

CHRIST CHURCH

PURLEY

'Making passionate disciples for Christ'



Parish Profile

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Welcome

On behalf of the Staff Team, the PCC and the whole congregation at Christ Church, we as church wardens, would like to thank you for your interest in the vacancy of Vicar and offer you a warm welcome, through our Parish Profile, from our Christ Church family.

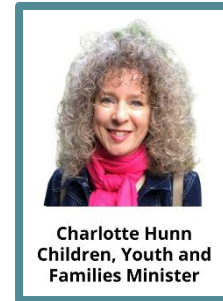
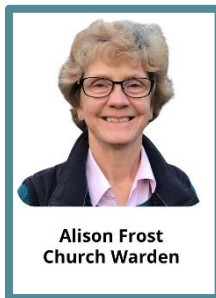
Whilst we are obviously sad to say goodbye to our previous vicar, Doug, we are looking forward to the next stage in the life of Christ Church and hope, in this profile, to give you a taste of who we are, our values and priorities, what we do and an idea of the person whom we feel God is calling to lead us as we continue to be passionate disciples of Christ within the Church, in the Parish, in the local community and beyond.

We have aimed to be as clear and succinct as possible in this Parish Profile and would like to signpost you to our website, <http://www.christchurchpurley.org.uk>, for further information.

As you read our Parish Profile and prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to be part of our community, please know that we also are praying with all prospective applicants and are keen to follow God's direction in His plans for us here at Christ Church. The role is broad, interesting and challenging, but we believe that for the right person it will be very rewarding. We are excited about what God has planned for our future.

With our best wishes,

Bob and Alison (Church Wardens)



Who we are

Introduction:

We are the Anglican Parish Church of Purley, in the Diocese of Southwark. We believe that we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, looking expectantly for His work in our lives and our style is informal, friendly and welcoming. We are an evangelical church and we subscribe to the Evangelical Alliance Statement of Faith.

Christ Church is a busy church. We have a dedicated staff team who work hard to support the volunteer teams and maintain the church centre and operations of the church. Our activities run across a range of missional areas including worship, sharing the Good News of the Gospel, pastoral care and engaging with our local community.

Sunday services and activities through the week are popular and most are growing. Use of our church centre continues to grow and diversify, meaning that at times we are at capacity.

Community engagement is always a key priority and use of the facilities generates welcome levels of income.

Active membership continues to rise and the giving by faithful members sustains our finances. Some long-term donors continue to move on for a range of reasons, yet some newcomers have started giving, thus maintaining a stable but slightly reduced income from regular giving.

Living in Love and Faith

Christ Church PCC embarked upon discussions in response to the planned issuing of Prayers of Love and Faith. This is the conclusion reached as a result of these discussions and the view of the vast majority. The PCC have:

- a) a desire to offer a warm welcome to all;
- b) support for the traditional and historic teaching of the Church on marriage;
- c) agreed that prayers of Love and Faith will not to be offered by Christ Church and
- d) a willingness to direct anyone who wanted PLF to another church that would be willing to offer them

Governance:

The PCC is made up of twenty members including the clergy, two church wardens, treasurer, secretary and four Deanery Synod representatives. The PCC currently meets every two months. In addition, the Standing Committee comprises the wardens, incumbent, treasurer and one PCC representative.

Who we are (cont'd)

Electoral Roll:

As of March 2026 we have 167 on the electoral roll.

Christ Church Estate:

The estate comprises an integrated church centre and church worship space with a large foyer, three rooms, a sports hall (with side room), two kitchens and three counselling/meeting rooms. There is a large car park on the site but no graveyard.

Church Centre:

The church office suite includes a reception area housing the photocopier, an admin office, a ministerial office and a staff meeting room/confidential space. The office is open Monday-Friday 9.30am-12.30pm for general church matters and enquiries regarding Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals and finding out more about the Christian faith.

The remaining church centre provides a hub of activity with over forty regular users each week and a wide range of church activities.

The church dates from 1877-78 and has a dual orientation. The chancel faces east and accommodates small services such as the early Sunday and monthly Midweek Communion services. The wider church faces south and is our main worship space.

Eco Church:

Christ Church has embraced the A Roche UK Eco Church Scheme and is encouraging our church community to care for God's creation through our worship, buildings, land, community engagement, and individual lifestyle. We currently hold the Bronze Award.



Mission, Values and Priorities

Our Mission

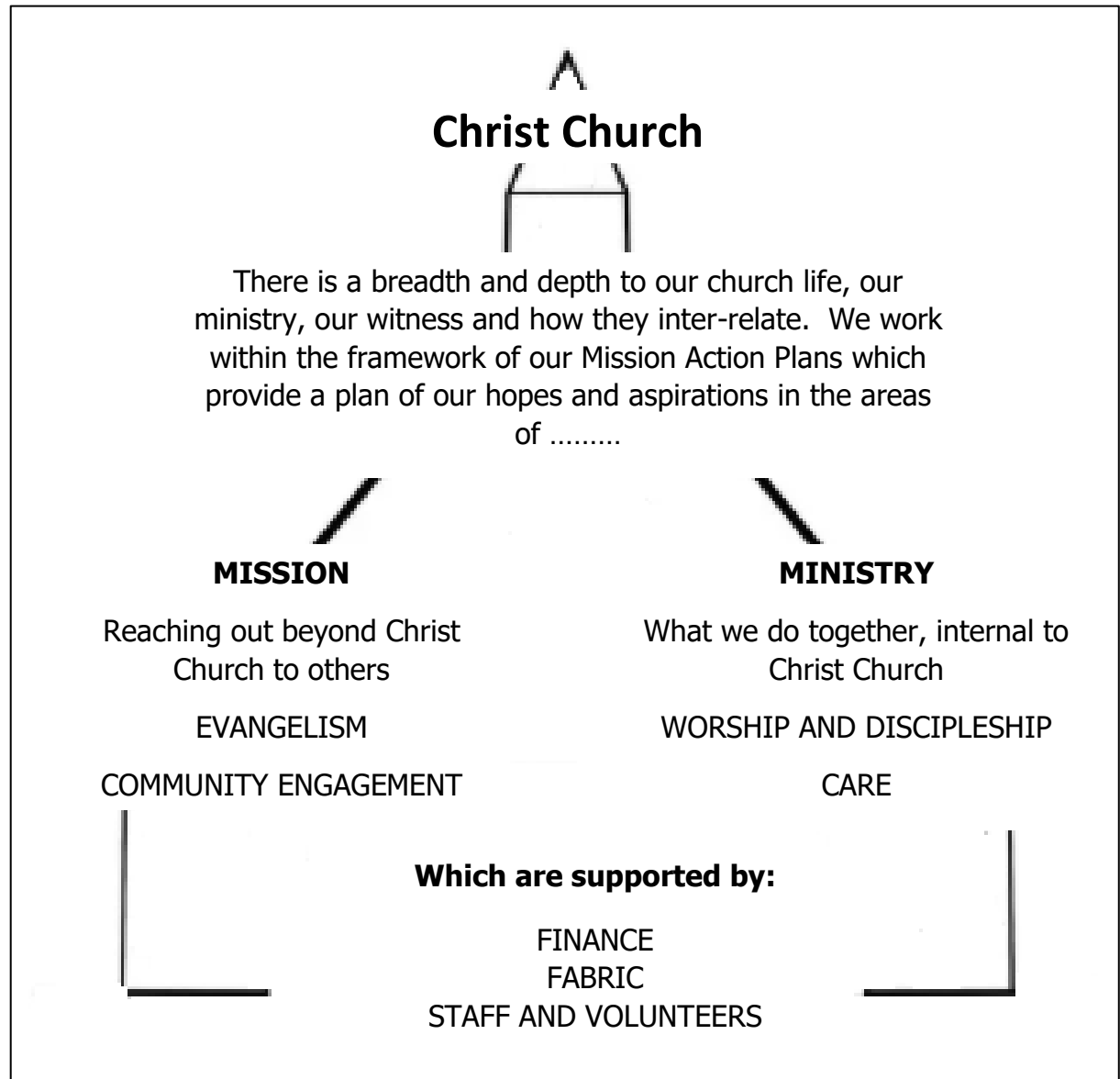
- Making Passionate Disciples for Christ

Our Values

- To offer a warm welcome to all
- Worshipping and prayerful
- Biblical
- Outgoing
- Community focussed
- Empowering
- Awareness of environmental issues

Our Priorities

- Prayer
- Strategic leadership for growth
- Age-diverse church
- Equipping through training, mentoring and providing opportunities
- Development of gifts
- Outreach and pioneering
- Pathways to membership
- Church partnerships to mutually support mission and ministry
- Fellowship
- Diversity



Mission, Values and Priorities (cont'd)

Worship and Discipleship

We are a worshipping community and our approach to all services continues to develop. Included in our Sunday services are a monthly Worship for Everyone, where all ages engage and participate together, and a Gospel evening service which, with the Gospel Choir, adds further diversity to the life of Christ Church. We are fortunate to have two readers, many musicians and speakers to enable our services to encompass a range of styles – from organ-based tradition to band-led contemporary. We have a commitment to the Word of God as being central to our worship and growth as disciples of Christ.

Many meet outside of a Sunday in Discipleship Groups (House Groups) that are both supportive and allow more in-depth study and prayer.

Family and 0-18 ministry is growing. A recent redesigning of the approach to nurturing our volunteers has given this ministry a stable and thriving team.

Youth provision continues to grow midweek and that team is supported by new assistant leaders to safely enable the increasing numbers of young people now attending.

Our Tuesday Carousel toddler group is always full and Sunday under 5's is developing and introducing new people to other aspects of church life.

Safeguarding

Christ Church continues to develop a structured approach to safeguarding that will ensure the protection of vulnerable individuals within our church community. At present we have two safeguarding officers. All members of our church fellowship have safeguarding responsibilities to ensure that safeguarding concerns are recognised and reported and it is expected that those with added responsibilities will undertake the diocesan safeguarding training.



Mission, Values and Priorities (cont'd)

Care

We want Christ Church to be a community in which people feel they belong. Our congregation comprises people of all ages, backgrounds and life experiences and it is our priority to, not only, be present for one another and extend love to one another, but to be a welcoming space where newcomers are invited to belong, explore faith, and participate fully in the life of the church. We run a variety of courses of which Alpha, Christianity Explored and Equipping for Evangelism are a few.

Evangelism

Evangelism efforts are dispersed amongst the activities across the church. We have developed in many areas, growing in confidence to share the Good News and this remains a keystone of our activities and teaching.

Community Engagement

As an outward-looking church, Christ Church seeks to engage with and serve our local community in significant and generous ways, offering support, guidance, outreach and looking to build up meaningful sustained relationships between church and community.

Finance Committee

The Finance Administration and Resources Committee (FAR) oversees and advises the Trustee Board (PCC) on the church's finances and resources and supports the PCC in their decision making for the ministry and mission of Christ Church. We maintain a healthy financial position. ([Link to Charity Commission website](#))

Fabric Committee

Ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the fabric of the buildings continues, as well as planning for the refurbishment of the church interior with priorities set and technical work ongoing to specify plans. No final project plan has yet been agreed but that work continues focusing on flooring, lighting, decoration and accessibility.

Mission, Values and Priorities (cont'd)

Staff and Volunteer Teams

As well as our Staff team, we have a group of volunteers responsible for our ministry areas and who are supported by the members of their teams. None of what we do is possible without the dedication and faithful service of so many of our members who volunteer their time, skills, experience and effort to serve others. These are illustrative examples of our teams.

Children and Youth



'It is a joy to come alongside our younger members of the church; to be blessed by their exuberant presence and encouraged by their boundless faith'.

Pastoral



'We aim to show God's love and compassion to those in need'.

'We have a brilliant team of Welcomers serving Jesus by saying "Come in, you are welcome"'.

Gardening



'We want to greet those who come to Christ Church with lovely grounds'.



Mission Partners

'It is a privilege to support our mission partners through prayer, giving and welcoming them on Mission Partner Sundays'.



Foyer Café

'It is a pleasure to provide coffee, cake and a warm welcome to our guests in the foyer'.



Welcome

'We love the fact that worshipping God in song is at the heart of our times together'.

Technical



'We work the sound and visual equipment to help everyone fully enjoy the services at church or at home'.



Music and Worship

What we do together internal to Christ Church

Worship and Discipleship

Sunday Church services

Our services are relatively informal and varied

	First Sunday	Second Sunday	Third Sunday	Fourth Sunday
8.45 am	Holy Communion with organ and using the Common Worship book	Holy Communion with organ and using the Common Worship book	Holy Communion with organ and using the Common Worship book	Holy Communion with organ and using the Common Worship book
10.15 am	Café Style 'Worship for Everyone'	Holy Communion	New Wine style with Worship-Word-Ministry	New Wine style with Worship-Word-Ministry
11.45 am	Informal extended sung worship with reflection upon scripture and a time of ministry response	Informal extended sung worship with reflection upon scripture and a time of ministry response		
6.30 pm				Gospel service with our Gospel choir (last Sunday in month)

What we do together internal to Christ Church (cont'd)

Worship and Discipleship



Prayer Ministry

Bookstall

Coffee after services

What we do together internal to Christ Church (cont'd)

Children and Youth

Sunday mornings include worship for three age groups:

PRE-SCHOOL (0-4yrs) – Children and parents worship, teaching and play activities

CC KIDS (5-10yrs) – Children’s worship, teaching and activities

CC YOUTH (11+yrs) – Youth worship and teaching

MUDDY CHURCH – For all each half term

Tuesday evening 7–8.30pm

CC YOUTH GROUP (11+yrs)



Christ Church - Making Passionate Disciples for Christ

What we do together internal to Christ Church (cont'd)

Children and Youth (cont'd)

We have a heart and passion to see children, youth and families released in the power of the Holy Spirit to minister and live a life of faith with God in their ordinary, everyday lives.

We want every child, parent/carer and team member to know God's **LOVE**.

We want every child, parent/carer and team member to be supported to go deeper in **FAITH**.

We want every child, parent/carer and team member to share the **HOPE** of God with others.



What we do together internal to Christ Church (cont'd)

Seniors

- Monthly Midweek Fellowship with tea and cake
- Holiday at Home social afternoons
- Monthly Midweek lunch following Midweek Communion
- Bible studies



What we do together internal to Christ Church (cont'd)

Midweek

Monday-Friday am – Foyer Coffee and Cake Café, free to all
Monday-Wednesday 9.15am – Morning Prayer and Bible Study
Third Wednesday 12pm – Holy Communion followed by lunch
Weekly Intercessory Prayer Meetings
Discipleship Groups - Home based groups for Bible study, pastoral care, fellowship and prayer
Wednesday 9.30 – 11.30am – Badminton
Thursday & Saturday 2.15 - 4.30pm – Table tennis



What we do together internal to Christ Church (cont'd)

Care

It is our desire to encourage each of our members to grow in their faith and relationship with God and to develop loving and caring relationships with each other.



Pastoral Support

We have a team of pastoral trained assistants led by our Commissioned Pastoral Lay Minister (CPLM). Our aim is to show God's love to those we visit, phone and meet at church.

We offer groups for seniors, bereavement support, a prayer network, a meals ministry and home communion. We believe that **everyone** is valuable in God's eyes and we long for people's lives to be changed through the power of the Holy Spirit.

As part of our pastoral support, we have a listening team who regularly attend the Foyer Café to offer company to those visiting on their own, we offer support during Sunday services to vulnerable young adults who attend and on Friday morning our Mothers' Union have a craft table set up in the foyer for those who would like to be creative over a cup of coffee and a chat.



Bereavement Support

We offer a monthly bereavement support group, run the Bereavement Journey Course each year and have an annual Living with Loss service to support those who have been bereaved at any time in their lives.

What we do together internal to Christ Church (cont'd)

Care (cont'd)

It is our desire to be a welcoming, inviting, safe place for everyone who comes to Christ Church.

Racial Justice

Racial Justice Sunday, held each February, has long been a meaningful moment for Christ Church members from ethnic minority backgrounds. However, many felt that one Sunday a year was not enough. In response, Christ Church has begun taking intentional steps to raise the profile of racial justice throughout the year, introducing new initiatives and resources to help us grow as a community.

One of the most joyful developments has been the formation of our Gospel Choir. They have enriched our worship with music rooted in African, Caribbean and African American traditions — from their contributions to our Black History Month service to the vibrant songs they brought to our Christmas Carol Service. The Choir has also led Sunday worship and, with encouragement from our Worship Ministry Leader, more Worship Leaders are now incorporating Gospel music into regular services.

For the past two years, we have also hosted an African and Caribbean lunch in October. Watching the whole church family gather around tables, share food and deepen friendships has truly felt like an answer to prayer. Looking ahead, we hope these lunches will grow into outreach events where we can welcome and connect with our wider community.

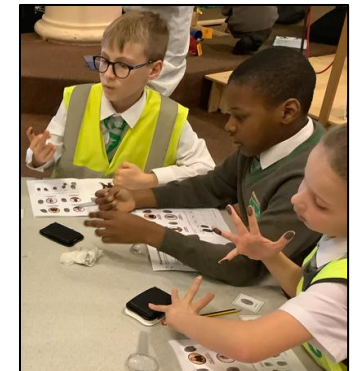


What we do external to Christ Church

Evangelism

Family Events

Through our **Easter Family Event** with donkey rides, prayer stations and Easter experience, our **Summer Funday** with inflatables, soft play and BBQ to our **Live Nativity** retelling the birth of Jesus through the streets of Purley culminating in activities, mulled wine and prayer ministry, we have the joy to welcome and engage with more than 700 people over the year



Outreach to schools

We are blessed with many local schools with whom we have the joy of serving. We have the privilege to teach and share the message of Jesus through immersive experiences including **CSI: Easter** - the case of the missing body and **Christmas Unwrapped**

What we do external to Christ Church (cont'd)

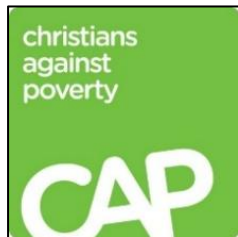
Community Engagement

Into the Community.....

- Free Coffee and Cake in the Foyer Café
- Carousel
- Christ Church Hirers
- Peaced Together
- Veteran Car Run unofficial pit stop
- Mothers' Union

Support for:

- Purley Food Hub
- Winter Night Shelter
- Refugee Day Centre
- Christians Against Poverty



What we do external to Christ Church (cont'd)

Mission Partners (UK based and Overseas)

We support a number of mission partners locally, nationally and internationally through prayer and our mission giving. The partners we support encompass the five marks of mission. We have a mission partner Sunday once a quarter, which gives us an opportunity to form a closer relationship with our partners and raise awareness of their work and the challenges they face in the field.

Emmanuel International UK

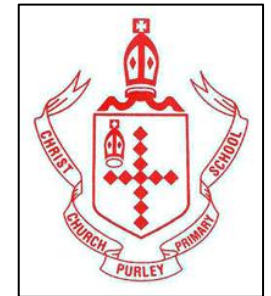


Oasis



Christ Church C of E Primary School

We have strong connections with the school sited opposite us on the Brighton Road, supporting them through their vision '**Together, inspiring excellence**' and their mission of '**Nurturing lifelong learners with God's guidance**'.



We partner them in a number of ways:

Pupils:

- Weekly collective worship
- Christ Church Christian Club (lunchtime)
- Peaced Together for Children
- Church services
- Presenting Bibles to Year 6

Staff:

- Staff communion each term
- Cake and coffee each half term
- Prayer support for both staff and the school
- Appointing Foundation Governors



Purley Partnership Federation

Purley Partnership is a **Federation** of **Christ Church School** and **Purley Nursery School**

The schools were federated in 2017 and, while each retains its own name, identity, budget and their own Ofsted, there is one Governing Body which has joint responsibility.

The Vicarage

The Vicarage is a detached house situated just outside the parish boundaries in Woodcote Valley Road, not too far from Purley town centre and one mile from the church.

The rooms downstairs consist of two large reception rooms, a kitchen/breakfast room, a study and a cloakroom. Upstairs there are five bedrooms and two bathrooms. There is off street parking for three – four cars, a garage to the side and a large garden to the rear.



Purley

Purley is at the crossroads of the busy A22 and A23 and is approximately 11 miles south of central London.

The town is surrounded by green spaces, including Riddlesdown Common, Kenley Common and Farthing Downs. We have a library, large Tesco store and a range of shops, restaurants and cafés.

Purley is well-connected with regular train services to London and Gatwick Airport or the South Coast. The town also has good road links, with the M25 motorway just a few miles away. This makes Purley an attractive location for commuters who work in central London or further afield.



Christ Church - Making Passionate Disciples for Christ

Our Strengths

We are a church family with so much to celebrate and look forward to. Among our strengths are:



Our Challenges

We believe some of the challenges before us include:

Encouraging all to participate financially

To become naturally intergenerational

Attracting 20-30s

Recruiting more and younger volunteers

More diverse community outreach

Making worship for everyone work for all

Helping every person to grow in their faith

Building up Sunday youth

Corporate prayer

Graceful welcome to all with different perspectives

Sharing our faith

Diversity in leadership

Following up outreach

Ensuring our worship space meets our changing needs

Hopes

We recognize that there is never a time to sit still and we have hopes both for the individuals within our church family and for our church family as a whole. We would like these hopes to address the challenges we face as a church.

We would like to become:

- **A church where sharing Jesus feels natural**; where faith is shared with confidence, joy and a Spirit-led openness in everyday life for us to increase in number
- **A truly intergenerational family** with every generation being valued, learning from one another, experiencing genuine belonging, and with 'Worship for Everyone' relevant and inspiring for all age groups
- **More deeply immersed in our life in the Holy Spirit** with worship becoming even more vibrant and expectant and with there being renewed awareness of God's presence
- **Imbued with missional imagination as we reach out into the community** connecting creatively and compassionately with families, users of our building and neighbours in new and more diverse ways
- **More discerning through obedience** and demonstrating unity and dependence on Jesus as we make decisions for the future of Christ Church and continue growing as a church family
- **More welcoming** and engage thoughtfully with identity, diversity and vulnerability so everyone feels that they belong and are part of the church family
- **More practical in our everyday mission** so that real needs are met through hands-on ministries that build community and open doors to faith
- **Disciples more deeply rooted in Scripture** where God's Word remains central as all ages; children, youth and adults, grow in faith, character, and authentic living
- **Attractive** to all; children, youth, young adults, singles, couples, families, vulnerable adults and seniors
- **More financially stable** to allow the long awaited and needed refurbishment of the church interior.



The Vicar we are looking for

We are seeking a Vicar who dreams boldly, loves deeply and leads collaboratively. Someone with warmth, wisdom, courage and deep compassion who will join us in shaping a vibrant, outward-looking church.

We are looking for someone who:

- Is a Christ-centred, Spirit-led, creative leader whose life is rooted in Scripture, shaped by prayer and marked by a love for Jesus
- Is deeply grounded in the Evangelical and Charismatic tradition
- Teaches the Bible with clarity, relevance and engaging style; preaches the gospel with warmth, conviction and accessibility
- Is joyfully charismatic, open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit and shaped by New Wine values
- Is a warm, compassionate pastor who listens well, visits willingly and walks with people in all seasons
- Values an intergenerational church and actively develops new leaders
- Is a visionary thinker who leads change wisely, prayerfully and courageously
- Is passionate about evangelism and reaching new people
- Sees missional potential in buildings, partnerships and community life
- Collaborates well with others and leads with humility, joy and deep love for God's people
- Is a team leader able and willing to delegate
- Offers courageous, sensitive leadership to guide the church through change and renewal, encouraging new initiatives and involvement while staying true to the identity and values that make our church family who we are.

