Primary Schools' Chaplaincy

Oct 2026 – Dec 2026

News and Information for Term 1/2 for Parents!

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

Schools' Chaplaincy in Downend in Term 1 2026-27.

Welcome back to a new school year everyone! This term has sped by! The schools' chaplaincy team at Christ Church Downend has been busy working in four primary schools in Downend this term.

The primary schools' chaplain, Julie Gardner, continues to visit four schools a term to support all children's spirituality with a variety of activities. This term she has continued to build relationships with school staff and children by taking reflective activities once a week to Bromley Heath Infants as lunch time provision around relationships, supporting reading in school at Bromley Heath Juniors and supporting individuals, alongside staff, at Christ Church Infants and Juniors. At CCI, we have explored ideas around friendship in Our Space. It has been a pleasure greeting parents and carers at CCJ's school gate this term. A huge welcome to Mr Huxley there!

As a church, we welcomed a year group from seven schools to Christ Church to "Experience Harvest". 340 children attended from the parish. The children explored the different harvests we as human beings, collect from the earth and how hard farmers, gardeners and fishermen work to produce the things that we need daily. They also heard about the Christian belief that the good things we are given ultimately come from God. They heard that our Harvest Festival which took place on the weekend of 4th October is a festival of thanksgiving for all that God has provided. We finished by considering the things that grow in our hearts and minds such as peace, joy, generosity, humility and patience. The children thought about times when they might need or experience these qualities in their lives. They came up with some beautiful ideas. One Y2 child, considering humility and different people's strengths, said, "If one person wasn't in our class, there would be a hole in it." Others reported feeling peaceful at the beach or at home in their own room or with a best friend. Many wanted to give their clay pot to someone they loved to show their appreciation. We hope that all the children enjoyed these activities. Feedback from home is invited, if your child would like to tell us what this event meant to them. Please can parents and carers email Julie.gardner@christchurchdownend.com with the children's thoughts.

Bromley Heath Infants (both Y1 and Y2 classes) explored the idea of generosity in a reflective space workshop over two days last week in their school.

When asked about their big dreams which might change the world, three children expressed a wish to be artists. One wanted to have a craft room and drew it with lots of details including drawers for all the resources, overhead lighting and a big bench. Another was inspired by Van Gogh (influenced from home) and loved doing art with teacher, Mrs Woodhams but also wanted to be an animal scientist to save animals from being hurt.

Shelter

Having talked about Homeless People living in single, small tents with nothing like the facilities enjoyed in their homes, one Y1 young man's way of helping was:

This would make it better…
He drew a tent that housed a toilet, shower and cooker.

And with the same activity the next day, another Y2 child drew a cardboard box, then a tent, then a small house and then a large house like his with a forest at the bottom of the garden, with arrows pointing from one to the next.

He was showing empathy for where the homeless person was, an awareness of how much the child has and also the hope for improvement for the homeless person in terms of housing!

Wisdom Tiles

Children spelt out their names in scrabble letters and then chose a label with characteristics of God on it, such as powerful, patient, loving, joyful, gentle, all knowing, everywhere and generous and added these to make a crossword with their name. One girl said, "I was patient today, when I waited for the other two to finish." Some of these are good human qualities too. We talked about how they spread when practised in real life.

Children's Voice



Julie Gardner is keen to hear from children she or people from the church have met in schools. Parents and carers – help them have their say!

Adults, please email Julie with:

- The name of your school and year group
- Your child's comment/s, thoughts and/or drawings about the impact of our work in schools.
- Your thoughts or comments as parents and carers.

Please say if you are happy for your child's comments/drawings to be made public on our website.

Email: julie.gardner@christchurchdownend.com

I would really be very delighted to hear from you!

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



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. Find friendship, food and fun at this 30 minute session with tea afterwards 😊

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

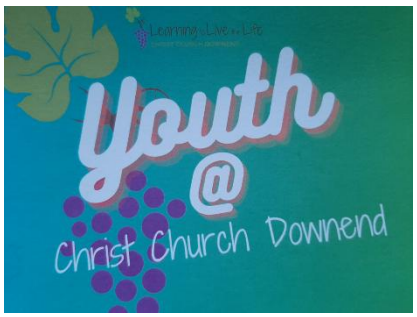
Sparklers – For 3-year-olds – Y1 on Sundays 10.30 – 11.30 am. Story and song time with Jack the dog, learn about God, craft, playtime and fun with friends.

Connected – Y2 – Y5 on Sundays 10.30 – 11.30 am. Learn about Jesus, share faith with friends and leaders, craft, active games and prayer.

If you are interested in joining the church family. We have a variety of families events on offer for our church families. See here for what's coming up this year: http://christchurchdownend.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Families-events-Autumn-winter-20267-1-1.png

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, paul.peterson@christchurchdownend.com or our new youth lead, Xander Grylls (unrelated to Bear!) on xander.grylls@christchurchdownend.com

Hope at Halloween



Hope at Hallowe'en Drop In
Sat 31st October 5.30-7pm
Outside Parish Hall, 57 North Street, BS16 5SG

Call in with your friends for a hot chocolate, a sweet and a bag of hope.

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 feedback 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!