Primary Schools' Chaplaincy

May 2026 – July 2026

News and Information for Term 5/6 for Parents!

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

Schools' Chaplaincy in Downend in Term 5.

What a short term! We do hope you had a good Easter holiday and that you have enjoyed the May holidays so far. The schools' chaplaincy team at Christ Church Downend has been busy working in four primary schools in Downend this term.

Harriet Jolly (our children's lead at church), and Jenny Sheppard (CCI school governor), have visited 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. Julie Gardner (primary schools' chaplain) has been getting to know some of the children by being available on the playground at lunchtimes once a week. One week, we found masses of beech nuts lying under the trees. The children decided to collect them, enough for one seed per child per class. The wonderful Mrs F. kindly gave them to the TAs in each class to plant and see if they grow! The school has new outdoor planters and this activity chimed well with the enthusiasm for this innovation.

This term, Julie and the schools' chaplaincy volunteer team from church visited Blackhorse Primary to take reflective space workshops to the reception and Y2 classes. The theme for these was "respect," so we considered respect/care for ourselves, the environment, other people and if we have a faith, God. We had a wonderful, relaxing time outside and enjoyed nine different activities that included making clay pots (thinking of how a little pressure can sometimes inspire us to be creative), creating playdough living things that the children cared for (respecting the environment) and talking about how everyone is precious (self respect), including them! 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. All children are invited to think or reflect on the ideas. For those with a faith, it is also possible to pray. This applies to those of Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Buddhist and Hindu faiths. These activities support all children's spiritual development and give space for considering life's big questions. Thank you to all the staff who made us welcome and worked hard finding us tables, hand washing bowls and clay mats!

Christ Church Juniors' worship leaders from Y4 and Y6 have continued to rewrite their prayers based on the school value for the term that they use in assembly. Across the year, between Julie and Mrs Osborne, the school now have renewed school prayers, written by current students, for each term. It has been inspiring hearing the children's ideas on hope, humility, love, courage and more as we explore how we can live by and reflect on these values.

At Frome Vale, the children in Y1 have been able to practise their reading with Julie on Tuesday afternoons. It has been really lovely to chat to them about the books they are reading and get to know the school a little better.

Term 6 KS2 After School Club at Christ Church

Starting with Jesus out of the Box. Book now!



A new place to belong, find new friends who live in Downend, and chill out after school on Mondays, starting June 8th!

Especially for KS2 children. Everyone welcome.
In the Garden Room at Christ Church Downend.

Dates for Term 6:

Monday June 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, July 6th and 13th.

Times:

3.30 pm – Arrival, drink, biscuit and game
3.45 pm – Discover what's in the box! We will introduce the children to some of the bible stories about Jesus.
4.20 – More games!
4.30 pm – Finish and go home.

Jesus out of the Box is a wonderful resource that helps children to explore who Jesus is. Highly interactive and practical, this resource is suitable for children of any faith or none.



Parents can leave their children, in the knowledge that we are safely recruited and trained and are enhanced DBS checked through the church. If you wish to stay, that is also possible. You can meet other parents, join in if you want to or just watch.

Run by Julie Gardner (Primary Schools' Chaplain) and Harriet Jolly (Children's Lead at Christ Church Downend), the children may know us already from Experience Events in church or our schools' work.

To enquire further, please contact: julie.gardner@christchurchdownend.com
To find out more, see our website:

To book, please fill in our online form:
https://pccofchristchurchdownend.churchsuite.com/-/forms/54outdeu

Bubble Church, Quaker's Road Church Centre
2nd Sunday of the Month at 4pm. Next service on Sunday 14th June.



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

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.

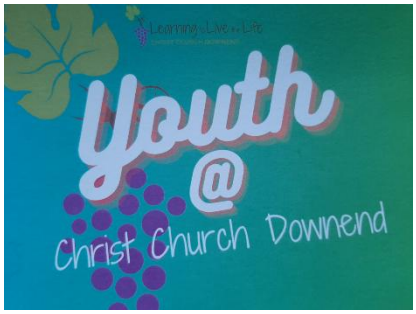
Creche – For 0 – 3-year-olds on Sundays 10.30 – 11.30 am. Play, listen to stories, sing and pray with Monty Mouse

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.

Learning to Live the Jesus Life
CHRIST CHURCH DOWNEND

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 associate vicar and experienced youth lead, paul.peterson@christchurchdownend.com

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



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 6 Newsletter for term 1 (September 2026), please contact me, the primary schools' chaplain: julie.gardner@christchurchdownend.com.

I will be happy to have a chat, hear your ideas, receive feedback and discuss any ways we might support you. Have a great half term everyone!