



# Christ Church Life

Christ Church Downend +  
The Church Centre, Quakers Road



## September 2018

### Welcome to Christ Church

If you are here for the first time, please do make yourself known to one of the welcomers after the service and complete one of our 'Welcome' cards. Children and Youth groups take place during the 10.30am Sunday Services. New children are welcome to join these groups which start at approximately 10.50am. More details about the life of the church can be found on the website.

### Prayer

If you would value prayer, we would love to have the opportunity to pray with you after each service, please see the prayer team at the back of the hall at the 10.30 service.

Contact the Parish Office on 0117 908 9867 email: [office@christchurchdownend.com](mailto:office@christchurchdownend.com)

Web: [www.christchurchdownend.com](http://www.christchurchdownend.com)

Instagram: [@christchurchdownend](https://www.instagram.com/christchurchdownend)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/christchurchdownend>

Twitter: [@ChristChDownend](https://twitter.com/ChristChDownend)

Youth Website: <http://www.igniteyouth-christchurchdownend.co.uk/>

Facebook CCD Community: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/christchurchcommunity1/>

Items for October's Christ Church Life - Please email **Parish office** on [life@christchurchdownend.com](mailto:life@christchurchdownend.com) by **Thursday 20 Sept**

# Services in September

## Revelation 2 -3: What is the Spirit saying?

We begin a new sermon series in September looking at how Jesus encourages his people to walk with God through powerful images. What does it mean for us today? We will be following this theme at both morning services and at evening communion services throughout September. Life Groups can follow the theme using questions from the preachers and use a study guide.

### Sun 2 Sept

**What is the Spirit saying?** [Rev 2:1-7](#)

**The call to Love** - Nigel Stowe

9.15am Morning Worship

Church Centre

10.30am Morning Worship Christ Church

Juniors - Jo Vickery & Nigel Stowe

**What is the Spirit saying?** [Rev 2:8-11](#)

**The call to Suffer** – Jo Vickery

6.30pm Holy Communion

Parish Hall

### Thurs 6 Sept

9.30am Holy Communion

Parish Hall - Jo Vickery

### Sun 9 Sept

**What is the Spirit saying?** [Rev 2:12-17](#)

**The call to Truth** – Chris Dobson

9.15am Holy Communion

Church Centre - Chris Dobson

10.30am Holy Communion Christ Church

Juniors - Jo Vickery & Chris Dobson

6.30pm Celtic Worship

Parish Hall - Jo Vickery

### Thurs 13 Sept

9.30am Holy Communion

Parish Hall - Paul Peterson

### Sun 16 Sept

**What is the Spirit saying?** [Rev 2:18-29](#)

**The call to Holiness** – Paul Peterson

9.15am Morning Worship

Church Centre - Paul Peterson

10.30am Morning Worship Christ Church

Juniors - Jo Vickery & Paul Peterson

6.30pm Holy Communion

Parish Hall - Jo Vickery &

Peter Misselbrook

### Thurs 20 Sept

9.30am Holy Communion

Parish Hall - Jo Vickery

### Sun 23 Sept

**What is the Spirit saying?** [Rev 3:1-6](#)

**The call to Life** – Paul Peterson/ Jo

Vickery

9.15am Holy Communion Breakfast

Church Centre - Paul Peterson &

Nigel Stowe

10.30am Morning Worship Christ Church

Juniors - Jo Vickery & Nigel Stowe

**What is the Spirit saying?** [Rev 3:7-13](#)

**The call to Enter** – Nigel Stowe

6.30pm Spirit Space

Parish Hall - Paul Peterson &

Anita Dobson

### Thurs 27 Sept

9.30am Holy Communion

Parish Hall - Catherine Coster

### Sun 30 Sept

**What is the Spirit saying?** [Rev 3:14-22](#)

**The call to Authenticity** – Paul Peterson

9.15am Holy Communion

Church Centre - Paul Peterson

10.30am Morning Worship Christ Church

Juniors - Jo Vickery & Paul Peterson

7pm Worship

Christ Church - Jo Vickery &

Anita Dobson

Sermon recordings for Sunday 10.30am and 6.30pm and Thursday 9.15am services can be found at [www.christchurchdownend.com](http://www.christchurchdownend.com)

## Re-Opening of the Church Celebration Weekend - Fri 5 - Sun 7 October

Enjoy and support this varied programme of events to celebrate and re-dedicate the church building and ourselves to God's service.

**Worship** Sun 30 Sept 7pm

**Night of Prayer** Sun 30 Sept 8pm - Mon 1 Oct 7.30am followed by continental style breakfast at 8am. Come at any time and stay as long as you like. Prayer stations and activities will give you direction or you can pray your own way. The theme of "Open" will prepare us for the opening weekend but also for the future, with a readiness to be open to what God has in store for us as individuals and as a church. It's also a good reminder to pray for the many in the surrounding community that God wants us to reach out to with open arms just as he does. You can sign up for an hour slot as with previous prayer events, in order to ensure that at least 2 people will be praying at any time. This can be done by copying this link or by contacting Anita.

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/emailedirect/81e3225c6ad49623167a4309eb4b2e75/>

We will end with prayer all together at 7.30 am on Mon 1 Oct, followed by a continental style breakfast. (Please sign up if you would like to come.)

<http://christchurchdownend.com/event-items/night-of-prayer/>

**Church Preview** Wed 3 Oct 6.30-7.30pm  
Church family are all invited. Come to a special private preview of the re-opened church building as a thank you to you all who have given, worked and prayed to support the project. Enjoy a glass of something and a chance to have a look around as we celebrate together.

**Service of Dedication** Fri 5 Oct 7 pm  
with special guest Bishop Graham Tomlin, Bishop of Kensington.

**Open Church** Sat 6 Oct 9.30am - 12.30pm including flower displays, photographic exhibition, refreshments.

**Fun Afternoon with Bouncy Castle**  
Sat 6 Oct 2-4 pm Bouncing, crafts & refreshments.

**Celebration Concert** Sat 6 Oct 7pm  
Showcase of local musical talent including school groups, Bromley Heath WI choir, our talented young people and other local musicians. Ticketed Event - free tickets available from the Parish office or Anita Dobson.

**Harvest All Age Praise**  
Sun 7 Oct 10.30am Including our uniformed groups.

**Bring and Share Banquet**  
Sun 7 Oct from 12.15 - 3pm Sign up sheet to confirm what you will bring.

**Harvest Songs of Praise**  
Sun 7 Oct 6.30pm

*Ways to be involved* - Welcoming, car park attendant, chair movers, washing up, serving drinks, ticket desk, general support, providing food (details to follow) AND most importantly, inviters and bringers of friends, neighbours and families. The church belongs to the whole community so let's celebrate together and see them come to many events and worship in the future. Let's invite as we mean to go on. Please speak to Jo, Shahne, Maggie or Anita.

*...CAP food bank is running low - please remember CAP when doing your shop....*

**Women in Work group** We are relaunching this group on Tue 4 Sept 7.45pm for 8 at the youth hub. This group is for any women who work: you may have guessed this! Also women on maternity leave. Come and spend some time reflecting on your faith, work and life with others who will have gone through similar experiences. Find an oasis of peace and closeness to God for just a while. The group meets monthly on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm: 2 Oct, 6 Nov, 4 Dec. Get in touch with Anita to find out more. Let us know if you hope to attend.

**Parenting Course** for parents of primary age and below. The 6 week course starts on Mon 10 Sept 7.45pm in the youth hub. It's so helpful to be able to share together in a supportive place. See Laura Nicholls or Anita

**Alpha is back** - Monday evenings in the Youth Hub. An opportunity to explore the meaning of life, ask those tough questions and discuss with others over coffee and cake. Who could you bring along or invite? See Paul Peterson or Angie Moller if interested. The introductory supper will be at 7.45pm on Mon 1 Oct.

**Baptism and Confirmation** are opportunities to publicly affirm your faith before friends and family. Christ Church will be hosting these services in late November. Alpha will serve as adult preparation, and there will be a 6 week series for teenagers starting on Wed 3 Oct at Paul Peterson's.

**CAP Prayer Group** The first meeting is on Tue 18 Sept 7.30pm at Nigel & Belinda's 29 Charnhill Drive, Mangotsfield, BS16 9JR. Please join us if you're brand new to CAP or have never attended a prayer group before. All welcome and there's no obligation to pray out loud! Leyla [leylafellows@capuk.org](mailto:leylafellows@capuk.org) or 07530 900 957

The **Parish Harvest Supper** will be held on Tue 9 Oct 2018 at North Street Parish Hall 7.45pm for 8pm Tickets £8 can be obtained from Maggie Nichols 0117 3050711, Marguerite Luck 0117 9572377 or the Parish Office

**Open Church** on Tuesdays and Thursdays has donated £1500 to purchase 3 trolleys for moving the new stacking chairs in Christ Church as their contribution to Building4Life and made in memory of Martin Brown.

**Stuart Townend Concert** St. Michael's Stoke Gifford Fri 28 Sept 7.30pm. £15/£10. For tickets and more events [www.stmichaelsbristol.org/smcevents](http://www.stmichaelsbristol.org/smcevents)

**Mothers' Union** 5 Sept 2.15pm Parish Hall Kathy Prosser is giving a talk on her work as Christ Church Chaplain. 7 Sept MU Wave of Prayer and 15 Sept Quiet Day All Saints, Longwell Green.

**Open Doors** monthly prayer meeting for persecuted Christians is on Tue 18 Sept 9.30am at 39 Cleeve Hill.

**Open Day for prayer** Sat 8 Sept 3.30-9.30pm Cairns Road Baptist Church, Redland there is a day of prayer to coincide with midnight in North Korea, the beginning of 70th anniversary celebrations of the country's founding. There is a lot to pray for - do come along at any time. See Mary Massey.

**Mahabba Prayer** meet monthly to pray in love for local Muslims. Contact the Parish Office for more details.

**Urgent prayer needs** - contact Mary Freestone will pass on prayer requests to a group of praying people, who pray as soon as they receive the message. Remember to check with the person concerned that they are happy for the request to go public. 9566630 [ianandmaryfreestone@gmail.com](mailto:ianandmaryfreestone@gmail.com)





Andy Smith has been a member of CCD congregation for many years and recently you may have noticed the new look he's sporting. With the launch of our larger Christ Church Life it was time to find out about Andy's involvement with various voluntary groups and organisations close to his heart.

Can you tell me about your head shave, why have you done it? I support Chernobyl Children's Lifeline and I really wanted to raise some money to help replace the windows in the village kindergarten I visited in May. When we saw the poor condition of the frames and glazing the charity agreed to help. I decided to shave off all my hair and beard and see if I could raise some money. I've raised £950.

How did you become a street pastor? I was in Martin Brown's home group and we were thinking about how to be active in our faith. I felt God tapping me on the shoulder *'this is where I want you on the street'* I ignored it. Later I was at a meeting and Andy Mason who was leading Street Pastors in Kingswood walked in. I felt God saying *'now I've brought him to you, now do something'* From there Andy started six months training as a street pastor on drug awareness, listening skills, law, healing and prophesy.

Where have you seen God at work in this role? I've seen someone's knee healed on the street as we prayed. Other times it is seeing situations calm down between angry individuals as we intervene with a few calming words.

You have worked at the Wild Goose, that provides the homeless with 3 hot meals a day. How did you start?

As a street pastor my training involved visiting this project. I tried it for an hour and ended up staying the full shift. While I was there I met an inspiring man; Kevin. I listened to him and he would always say *'there you go my friend'* to clients who he didn't know. I started doing the same and felt it was such a loving thing to do to show welcome. Kevin's story is inspiring as his journey to recovery and healing came from meeting Jesus through the Wild Goose. Andy's given us a link to [Kevin's story](#) on youtube.

While at the Wild Goose Andy took on the duty manager role for a year. He says *'it was difficult sometimes to manage as I didn't want to turn anyone away hungry. God was with me. The manager said to me, "You stuck around and did it out of love, not just to tick it off a Christian box of "doing service"'*.



You were a church warden too, can you tell me about it? I found it challenging and felt out of my comfort zone, but I trusted God knew what he was doing. One thing is I am dyslexic so I was worried about how to create a spreadsheet for rotas. I prayed 'Lord you know my weakness, help me' I looked up online what to do and learned. A profound experience happened at the ceremony of being invested as Church Warden. I had to say *"I'm here to speak for those that have no voice"* It spoke very powerfully about what God wants me to do as Church Warden and in all areas of life.

Andy completed his service as Church Warden in April this year and since joined the Diocesan Synod where he enjoys meeting new people and helping them grow in their roles.

What are you looking forward to in our new church building? I'm looking forward to meeting people and having time to reflect.

What's your favourite verse?

Andy immediately replies 'Nothing can separate me from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus' Romans 8:39

As we finish Andy says 'I want this interview to inspire others - if Andy can do it then I can. We've all got gifts, it's how you respond, if you fail to act on that gift you'll lose it' Andy has definitely been using his gifts and finding God's blessing along the way. If you are inspired and feel that God nudge please speak to Andy Smith or look at these web links

<https://www.crisis-centre.org.uk/content/wild-goose>

<http://www.ccll.org.uk/bristol/>

<https://streetpastors.org/locations/kingswood/>



We have many creative and talented folk in our Church. August's prayer focus was for all those working in creative ways both in their work and in their free time. We are blessed and inspired by those with these creative gifts whether it be quilting, filming, singing, designing, knitting or drawing.



These are two of Stacey Hanslip's drawings he uploads regularly to the [Christ Church Community Facebook page](#). Thank you Stacey for blessing us with your creative gifts.

### **September prayer focus**

Our prayer focus for our frontlines this month is education and child care. Please pray for all teachers, teaching assistants, support staff, governors, nursery school staff, educators and advisors, policy makers, child minders: especially those among our congregation of whom there are many. Also please pray for parents at home with young children and grandparents doing regular child care.

**Shutters Open** A special Photography Exhibition is planned at Christ Church Downend as part of the Church re-opening weekend on Sat 6 Oct.

We are looking for images on the theme of "Open". You can interpret this how you choose. The best photographs will be selected and printed for an exhibition in the church. ALL photographs submitted will be displayed on a digital screen as part of a rolling presentation so you can come and see your images in the church even if they are not printed. To enter please send all entries as digital images with as high a resolution as possible to Chris Dobson by **10 Sept**

**chris.j.dobson@gmail.com**. If images are larger than 10mb or there are multiple images please send them using an online application like [wettransfer.com](http://wettransfer.com). All images must be your own and copyright free. There is no entry fee.

**The next Downend SOUP** is on Tue 2 Oct 6.30pm. It's an extra special SOUP as teams of local primary children will bid for support with their ideas to change our world for the better. Tickets (suggested donation £5 per adult) are from the Parish Office or [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com). We would love any volunteers to help on the night or bring a cake. Speak to Ian Browne, Jenny Rawling or Helen Buick for information

**Join our Christmas choir!** Come and join this fun choir as we prepare for our Carols by Candlelight services on Dec 16. There is an introductory session on Thurs 18 Oct 7.30 - 9pm at church. (Coffee and cake provided.) Ability to read music not essential. Recordings will be provided to learn at home. Thursday rehearsals 8, 15, 22, 29 Nov and 6, 13 Dec. 7.30 - 9 pm Dec 16 rehearsal 2-4 pm Carol services 4.30pm & 7pm (light tea available for performers) For more info see Helen Owens [helenkucharek@hotmail.com](mailto:helenkucharek@hotmail.com)

**Christ Church Parish Weekend at Lee Abbey** - 27-29 Sept 2019 Lee Abbey conference, retreat and holiday centre sits on a beautiful 280 acre site on the edge of Exmoor on the North Devon Coast. We have booked out the whole centre and look forward to an inspiring time of teaching, worship, fellowship and renewal for all ages. [Booking forms](#) are available on the church website or from the office. There are a variety of rooms to suit different people and families. There is still plenty of space, **but please book by 27 Sept**. For Lee Abbey information visit <https://leeabbeydevon.org.uk/>

**Shoe Box Appeal 2018** Bring some happiness to someone in need this Christmas. Please help, in any way, to support the sharing of love to someone in Eastern Europe. You can donate a whole filled shoebox, just a toothbrush, toothpaste or a monetary contribution. All items required to fill the shoeboxes are listed in the leaflets available from the Parish Office or from Angela Avent - 07921 504854. All the shoeboxes need to be ready by the end of October. Please bring to Church or Parish Office.

**Beautiful hat, scarf & glove sets available** for £2 per set if you would like one to go in your shoebox or for yourself. Please see Angela. All proceeds from the sale of this will go to 'Aid Ukraine'.

**Messy Church home cooks needed** Would you be able and willing to join the rota of people who bring food for Messy church? This involves cooking for 8 people once a month. The recipes are kept simple. We can reimburse the cost of the ingredients. If you are interested in helping, even on an irregular basis we would love to hear from you as we are very short of volunteers at the moment. Please speak to Rosie, Helen or Anita.

## Weekly Events

### **Mondays**

9.15am Morning Prayer @ Youth Hub

### **Tuesdays**

11am Bible Study @ Youth Hub (from 25 Sept)

3.15pm Tuesday Drop in (Yrs 6,7&8) @ Youth Hub (from 11 Sept)

3.30 - 4.30pm Tuesday Moveit Club (Yrs 3-5) @ Pendennis Flats(from 11 Sept)

### **Wednesdays**

7am Morning Prayer @ Youth Hub

2pm Stroke Gardening Group @ Youth Hub

6.30pm Elev8 @ Youth Hub (from 12 Sept)

8-9.15pm Elev8+ (Yr 9 plus) @ Youth Hub (from 13 Sept)

### **Thursdays**

9.15-11.30am Holy Communion & Open Church @ Parish Hall

6.30pm Ignite Youth Group

8pm Ignite+ Youth Group

### **Fridays**

9.45am Jigsaw Toddlers Group @ Parish Hall (from 7 Sept)

3.15pm Youth Drop in (Yrs 9-11) @ Youth Hub (from 7 Sept)

## September dates for your diary

**Monday 3** Craft Group 1.30-3pm @ Parish Hall

**Tuesday 4** Women in Work 7.45pm @ Youth Hub

**Wednesday 5** MU Kathy Prosser 'Being Chaplain' 2.15pm @ Parish Hall

**Saturday 8** Women's Quiet Day 10am - 4pm @ Mill House, Devon

**Saturday 8** Open Doors Day of Prayer for North Korea 3.30 - 9.30pm  
Cairns Road Baptist Church

**Monday 10** Photography competition entries due in

**Monday 10** Parenting Course 7.45pm @ Youth Hub

**Tuesday 11** CC Fellowship "A lifetime in Education" John Waldren  
7.45pm @ Parish Hall

**Saturday 15** MU Quiet Day @ All Saints Church, Longwell Green

**Monday 17** Craft Group 1.30-3pm @ Parish Hall

**Monday 17** PCC Meeting 7.30pm @ Parish Hall

**Tuesday 18** Prayer for Persecuted Christians 9.30am @ 39 Cleeve Hill

**Tuesday 18** Bereavement Support Group 1-3pm @ Parish Hall

**Tuesday 18** CAP Prayer Group 7.30pm @ 29 Charnhill Drive

**Wednesday 19** Messy Church 4.30 - 6.30pm @ Parish Hall

**Thursday 27** Bookings for Lee Abbey Weekend Away 2019 due in

**Friday 28** Stuart Townend @ St. Michael's Stoke Gifford

**Sunday 30** Worship 6.30pm @ Christ Church

**Goodbye** from Charlie Walker who is leaving the Parish Office to start a new job from September. 'I've really enjoyed working with Miranda, Maggie and Elissa in the Parish Office. Thank you for entrusting me with Christ Church life - I've been very blessed in this role and seen God at work in so many ways. I'm not disappearing - I will still be there on Sundays. God Bless', Charlie