Primary Schools' Chaplaincy

October 2025 – December 2025

News and Information from Term 1 for Parents!

News highlights from the Primary Schools' Chaplain



The new school year has started with a wonderful focus on thanksgiving and kindness.

Our Experience Harvest week saw 300 children visit church from the primary schools in Downend. We explored the physical harvest that we enjoy from the earth, looking at the harvests of grain, earth, sea, garden and flocks (of sheep!). But we also explored the idea of a spiritual harvest of generosity, humility, joy, peace and patience. We asked the children to consider what was growing in their hearts and to link these ideas to their lives at school and home. We explained that as Christians, we believe that God has given us the earth to enjoy and care for (not exploit) and that as it has been given to us freely, we can say thank you to God and do so especially at our Harvest Festival each year. Schools have generously offered to support our Christians Against Poverty foodbank for Downend and our Ugandan Kumi Porridge Fund as part of giving generously from what we have been given. Thank you so much to school families and the church family for your support.











We visited one school this term to help the children explore the theme of kindness through practical hands-on reflective activities. These are wonderful days when children think about a theme, in this case, kindness to themselves, others, the world or environment and, if they believe, to explore what God's kindness might be like. Here are some photos of the children's responses.









There was lots more besides, including harvest services for schools from our vicars and chaplain activities. And when we visit we see so much positivity in our local schools which is wonderful!

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 Sunday November 9th.

Just turn up on the day. We look forward to meeting you.

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 - 11.15 am for playing, singing, worship time, refreshments, and crafts. You will be most welcome to join us – come and meet Monty Mouse!

Turn up to the parish hall on North Street any Friday morning during term time. This is increasingly popular with young families. Absolutely everyone is welcome!

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. Come to the Christ Church parish hall on North Street at 3.15 pm.

Sunday morning church children's groups during term time

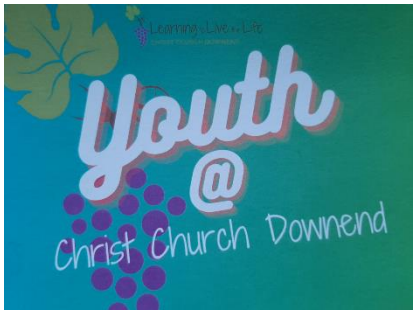
Creche – For 0 – 3-year-olds on Sundays 10.30 – 11.30 am. Play, listen to stories, sing and pray with Monty Mouse

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 November, please contact our associate vicar and experienced youth lead, paul.peterson@christchurchdownend.com

Church for all the family and people on their own…



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 autumn or winter 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. They are inclusive of all ages and everyone.



If your children do not want to go to a children's group on their own, either a parent or carer can go with them, or you can stay in the service altogether. There are "busy bags" and flags to engage children, ear defenders for those who would like them, large print screens and books and more.

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

Café style church happens most first Sundays of the month. The whole church, young and old, stay together to find out more about who Jesus is, what we believe, and we build community intergenerationally. We have great refreshments, sit around tables and do practical activities to help us experience God together. Next date – Nov 2nd at 10.30 am.

Upcoming Special Services – all at Christ Church unless otherwise stated…

Remembering with Thanksgiving – November 9th at 6:30 pm – a service to remember those who have died, either recently or a long time ago. For all ages, but not focused on children. Come and find comfort.

Christmas Service dates and times:

- Sunday 7th Dec – Christingle service: 4 pm
- Sunday 14th Dec – Christmas Bubble Church at Quaker's Road Church Centre: 4 pm
- Sunday 21st Dec – Carols by Candlelight: 6.30 pm
- Sunday 24th Dec – Crib service: 4 pm
- Sunday 24th Dec – Midnight Mass: 11 pm
- Sunday 25th Dec – Quaker's Road Church Centre: 9.15 am
- Sunday 25th Dec - Christ Church Downend: 10.30 am.

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 – useful support

Here are some useful resources to support family life and parenting. Best of all, they are all free!

There are podcasts, videos and blogs on subjects such as:

- Single parenting
- Additional needs
- Stepfamilies
- Tweens and teens
- General parenting
- Online safety

This link takes you to the parenting section of Care for the Family's website.

Got an urgent concern and need support? Then you can phone their confidential care line on 029 2081 0800 between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm Monday to Friday.

Renting Space at Christ Church Downend.

We have several spaces available to rent for children's parties and regular community/interest groups.

These include:
The main church space
The garden room
The North Road parish hall
The youth hub (part of the parish hall)
Quaker's Road church centre.

All have disabled access, good security and modern toilet facilities with access to kitchen facilities. You can get an idea of the spaces here: http://christchurchdownend.com/venue-hire/

To find out more, please contact our parish office on: 0117 9089867
or parishadmin@christchurchdownend.com

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 autumn and winter season with schools in Downend.

Happy half term everyone!

For more information, see our website: http://christchurchdownend.com/