Primary Schools' Chaplaincy

December 2024 – February 2025

News and Information for Term 3 for Parents!

Christ Church Downend wishes you and your families a very Happy Christmas and New Year!
Have a wonderful and well-deserved break and a great Jan/Feb term!

Christmas at Christ Church Downend

The Christmas services at Christ Church Downend are as follows. All are welcome.
Services that specifically include children are as follows:
Carol service: 15th December 6.30 pm – Sing the Christmas message with us – adults and children.
Crib service: 24th December 4.00 pm – Celebrate Jesus' birth into the world, God with us here on earth. Dress up for the nativity scene.

For more information, please contact harriet.jolly@christchurchdownend.com

Experience Christmas at Christ Church Downend

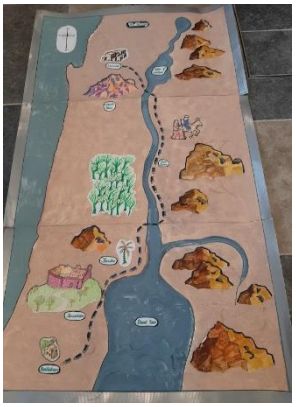
Our recent "Experience Christmas" event was attended by children from six primary schools. Three hundred plus children from year 1 to year 5 came to visit our Christian place of worship or the Scout Hut in Quaker's Road. They heard the Christmas story retold in a different way and were able to discuss the Christian faith and the reason we have Christmas presents, trees and more at home.

Thank you to all the staff and volunteer helpers who make this event possible.









Bubble Church, Quaker's Road Church Centre – 1st Sunday of the Month at 4pm



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! Scan the QR code to sign up each month so we have enough refreshments!

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.



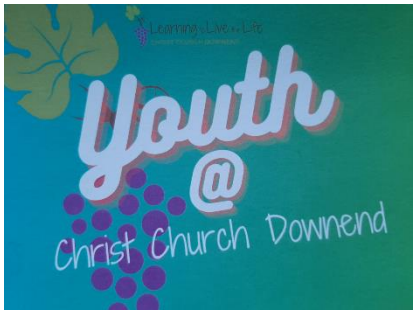
Jigsaw – Fridays during term time. A free, relaxed toddler and parent group for children aged 0-4 years. We meet at 9.45-11.15am for playing, singing, worship time, refreshments, and crafts. You will be most welcome to join us – come and meet Monty Mouse!

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

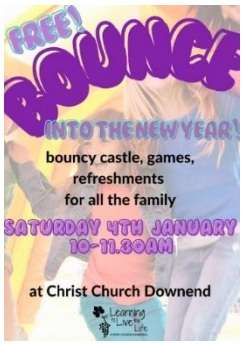


Youth – For Y6-13. Sundays @ the Youth Hub, 10.30 – 12 midday (Discipleship and discussion)

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

Bounce into the New Year! – Saturday 4th January – 10.00-11.30 am at Christ Church Downend



Just turn up for this free family event! A great way to start your New Year and discover our wonderful space in church.

Our building is fully accessible and there are modern toilet and baby changing facilities.

Bouncy castle, games and refreshments here😊

Refugee Story – a Nativity Retold.

This link takes you to a quite hard-hitting video, possibly suitable for Y5, Y6 and secondary aged children – a link between refugees today and the Christian nativity story.

https://youtu.be/vmi5xQcB9zA?si=DBKJDlZCP6sJE1Es



South Glos Holiday Activities and Food Club

If your children receive benefit-related free school meals and live in South Glos, you can sign up to these holiday clubs and food programme this Christmas.

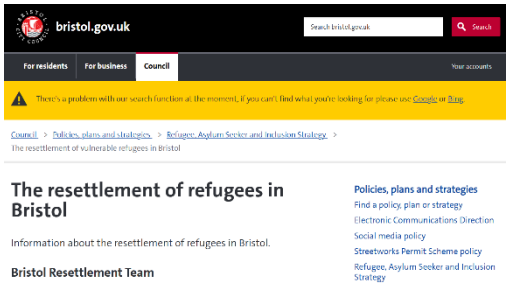
Here's a video to explain more. There are different clubs at different schools in the winter, spring and summer holidays. https://youtu.be/UghoVytq7iU?feature=shared

South Glos Welcome Hub for Refugees

South Glos has various ways to communicate with and support resettled communities in our area. Here they are:

Website: https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/refugee-resettlement-schemes/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/WelcomeHubsSouthGlos
WhatsApp: https://chat.whatsapp.com/D2Aq43b4dUk9CsWP5xZCC4
Teamup Calendar: https://teamup.com/ksotq99w4fifkmq1ax

Bristol Welcome for Refugees



If you are part of the resettlement communities and live in Bristol, rather than South Glos, there is help for you here at the Bristol Council website.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)



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

Care For the Family

Care For the Family are now doing a quarterly newsletter email that you can subscribe to, which gives parenting tips, as well as info on courses, resources, events that may be helpful https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/main-subscription/

Don't forget that anita.dobson@christchurchdownend.com and ali.rowe@christchurchdownend are available to run parent courses at your school. Anita is an experienced deliverer of courses for adults and has been a member of our staff team at church for many years. Ali is an ex special educational needs co-ordinator, a licensed lay minister and experienced in delivering parent course. They are both very approachable and caring.

Bereavement support

If you have suffered from loss of a loved one and would like the support of either of our vicars or pastoral support team, the church is here for you in Downend.

Please contact our vicar, Dan Watts or our associate vicar, Paul Peterson via email on dan.watts@christchurchdownend.com and paul.peterson@christchurchdownend.com

Any questions or suggestions for items to include in the end of term 3 Newsletter for term 4 (Feb/March 2025), 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.

Happy Christmas and New Year everyone!