Primary Schools' Chaplaincy

December 2025 – February 2026

News and Information for Term 2/3 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 below in colour:





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

Experience Christmas at Christ Church Downend – from Julie Gardner, the schools' chaplain

Our recent "Experience Christmas" event was attended by children from five primary schools in Downend. Three hundred plus children from year 1 to year 4 came to visit our church building 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 how we prepare our homes, schools and places of worship, ready for Christmas. They also had a chance to think about what they could learn from the story, even if they do not have a faith or have a different faith. We all learnt from each other.

Children visited from Bromley Heath Infants and Juniors, Frome Vale Academy, Christ Church Infants and Juniors, and Blackhorse Primary experienced Christmas in a Box this year. It was so

lovely to see the children actively engaged in the Christmas story and exploring their own ideas, feelings and beliefs. We hope they felt supported in their faith and/or spiritual journeys.

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









The children have also experienced puppet assemblies, visits from our vicars and chaplain and help from church members who visit local schools in a private capacity. It has been a joy to work in our Downend primary schools.

Job opportunity:
We are currently looking for a part time secondary school chaplain and youth worker. If you know of someone who might be interested, please direct them to Paul Peterson, our associate vicar for further information on: paul.peterson@christchurchdownend.com

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



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.



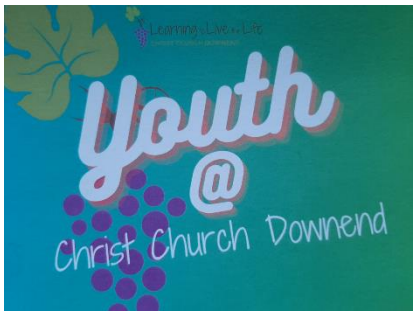
Jigsaw – Fridays during term time. A free, relaxed toddler and parent group for children aged 0-4 years. We meet at 9.45-11.15am for playing, singing, worship time, refreshments, and crafts. You will be most welcome to join us – come and meet Monty Mouse!

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 3rd 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😊

The Christmas Story – one of hope

This link takes you to a Lego video to share with your family members, especially the younger ones. Told in rhyme, this video is available free to download.

https://gochattervideos.com/downloads/the-lego-christmas-story/



Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

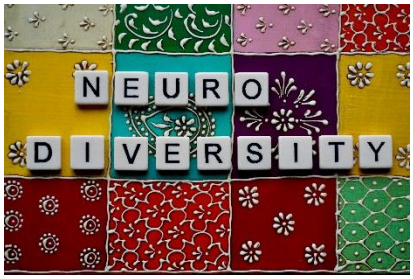


If you are finding managing your finances hard just now, the Christ Church Downend CAP team can help.
You can phone confidentially on: 07483 410403
Or please email Rosie Brydon on rosiebrydon@capuk.org
For more information, see our website.

Warm Space Cafe at Christ Church Downend

Your local church serves the whole parish of Downend, including those who are older, alone or with learning difficulties. Do drop in to our warm space every Thursday at church between 11.00 am – 1.30 pm with food served at midday.
Second and fourth Thursdays in the month – Music Train.
Third Thursday in the month – dementia café.

Neurodivergence Training from the Diocese of Bristol – 23rd Jan 2026 at 1.00 pm in the Garden Room at Christ Church Downend.



We are exploring neurodivergence in all its forms at church to ensure we are welcoming and inclusive. This training is for parents, grandparents and volunteers at church but if you are a parent in one of the Downend primary schools and would like to join us in this over view, you are very welcome to book a place by contacting Julie Gardner – julie.gardner@christchurchdownend.com
Places available on a first come, first served basis, so do email soon😊

Any questions or suggestions for items to include in the end of term 3 Newsletter for term 4 (Feb/March 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. Happy Christmas and New Year everyone!