Primary Schools' Chaplaincy

January 2026 – February 2026

News and Information for Term 3/4 for Parents!

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

Schools' Chaplaincy in Downend in Term 3.

Happy New Year everyone! This term has sped by! The schools' chaplaincy team at Christ Church Downend has been busy working in six primary schools in Downend.

Our two vicars have continued to offer assemblies and church services to those schools which ask for them. This is especially the case with Christ Church Infant and Junior Schools. We are also building links with Downend secondary school.

Harriet Jolly (our children's lead at church), and an ethos committee member, have regularly 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.

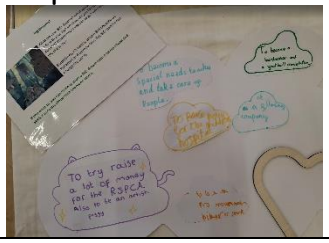
There is bible club too at Christ Church Juniors, run by a fellow Christian and governor from another church in Downend.

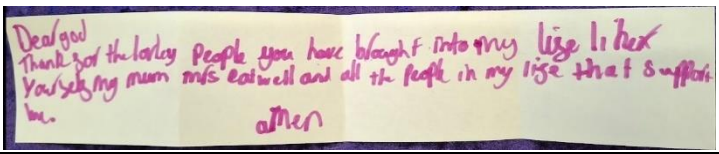
The primary schools' chaplain, Julie Gardner, continues to visit schools to support all children's spirituality through reflective space workshops. This term she has continued to build relationships with school staff and children by taking reflective activities once a week to Bromley Heath Juniors as lunch time provision around resilience in relationships, supporting reading in school at Frome Vale or the Christian element of the RE curriculum at Bromley Heath Infants. What brilliant children you all have!

Christ Church Juniors have chosen to explore the theme of generosity with all their Y5 and Y6 children this term. Activities have included discussions around caring for the world, through exploring plastic waste and what is beautiful in the world, being generous in our thoughts as well as actions towards other people, through considering our response to homelessness or to people with whom we find it difficult to get along. We have also thought about ourselves – how can we be generous in thinking about ourselves? What dreams might we have for the future and what positive qualities might we have that we recognise in ourselves?

Some of the children's responses include:







Term 6 Jesus out of the Box After School Club

For Key Stage 2 Children. Book from now!



What do you think is in these drawers?

Jesus out of the Box is a wonderful resource that helps children to explore the person of Jesus, as understood by Christians.

What did he do between his birth and death? Each week we will unpack a new story from Jesus' life and consider what these stories tell Christians about who he is and why we think he matters today.

Highly interactive and practical, this course is suitable for children of any faith or none. The only requirement is an interest in finding out a bit more. Developed by Bristol Schools' Connection, this resource is regularly used in schools to enhance understanding in RE. If you would like to find out more about it, please click here.



This is offered as a six-week course, starting Monday June 8th and running weekly until July 13th, 2026. It will take place at Christ Church church, in the Garden Room from 3.30 pm (with a drink and a biscuit) until 4.30 pm. It is open to all KS2 children from any primary school or home in Downend.

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. (Expect to be included in the activities!).

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

If there are more than 15/20 children interested, we will keep your details for the next club in September.

Learning to Live the Jesus Life
CHRIST CHURCH DOWNEND

Bubble Church, Quaker's Road Church Centre – 2nd Sunday of the Month at 4pm. Next service on Sunday 8th March.



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!

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!

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.

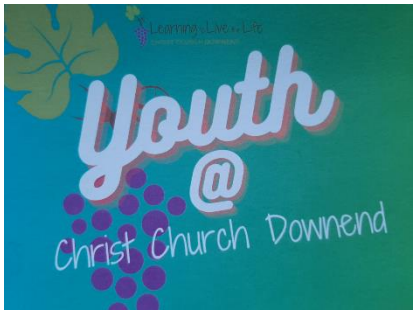
Creche – For 0 – 3-year-olds on Sundays 10.30 – 11.30 am. Play, listen to stories, sing and pray with Monty Mouse

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

Learning to Live the Jesus Life
CHRIST CHURCH DOWNEND



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

Experience Easter Outside for Children and Families



Good Friday 3rd April 10.30 -11.15
Come and explore the Easter story together in this interactive event in the churchyard. We start off in church and move around the churchyard hearing the story and trying out activities.
We finish with hot cross buns in the church.
Many local school children will have been on this journey with their class this year or in previous years, so they will be able to show you what they've done.
Dress for the weather. The paths and grass areas can be uneven. Accessible loos inside.
This event is open to anyone from the church, schools and community.

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 3 Newsletter for term 4 (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. Have a great break everyone!