouragement for Open Hands leaders.

All are welcome to join the Open Hands congregation, regardless of ability or disability.



Seniors' Ministry

Christ Church is blessed with a lively Seniors' Ministry provided by a team of eleven church members. Events take place every Thursday. Twice a month there is a communion service followed by lunch. On the other Thursdays there is an afternoon group called **Thursdays@2**, attended by members of the church family as well as people from our local community and offering a speaker or activity followed by tea and cake. Once a month the Hear Here hearing aid service is available during the afternoon.

In the summer, seniors enjoy a themed 'Holiday at Home' in the church which offers activities, lunch, and afternoon tea and is attended by around 50 people. In December we have a Christmas lunch including a Communion service and carol singing and this is usually attended by 60 seniors.

These large events are supported by members of the congregation of all ages.

Over the last 10 years the work with seniors has blossomed but now faces challenges regarding succession planning as most of the team are over 70!



Growing Community at Christ Church

Pastoral Care

Christ Church's team of three trained Pastoral Assistants meets every 8–10 weeks to review any concerns in terms of health, bereavement and/or safeguarding issues. The usual format is to go through the Electoral Roll and share, in absolute confidence, personal knowledge obtained by visiting, by observation within the church family, or indeed by being approached personally. Any unusual absences of attendance are noted and highlighted.

The team ensures clergy are kept aware of the team's concerns. They are also keen to encourage more members, both male and female, to maintain a high level of care and compassion.

Community Outreach

Established following a parish strategy day in 2024, our monthly 'Café Friday' aims to welcome individuals by providing a warm inter-generational space demonstrating Christian principals in action. The purpose of this initiative is to play a part in re-establishing Christ Church as central to the spiritual and physical well-being of the local area. The café offers a hub for the current church family to welcome guests, build community, provide listening ears and share their faith.

The café offers 'Hear Here' services, amazing free cake, a simple craft, a puzzle table and has demonstrated its potential for providing a frontline pathway to church events, particularly breakfasts and Christmas services. Since opening 18 months ago, average attendance is now steady at around 25 people. The small volunteer team are praying that more people, especially young families, drop in, as we have the capacity to welcome many more visitors.





Loaves and Fishes

Alongside events organised by others in the church family, a small team of women organises a variety of invitational one-off events, designed to encourage members of the congregation in their faith and to provide outreach opportunities.

Events have included Saturday breakfasts, men's and women's suppers, advent evenings and summer drinks parties, with typical attendance of some 30 – 40 people. All have welcomed inspirational speakers, as well as valued visitors known locally to the congregation. The breakfast format has been particularly popular and, along with **Café Friday**, has provided a pathway to mainstream services.

In May we are looking forward to a brunch with a speaker, and we have other events in mind such as a performance of Mark's gospel and a concert with a Christian message.

The Clock House

The Clock House is a development of retirement flats on London Road that welcomes visits from Christ Church clergy for a monthly Communion service and carol singing with the First Guildford Brownies at Christmas. A similar regular communion service was previously offered at the Albury Care Home, and they have expressed a wish for this to restart.



Local Partnerships

Christ Church works closely with local churches in our Deanery and has also hosted several Diocesan meetings, offering an attractive large space with the screen and opportunities to serve refreshments to the guests.

Christ Church has developed good relationships with local schools, initially nurtured via the headteachers by offering prayer and a listening ear. The headteachers report valuing this outreach, where someone offered them care without demanding anything in return. This work will be continued during the vacancy by a member of the church family, who is an ex-teacher with a heart for children's ministry.

The schools visit Christ Church regularly either as part of their curriculum or for services to celebrate Harvest, Christmas and Easter and we enjoy visiting them for assemblies. Some of the Guildford High School girls provide occasional musical entertainment for the church Seniors group.



As well as the relationship with local independent schools, Christ Church has good links with Holy Trinity Pewley Down School through the New Life after-school club, formed in conjunction with St Saviour's Church, supported by members of the church family. For the last three years, Christ Church has hosted visits for up to 90 Year 5 Holy Trinity Pewley Down pupils over a morning to explore stations of the cross with a small team of church family members as one of their Easter Pause Day activities.

Christ Church is fortunate to have established ongoing relationships with several organisations who share use of our buildings:

- **Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy** (GTCC) rents office space in Church House and there is a good working relationship between the church and the chaplaincy.
- **King's Church** also rents office space in Church House as well as renting the church and church hall on Sunday afternoons for their weekly services and at other times for church events.
- **The Canterbury Care Centre** hires the church hall and kitchen four days a week as a drop-in centre providing friendship, chat, activities and lunch for people suffering with mental health, loneliness, anxiety or depression.

- **First Guildford Guides and Brownies** meet weekly in the church hall, and we enjoy a good relationship with the leaders. We welcome the children to special services such as Mothering Sunday and Remembrance Sunday and they are actively involved in these services by decorating the church, leading prayers, performing drama, doing readings and often serving home-made cakes and biscuits after the service to raise funds for their trips.
- **The Ukrainian School Surrey** uses Church House for its weekly school sessions on Saturday afternoons for Ukrainian refugee children. The school is led by a group of Ukrainian women to promote the culture of their country to children who are currently displaced by the war in Ukraine.
- The other main regular hirer of the church hall is **Perform**, a drama group for children which uses the building on Wednesdays and Saturdays.





Our Mission Partners

Christ Church's Service Action Team meets around three times each year to review our mission partners and allocate the church's outward giving (10% of our income) between those partners.

Mission Partners fall into three groups, international, national and local. We focus support on small charities where that support can make a tangible difference and where there are pre-existing connections with the church family.

Our current Mission Partners are shown below and we pray for them weekly in rotation:

- **Wycliffe Bible Translators** -

Support Bible translation in the Central African Republic and worldwide, motivated by Wycliffe's vision of a world where everyone can know Jesus through the Bible in their own language

- **FAMadagascar** - The charity serves Malagasy children and families where, as a result of family poverty, many children are placed in orphanages. They use foster care and family strengthening to help manage Madagascar's urgent childcare crisis, thus protecting children and supporting families.

- **Transform Burkina** - Founded by Christians with first-hand experience of Burkina Faso, it is a small UK registered charity whose work covers improving sanitation, education, health services and supporting agricultural schemes.

- **Church Pastoral Aid Society** -

CPAS provides training and resources to support churches' mission and evangelism, holidays for young people and patronage services.

- **Christians Against Poverty** -

CAP provides free professional debt and job seeking support through local churches across the UK.

- **The Matrix Trust** - A Christian charity providing a lifeline for vulnerable young people across Guildford Borough. Matrix provides support to children and young people in schools and in the community, making a tangible difference to their lives.

- **Guildford Besom** - Helps members of local churches to make a real difference in their community, through practical work (gardening, decorating and DIY), donating quality items (furniture, white goods, clothes, kitchen equipment or food) and donating money (to buy food or essential items).

- **Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy** - Established by Guildford churches, GTCC provides care and support to the community through its street angels (care on the streets), community angels (care in homes) and volunteer chaplains (care in workplaces) programmes. Members of the church family work for GTCC and it operates from rooms in our Church House.

Our Service Action Team also organises our yearly advent appeal for one local and one international charity nominated by the church family.

The Team at Christ Church

Parish Administrator

We have one paid member of staff, Linda who, with her husband, Adam, has been part of the Christ Church family for many years. She has held several roles in the church, including churchwarden and treasurer and is now our parish administrator. Linda is also an Occasional Preacher.

Christ Church has historically been a training church for clergy, training curates and sending out members of the church family to train for ordination.

Occasional Preacher Team:

Paula Bell (Open Hands), Jules Hall, Stephen Hofmeyr, Ian Kenyon, Michael Tame, and Adam Warner

Christ Church is blessed with a large number of committed volunteers (75 people were invited to a thank you tea for volunteers). 47 people are on rotas to serve at Sunday services and more than half of these serve on more than one rota.



Linda Warner



Paula Bell



Jules Hall



Stephen Hofmeyr



Ian Kenyon



Michael Tame



Adam Warner

Governance

There are 19 members of the Christ Church PCC including the vicar, 2 churchwardens, 2 deputy wardens, treasurer, PCC secretary and 4 Deanery Synod representatives. 12 PCC members are elected.

The PCC meets on alternate months. Attendance is generally good and participation is invited from everyone. In the past couple of years, the PCC has benefitted from the Church Pastoral Aid Society 'PCC Tonight' training. There is a good sense of "team" to the PCC,

and much thought has been given to optimising the agenda to ensure meeting time is used efficiently.

The Standing Committee meets on the months when there is no PCC meeting. It consists of the vicar, two churchwardens, the PCC secretary and the treasurer.

The wardens team (two churchwardens and the two deputy wardens) meets regularly to support the clergy and parish administrator and to discuss maintenance issues relating to the church buildings.



Safeguarding

Christ Church seeks to provide a welcoming church that is safe for everyone who visits. All those involved in church leadership understand the need to be alert to safeguarding around church. Leaders and those involved with activities for children and youth undertake relevant Diocesan safeguarding training. All church members are reminded that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Services focused on safeguarding are held on the Church of England's annual Safeguarding Sunday with relevantly experienced invited guest speakers.

We follow the Church of England's safeguarding guidelines, and our Safeguarding Policy is based on the Guildford Diocese template. Safeguarding is a standing item on the PCC agenda.

The parish safeguarding team consists of the following people:

- The vicar.
- Two Parish Safeguarding Officers: one for children and youth and one for vulnerable adults. The PSOs are the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns and will raise these with the vicar to escalate to the Diocesan safeguarding team if appropriate.
- The co-ordinator for safeguarding training ensures all PCC members and volunteers are up-to-date with their Church of England safeguarding training requirements and keeps copies of certificates when training is completed.

- The DBS validator ensures DBS checks are carried out when required.
- The PCC safeguarding representative acts as a link between the safeguarding team and the PCC.

The safeguarding team meets twice every term to review safeguarding concerns, risk assessments, safeguarding training and DBS status for volunteers as well as any Diocesan guidance or policy 7 updates. Meeting notes are shared with the PCC. The PSOs additionally meet each term to review the Diocesan safeguarding dashboard (currently on Level 3) and ensure we are as compliant as possible.

Groups from outside Christ Church wishing to hire rooms in any of our church buildings are required to confirm safeguarding arrangements for their group or activity before booking is confirmed.



What We've Been Working on

During 2023, Christ Church listened to God and worked with the Diocesan Mission Enabler Team to discern top priorities for mission and growth of the church for the next two years.

This was developed into our Church Development Plan and focused on **Regrowing Youth and Children's Ministry; Reinvigorating Worship; Welcome; and Raising up Lay Leaders.**

We have made progress in most of these areas and continue to work on them.

Regrowing Children's and Youth Ministry

Christ Church currently has very few families with children regularly attending church. We need to explore ways to encourage young people and families to engage with church.

We would like to employ a Minister for Children, Families and Youth to work with Christ Church to rebuild this ministry and we have the finances to support this.

Reinvigorating our Musical Worship

We need to ensure the quality of music for services is consistent and that sung worship is appropriate to each service. We don't currently have a Worship Pastor and are fortunate that our musicians are fulfilling this role.

Welcome

Christ Church offers a friendly, warm welcome to all who come through our doors but we need to identify clear pathways for individuals new to Christ Church to help them feel part of the life of the church at their own pace and, vitally, to develop their faith.

We need to build on connections we have in our local community and seek to reach more of our neighbours in the community.

Raising up New Lay Leaders

Christ Church is fortunate to have several Occasional Preachers but we need to encourage others to come forward to train.

Five members of the church are currently participating in Foundations in Ministry training. We need to encourage others to join this training.

We need to help the congregation to discern their gifts and then help them develop those gifts.



Thoughts about Christ Church from our Congregation

The churchwardens sent a questionnaire to our congregation. This is a summary of the 48 responses we received.

What are you thankful for about Christ Church?

We're welcoming to newcomers.

The friendliness and caring.

For solid, traditional, Biblical teaching.

We're a family as much as a congregation.

A fantastic ministry to the older generation.

Our Lord is here!

There is a real sense of the Spirit moving in us and through us.

What three words would you use to describe Christ Church?

Top 3:

Welcoming, Friendly, Bible-based.

Then:

Prayerful, Mature, Caring, Evangelical, Traditional, Involving, Worshipful, Non-judgemental, Supportive, Loving

What would you like Christ Church to do that it doesn't do now?

Attract and grow children and families and youth work.

Attract and support young adults.

Focus on reaching out to the local community.

Reinstate an evening service.

What gifts and skills would you like our new vicar to have?

A clear and inspiring preacher deeply rooted in the Bible.

An enthusiastic and passionate evangelist.

Prayerful.

A supporter of women's ministry.

Strong leadership, visionary and open-minded.

A heart for serving the local community.

Faithful to orthodox theology.

Welcoming of LGBTQ+ people.

The wisdom of Solomon!



Is there anything else you'd like to say about Christ Church?

We need re-energising!

We are a parish church with a huge potential for growth – a very special community, ready for the exciting new challenges that God will be bringing us.



Who Might God be Calling?

We are seeking a vicar who is a Spirit-filled person of prayer who walks with God and who will:

- Preach and teach the Bible with clarity and relevance.
- Lead us in growing as a church that reaches younger generations.
- Build, develop and encourage a collaborative team of lay and ordained leaders.
- Think strategically, bringing vision and be bold to take risks and try new things.

We are looking for a good communicator who can help us navigate change diplomatically and wisely, while strengthening our unity and deepening our faith. A leader with energy and enthusiasm, a passionate evangelist.

We're not looking for a person of any particular age, but someone who recognises the challenge presented by an ageing congregation and who is able to attract younger people and families to Christ Church.

We would happily consider someone with previous experience of teambuilding and leadership but for whom this may be their first incumbency.

LLF

Teaching at Christ Church has always upheld the orthodox view of marriage. We would expect to appoint a new incumbent who holds the same belief, but who appreciates that not all within the church family hold orthodox views on matters of human sexuality and is able to manage the diversity of opinion within the church family with sensitivity and to offer pastoral support as required.



Priorities for Christ Church

We believe this is a moment for significant renewal in the life of Christ Church - particularly in developing leadership, growing younger congregations, and strengthening our engagement with the local community. We'd like you to help us to:

- Develop our openness to the Spirit – helping the church family to grow in attentiveness and responsiveness to the Holy Spirit, supporting those exploring faith and helping one another to deepen our life of prayer, Scripture and spiritual confidence.
- Develop a strategic, forward-thinking vision of how to move Christ Church forward, making best use of our buildings and resources.
- Grow Christ Church, appealing to and attracting young adults and families. With a declining, ageing congregation this will require change that needs to be managed carefully.
- Develop a strong leadership team of both ordained and lay leaders who have a passion, energy and calling for their chosen area of ministry.
- Strengthen the outward focus of Christ Church to engage with our local community.



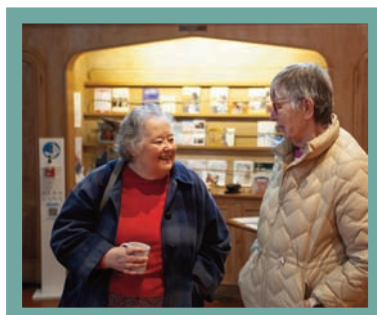
What Christ Church Will Offer You

This is an exciting opportunity to lead a church with deep faith, strong relationships and significant potential at a key moment of transition.

You will find a committed and prayerful church family, a supportive leadership team, and a church that is ready to grow and adapt under new leadership.

You will benefit from:

- A church family committed to caring for its vicar through prayer and practical support and welcoming you into our community.
- An amazing church administrator.
- A supportive churchwarden team of two wardens and two deputies.
- An engaged PCC, dedicated to growing our church and supporting your smooth transition into our parish.
- Many committed, enthusiastic, capable volunteers.
- Close links with other local churches.
- A church family who will recognise and honour your personal time and space.
- Regular personal day retreats and ongoing Diocesan training.





Christ Church Finances

In 2025 Christ Church recorded a surplus of £8,000 and we have net current assets, which are predominantly cash, of £185,000. Of this, £40,000 is restricted to support youth work and £30,000 has been set aside for property repairs and improvements. Roughly £60,000 is set aside to cover the next three months' expenditure, so there is overall £60,000 of free reserves.

There is scope within the reserves to part-fund extra staff but beyond two years this would need to be covered by growing regular income. The surplus, and build-up of reserves, arises, in part, from difficulties the church has encountered in recruiting a Youth and Families Worker.

There are potential other calls on reserves from current planned capital projects such as solar panels and air-source heat pump (we hope to source grant funding for part of this); quinquennial works and refurbishment of the church hall kitchen and vicarage.

The challenge is to be realistic on Christ Church's ability to fund any extra staff position with increased future giving and the ongoing funding of future projects.

There are occasional stewardship campaigns, the last in 2023, facilitated by the Diocesan Stewardship Mission Enabler. As we regrow the church there will be a need to increase planned giving. In the past, when there has been a specific project or vision, the church family has always been generous in support.

Annual income is around £240,000. The two main sources of income are planned giving (£125,000) and hall/church/home lettings (£90,000). There are 65 people who make regular gifts. This number has fallen gradually over recent years in line with a general decline in the congregation. Letting income has risen due to an increase in regular use of the church buildings and income from the flat (referred to as 23A) which is between Church House and the Vicarage.

Annual expenditure has three main components. The Parish share is £98,000, parish administration £28,000 and property costs £56,000. The PCC continues to maintain the properties to a reasonable standard and there are no significant repairs outstanding. Additionally, the PCC distributes 10% of planned giving income to its mission partners which totalled £14,000 in 2025.

Christ Church also owns the 'Curate's House' – a three-bedroom house not far from the church. This is not reflected fully on the balance sheet as we have not had it revalued recently. It is estimated to be worth close to £550,000 and there is currently a mortgage of £35,000 outstanding. When there is no curate, this property is let commercially for roughly £2,000/month.

The detailed accounts, which will be presented to the PCC in April, can be found on our website. They show a £16K surplus before any additional staff.



Christ Church Buildings

Christ Church was designed by Ewan Christian, a prominent and prolific ecclesiastical architect of his generation. The nave was built in 1868 with further additions in 1873 (chancel, north aisle and original vestry (now the organ loft), and lower section of tower); in 1889 new vestries and in 1899 completion of the tower and south aisle. It has several fine stained-glass windows, most notably the large Jesse window dominating the west façade. The church was listed as Grade II on 15th March 1988.

Christ Church has no churchyard or graveyard as such. A Garden of Remembrance for cremated remains was consecrated by Bishop Ian of Dorking on 7th March 2000. The remainder of the church land is lawns and shrubbery, with two small car parks, one at the front of Church House the other at the rear of the church. Further parking is available on local roads and, on Sundays, at Guildford High School for Girls.

During 2018 significant works were undertaken to remove pews and remodel the vestry area to incorporate improved toilet facilities. These works included the addition of a small kitchenette to the church's south aisle; this is used for refreshments after services as well as other church events. The re-ordering created a very large and attractive space which is used for a variety of church events and as a facility to hire to approved users of the church.

The church benefits from a 24-channel sound and vision desk from which both can be controlled and sermons recorded. There is also a hearing aid loop system.



Services are projected onto a glass screen, reducing the requirement for paper orders of service.

The most recent Quinquennial was carried out in October 2025. The report identified issues related to guttering and brickwork. These are generally not urgent and will be worked through before the next inspection in 2030.

Christ Church is part of a complex of detached Victorian buildings, comprising the church, Church House and a vicarage all fronting onto Waterden Road which runs between London Road and Epsom Road in Guildford. Waterden Road is a Conservation Area.

Church House, 23 Waterden Road, was purchased in 1961. It houses the parish offices and meeting rooms with some rooms rented to occasional and long-term hirers (Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy and King's Church).

The large church hall with toilets and kitchen was added in 1974 to the rear of Church House. Occasionally this is used for church family meals but mainly it is hired out to external organisations.



The Vicarage

The vicarage is a large Victorian house, next door to Christ Church on Waterden Road. It offers spacious accommodation over two floors, including two reception rooms, study, recently refitted kitchen, utility room with 2-year-old boiler and downstairs cloakroom on the ground floor with a door into the garage and another door opening to stairs to the low-ceilinged cellar.

Upstairs there are five good-sized bedrooms, a family bathroom and shower room with separate toilet. At the front of the property is a generous parking area, surrounded by shrubs. To the rear is a large attractive walled garden consisting of lawn with established shrubs and trees.

Much of the house is in good decorative order and some rooms (notably the sitting room at the front of the house) have been recently redecorated. The church will make an allowance for some interior redecorating. Carpets require replacing in some areas, but most are in good condition.

The Diocese is due to undertake removal of two chimneys at the rear of the house, since these have caused ongoing damp problems. They will also repaint external windowsills and relay the patio outside the back of the house.

The previous incumbent will leave curtains as these fit the tall windows. If required, some of the white goods such as the dishwasher and fridge freezer in the kitchen (which perfectly fits the space it is in) may be available for purchase by the new incumbent.



The vicarage is within easy reach of the downs and there are many very good opportunities nearby for walking dogs and outdoor recreation.





Additional Living Accommodation

Curate's House

The church also owns the freehold of a small family house in Ivor Close, a 10 – 15-minute walk from the church. The house is used for staff (curates) accommodation but let commercially when vacant for any length of time. The property was purchased in 2004 on a mortgage that has about three years remaining.

23A Waterden Road

23A is a flat formed of part of Church House with a modern infill adjoining Church House and the vicarage. It has one bedroom, a living room, kitchen and bathroom and a small garden. The flat is currently rented on a commercial basis but in the past has been used to house church staff.

Net Zero

As part of the Church of England's mission to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions by 2030, a small group has been looking at energy use and efficiency at Christ Church. We have registered for the EcoChurch scheme and are not far from gaining the Bronze award.

An architect was employed to produce plans and documents to submit a planning application to Guildford Borough Council in Autumn 2025. The plan was to install solar panels on the south-facing roof of the church and also on the roof of the church hall. This would have benefitted the church by reducing expenditure on electricity. We have recently learned that the application has been rejected by Guildford planners due to the church being Grade II listed and in a conservation area. The group now needs to consider how to move forward with this.

The PCC also voted recently in favour of installing an air source heat pump to power the underfloor heating system in the church. The underfloor system requires separating from the rest of the church heating to optimise its operation and potentially reduce running costs. Since this also would require planning permission, the Net Zero group will also consider options for progressing this.



...one final request

As Churchwardens, on behalf of the congregation of Christ Church, may we invite you to take a few moments to look closely, really closely, at the photograph of us on the cover of our Profile before you turn to the final page.

It was taken a few weeks ago, after our regular morning service and is an accurate representation of our current congregation.

We are sure it will be as clear to you
as it is to us,
what we hope your time with us will achieve...





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