Primary Schools' Chaplaincy

August 2025 – October 2025

News and Information from Term 6 for Parents!

Christ Church Downend wishes you and your families a very happy summer holiday!
Have a wonderful and well-deserved break and a great autumn term!

News roundup from the Primary Schools' Chaplain



It has been a real privilege to work with Downend primary schools this year. The chaplaincy team at Christ Church Downend, have so enjoyed meeting children, staff and parents and supporting families alongside the schools.

There have been three "Experience Events" at church to support RE provision in schools. Children have visited the church to experience harvest, Christmas and Easter through hands on activities and storytelling. There are about 350 children who visit us during these events.

The chaplaincy team have also visited schools to support children's spiritual development through prayer and reflective space workshops, alongside what the schools so ably already do. People are innately spiritual, and it is part of the UN rights of the child, the locally agreed RE syllabus in South Glos and Ofsted recommendations that all children's spirituality (whether they have a faith or none) is supported in schools. We have brought in practical activities that are concrete expressions addressing spiritual needs and ideas to do with the themes of awe and wonder, friendship, transition between schools and generosity. The children have engaged with enthusiasm. It is a joy to do!

Some schools have expanded their provision to include a permanent prayer or reflective space in their building. Children can explore what they believe, ask big questions about life, the universe and everything and be supported if they are going through a tough time.

In addition, at church, we support some families in financial difficulty through our Christians Against Poverty debt support centre. We see families freed of the burden that debt brings with it.

There has been a parenting class group run this year to support parents in their tricky job of navigating current culture and technology changes with their children.

If you would like support with anything here or have questions to ask, please contact me, Julie Gardner on julie.gardner@christchurchdownend.com.

Bubble Church, Quaker's Road Church Centre – 2nd 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 are appreciated for food and drink that appear at the end! Our next Bubble Church is on September 14th.

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. We are breaking for the summer holidays but restart at the beginning of September 2025.

Jigsaw



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

We restart in the parish hall on North Street on September 5th.

Tea and Toast



This is an after-school drop-in session at the parish hall, running during term times. Tea, squash, refreshments, board games and a relaxed space to chill out.

Everyone is welcome. We restart in the parish hall on September 9th at 3.15 pm.

Sunday morning church groups during term time

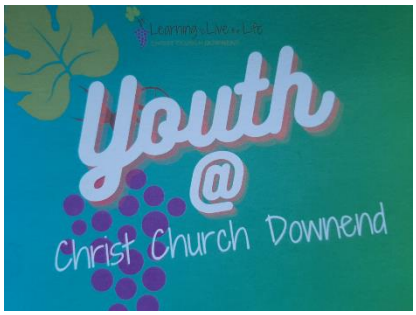
Creche – For 0 – 3-year-olds on Sundays 10.30 – 11.30 am. Play, listen to stories, sing and pray with Monty Mouse

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

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



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

To find out more for September, please contact our associate vicar and experienced youth lead, paul.peterson@christchurchdownend.com

Church during the summer holidays



Are you looking for a community, friendship, support and a group of people who can support you?

Would you like to find out more about Christianity and the promise that Jesus is with us through all our joys and sorrows and that he loves and accepts us just the way we are?

Why not pop into a church service this summer to see if you would enjoy the space, time, people and learning available here? All ages are welcome. Come if you are younger, older or in between. There are options for everyone.



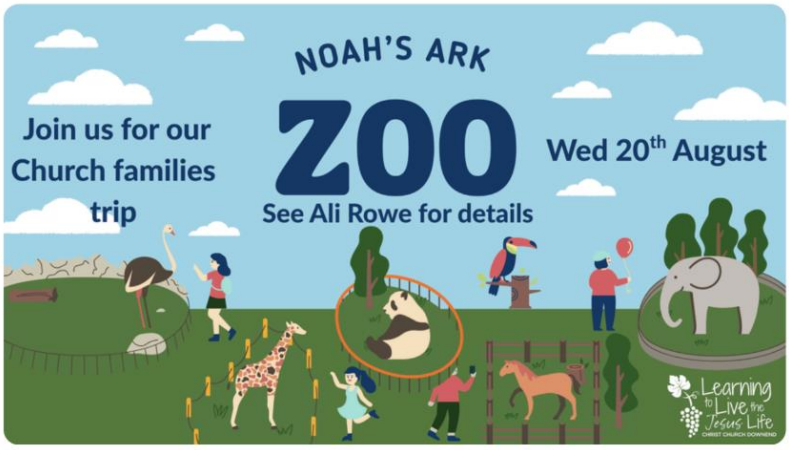
Our church services run at 10.30 am every Sunday during the summer holidays. They are inclusive of all ages and everyone. Our children's and youth volunteers and children's worker have a well-earned break during this time.



We offer some breakout spaces for families during services in the holidays with prayerful activities to explore and there are "busy bags" and activities for children in church.

There is lots of light, modern facilities and a very warm welcome from our church family.

Church trip to Noah's Ark Zoo



If you would like to join us on a church trip to Noah's Ark Zoo on Wednesday 20th August, please contact Ali Rowe on ali.rowe@christchurchdownend.com

Bring a picnic, pay and book online . 20% off if you book five days in advance.

South Glos and Bristol Holiday Activities and Food Clubs

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. There are four hours a day for four days of the week for four weeks of the summer holiday.

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

If your child attends a Bristol Council school, the equivalent holiday clubs are available here: https://www.yourholidayhubbristol.co.uk/

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 or to donate in Downend, 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/

You can contact me @ 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. We look forward to the summer and autumn season with schools in Downend.

Happy summer holidays everyone!