Primary Schools' Chaplaincy

July 2026 – Oct 2026

News and Information for Term 6/1 for Parents!

Christ Church Downend wishes you and your families a very happy summer holiday!

Schools' Chaplaincy in Downend in Term 6.

It's been hot, but an amazing term nonetheless. The schools' chaplaincy team at Christ Church Downend has been busy working in three primary schools in Downend this term. Here we are in the picture below!



Harriet Jolly (our children's lead at church), and Jenny Sheppard (CCI school governor), continue to visit Christ Church Infant School for bible club on a weekly basis. This is invitational and children explore Christian beliefs rooted in scripture and Christian practice and expression today. It is so popular that some weeks there are over 30 children in the library for this activity!

Julie Gardner (primary schools' chaplain) has been getting to know some of the children better by being available one afternoon a week in Our Space, the permanent spiritual space at CCI. Y2 children have visited in small groups to learn how to use the space and consider the world as it is and how it might be, alongside exploring the biblical story of God the Maker. Children have wanted to get rid of bullying, pollution, hunger, illness and much more. They have wanted to create a world that is beautiful and whole – both in their homes and school and in the wider world.

This term, we also visited all the children at Christ Church Infants for a wonderful two days exploring the theme of transitions. You may have seen the CCI Facebook page with photos of the event. Children had the opportunity to consider their thoughts, feelings and hopes as they move up into the next year group or to a new school, or in some cases to a new country. We had a visit from one of the governors who reported that, "…the spaces are well-equipped with engaging activities that help the children think about their thoughts and feelings about themselves, others, the world and beyond."







Although these activities spring from the Christian tradition, children of all faiths and none can take part in them, because they are based on a value or need. All children are invited to think or reflect on the ideas. For those with a faith, it is also possible to pray.

Christ Church Juniors' have had a weekly lunchtime visit from the chaplain this term and enjoyed activities based on "moving on." These included activities to support friendship, considering opportunities and challenges and just talking about individuals' concerns or worries. These have ranged from concerns for older family members who are ill, to their own health and for things that have been said to them by others that have resulted in hurt feelings but moving on from this to consider how to balance the emotions with more positive thoughts and actions. In addition, the worship leaders at CCJ continue to visit our Warm Space Café with their wonderful staff member, Nic Addison, to build confidence, serve their community and bring lots of joy to the café's visitors!

At Bromley Heath Juniors, the Y6 children had a great time outdoors, exploring ideas around transitioning to their secondary school. We visited before the children had visited their new schools this year. Children said,

"This has helped me understand and it's been good to take time out and let my mind reset."

"The Tardis gave me time to think about my future. I don't get time to do that much."

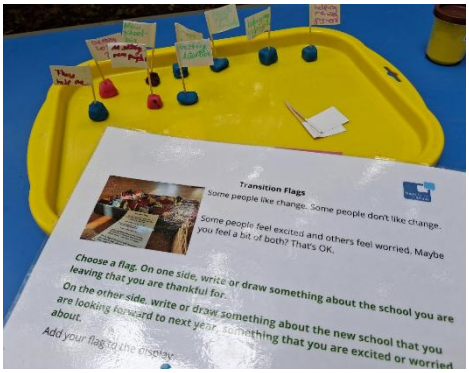
"I learnt it's not just me nervous about transition."

"The Be Still activity felt really calm, encouraging me to know what I can do and giving me new energy."

"I can think more positively about change, more confident about new things."







We wish all the year 6s across all seven primary schools, the very best of luck at secondary school. Remember, you can make positive choices that will take you to wherever you want to be in life.

For those children in Y2 at Christ Church Infants and Bromley Heath Infants, moving up to the junior school, remember you've got this! If you believe in God, he is with you and we will see you at your junior schools too!

Have a wonderful summer everyone.

And remember, church is open when school is shut. We are here for our community. Please contact the parishoffice@christchurchdownend.com with any questions or needs you may have.

Extras from the 2025-6 academic year!

Blackhorse at an Experience Event



Harvest thankfulness



Summer Family Services at Church – July 26th to August 30th.



Are you at home on Sundays? Got nothing to do? Then join us in church throughout August. Families stay together; there are options for joining in the service, using busy bags in church with parents, or popping out together to the parish hall and garden room for more active times.

Find community, meet up with friends and see if God could make a difference in the life of your family.

Come and try us out!



Bubble Church, Quaker's Road Church Centre
2nd Sunday of the Month at 4pm. Next service on Sunday 13th September 2026.



Especially for children aged 0-7 years, this is a half hour of puppet packed worship with stories, songs with actions and simple prayers especially for young families.



Older children welcome, too with opportunities to lead once they are feeling confident. Introduce your children to the Christian faith and build the community at Quaker's Road.

No charge, but donations appreciated for food and drink that appear at the end!

No need to book, just turn up! Here we are at last month's tea!

Families at Christ Church Downend – after the holidays in September

Would you like to explore the Christian faith with your children at church? If so, there are various activities during the week that you can come to as well as our Sunday morning groups.



Jigsaw – Fridays during term time. A free, relaxed toddler and parent group for children aged 0-4 years. We meet at 9.45-11.15am for playing, singing, worship time, refreshments, and crafts. You will be most welcome to join us – come and meet Monty Mouse! Lots of time for parents to chat and children to enjoy the activities.

Tea and Toast – Tuesdays after school at the Parish Hall on North Street – a chance to chat with other parents, for children to eat toast and have a drink and enjoy some informal games and activities with you before returning home.

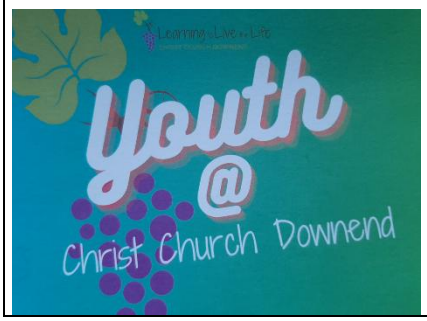
Creche – For 0 – 3-year-olds on Sundays 10.30 – 11.30 am. Play, listen to stories, sing and pray with Monty Mouse

Sparklers – For 3-year-olds – Y1 on Sundays 10.30 – 11.30 am. Story and song time with Jack the dog, learn about God, craft, playtime and fun with friends.

Connected – Y2 – Y5 on Sundays 10.30 – 11.30 am. Learn about Jesus, share faith with friends and leaders, craft, active games and prayer.

To find out more, please contact our children's lead on harriet.jolly@christchurchdownend.com

Youth – For Y6-13. Sundays @ the Youth Hub, 10.30 – 12 midday (Discipleship and discussion)



Thursdays @ the Youth Hub, 7.00 – 8.30pm (Games, tuck, community, discussion and prayer) – free to attend but bring money for tuck.

To find out more, please contact our vicar and experienced youth lead, dan.watts@christchurchdownend.com

Songs from the Shows – Sat 19th Sept, 7.00 pm.



Join us for a wonderful evening of song at Christ Church Downend.

This concert is in aid of The Alfie Nick Foundation which supports children and young people with mental health issues or special educational needs and the church. We'd love to see you.

Tickets are £7 for adults and £3 for under 18s. Please email parishadmin@christchurchdownend.com for all details.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) – debt relief and practical support



We are delighted that another family has become debt free through the Christ Church Downend CAP project.
If you are finding managing your finances hard just now, the Christ Church Downend CAP team can help.
You can phone confidentially on: 07483 410403
Or please email Rosie Brydon on rosiebrydon@capuk.org
For more information, see our website.

Any questions or suggestions for items to include in the end of term 1 Newsletter (October 2026), please contact me, the primary schools' chaplain: julie.gardner@christchurchdownend.com.

If your children have any feedback they would like to give the team, parents are welcome to send it direct to me on the email above.

See you all in September. Enjoy the summer, everyone.

Julie