

Bishop's Gathering for Aldershot Deanery

Celebrations and prayer requests

We give thanks for the leadership of Revd Dr Gemma Foster as Area Dean and are very grateful to representatives of the parishes in Aldershot Deanery for submitting the following 'things to celebrate' and prayer requests for use at the Bishop's Gathering hosted by Christ Church, Cove on 15 June 2026.

Aldershot Holy Trinity

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd George Newton.

We celebrate growth in numbers, in children and families, in holiness (our theme for the year), in engagement with the most marginalised (homeless, addicts, refugees etc), more people doing discipleship and training courses, significant growth in ethnic diversity and the real beauty of worshipping with 20+ different heritages at our 11.15 services each week.

We pray for wisdom in trying to include everyone, including those who can be a bit disruptive in church gathered. Knowing how to equip (and do safeguarding) with many who are computer illiterate and/or who don't have great English. For God to provide the finances (heating system for the church is condemned and disconnected, sound system broken, quinquennial soon, and raising £1.5m for a new hall . . .!!). Actually to pin down and keep the many that come in asking for adult baptism. Bubble church starting soon.

Aldershot St Michael's

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Alwyn Pereira.

We celebrate the launch our first worship gathering in Farnborough on July 3rd, which we're so excited for. Hosted at St Peter's Farnborough, with the help of lots of the local churches and are hoping to engage youth from across the area in worship together. Prayers for the event would be so valued as we look to growing that space and making more connections around the deanery.

We pray for the youth ministers who represent different churches from around the area (such as Mandy from Church of The Good Shepherd, Grace from St Peter's, John from Youth for Christ, Kailtin from Cove, Hannah from Emmaus Road), and the clergy that hold up youth ministries in churches such as St Michael's and Holy Trinity.

Ash and Tongham

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Clare Holt.

We celebrate New people coming to services, Joint services for confirmations and Taizé / Evensong, Exciting opportunities in 4 schools! Our theme for 2026 is "Sharing God's love widely".

Please pray that we can discern how we can make the 1% changes that help us to share God's love more intentionally through what we are doing practically e.g. food share projects in the community and through the schools, for any who come to visit our buildings or grounds, and for those we encounter in services and in our daily lives through the week.

Ash Vale

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Neil Lambert, for the many groups meeting during the week including "Little Lambs Library" (baby & toddler group), the choir and Community Cafe and pray for the growth of the church.

Cove

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Dr Gemma Foster as Rector and Area Dean.

We celebrate the continuation of the Children's work not only within the Church but within the Schools building upon the relationships that have been formed over the years, however through God's grace there has been an increase the youth work that is being carried out, with a Youth Alpha course being run and other Social gathering that are taking place with success. Contact has been made to Cove Senior School and the setting up of a Christian Union within the School. The other area is through Baptism preparation and Baptisms encouraging and supporting the children's parents in their faith.

We pray that, as it enters a period of vacancy, the Parish can remain united and focused on God and any anxieties felt by a few be supported and through God's grace, eradicated. Secondly that the vacancy process goes smoothly, the Wardens feel supported and that God is preparing the heart for the new Rector in the Parish of Cove.

Crookham

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Matthew Smith.

We celebrate: new people coming to faith and joining the church, 25 people doing Alpha, one woman was healed, and many stayed on to do the Bible Course as a follow on, 3 Young People were recently confirmed. Successfully creating a vision, values and priorities for the next few years and a thriving 10am service.

We pray for the appointment of a children and families worker, the intergenerational 4pm service and for more families to join that service and that we can raise the necessary funds to successfully carry out our AV Project.

Farnborough Church of the Good Shepherd

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Thea Edwards.

We celebrate seeing new people every week across many of our deanery churches, old and young people responding to the gospel, the Youth Catalyst team are coming to Farnborough in July for the first event in Hampshire, which will draw together youth from St Paul's Camberley, St Peter's Farnborough, new groups popping up at Cove, and the swelling group at the Good Shepherd among others - really exciting. The influx of global majority heritage families continues at the Good Shepherd, raising our numbers, our levels of joy and lowering the average age considerably! Just last week at our Messy Church I had conversations with three girls, all in primary school (none of them in church going families), who want to be baptised by full immersion because they have decided to follow Jesus in the last year!

There's a fragility to this moment for sure but a raw gritty beauty in it too - God is very much at work.

We pray for wisdom is responding to Christian nationally locally, tensions around asylum seekers in local hotels, the cost of living is hitting our towns really hard and the challenges posed by running safeguarding processes with those of diverse backgrounds.

Farnborough St Mark's

We give thanks for the ministry of the Very Revd Dianna Gwilliams.

We celebrate: our children young people who are about make up about 20% of our total congregation and so a really big input into both our vision and direction and to our focus on our mission.

Please pray: Because of the young people in other ways too, we are formulating a development plan which focuses on improving the building and making more use of our churchyard. This obviously is predicated upon a stewardship programme for which we would value your prayers.

Farnham St Peter

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Tim Bateman.

Celebration points: 9 teenage and adult baptisms (+ more infant and dedications), Growing to regularly seeing between 70-80 under 16s attending our morning family service, For 6 new unchurched families joining consistently in the last 12 months directly from our HUB ministry to our Sunday morning service (parents and year 3-6 families), and many more exploring church. An incredible gift day, receiving our forecast annual budget in one giving appeal. Running an alpha course in the spring term, and having to run another course in the summer term due to demand. A new Sunday football ministry for year 6s - year 9s. Growing more socially diverse, racially diverse and younger. Praying, and seeing 7-8 new people in their 20s join our church. For incredible faithful ministry in our schools, with families, God physically healing people!, Launching new men's ministry working group and initiatives, A young person in our church starting a CU in their school - praise God! 25 out of youth went on a Youth weekend Away earlier this year! A year of us hosting the Farnborough Food bank at St. Peter's church, reaching real need, and connecting people into other ministry in our church. - Our mid-week senior's service, Community Cafe Church, is numerically growing, with seniors more curious about faith in Jesus. A salvation call was given last week with a number of people responding in faith, for the first time or recommitting to faith in Jesus. - God responding with answers to prayer when joining in with Thy Kingdom Come.

We pray for More people coming to faith and more baptisms. - God to pour out his Holy Spirit in power at St. Peter's, so that we can grow to be more bold, authentic, generous and faithful (our values), to see every life transformed by Jesus (vision). God will give the Vicar and PCC unity in fresh vision for the future. God will grow St. Peter's individually and corporately with a deep prayer life.

Fleet / Church on the Heath

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Canon Mark Hayton.

We give thanks: It's been deeply encouraging to see how God is at work through life of CoTH from: two children from our midweek children discipleship group preparing for baptism even though neither comes from a churchgoing families; to young people whose parents are also not from churchgoing families wanting to come to church because they love the sense

of peace and belonging they experience on a Sunday, and of other young people inviting their friends. Our weekly Youth Café regularly has attendance of around 100 (sometimes up to 150!) While it may not always look dramatic, along with our new evening service and mid-week communion, it feels like God is doing something really beautiful among us.

Please pray for Revd Patrick Butler who had an unplanned eye-operation last week, and will likely be off for some time. Do pray for his recovery and his family as they support him. Pray also for the wider team as we look to look to cover things while he is off. Pray for children and young people whose faith is growing. Ask God to keep drawing children, teenagers and families to Jesus, and to deepen faith that is beginning to take root. Along with prayer for fruitfulness in our current ministries, pray for courage and wisdom as we discern new ministries.

Hawley and Aldershot St Augustine's

We give thanks for the ministry of the Revd Canon William Perry.

We celebrate recent arrivals bringing renewed enthusiasm for mission and engagement with the local community. People previously on the periphery of Church life becoming more involved and helping to forge a vision for the future. An up-tick in people just “wandering in” – and then coming back!

We pray for Bringing to practical effect our developing vision, particularly in relation to families and young people. Deepening the new connections which have recently been made. Resourcing the worship style of our churches to be the most worthy and attractive that we can achieve.

Youth Catalyst Team – support for your parish

We launched our first worship gathering in Farnborough on July 3rd, which we're so excited for. Hosted at St Peter's Farnborough, with the help of lots of the local churches and are hoping to engage youth from across the area in worship together. Prayers for the event would be so valued as we look to growing that space and making more connections around the deanery.

Do pray for the youth ministers who represent different churches from around the area (such as Mandy from Church of The Good Shepherd, Grace from St Peter's, John from Youth for Christ, Caitlin from Cove, Hannah from Emmaus Road), and the clergy that hold up youth ministries in churches such as St Michael's and Holy Trinity.

The Youth Catalyst Team would love to serve your church. Do get in contact if you need any youth ministry support, from establishing a youth ministry to training your team, and check out some of the diocesan or more local events that are for your young people. Please contact sophie.blake@cofeguildford.org.uk for more information.

Bishop's Prayer Network



Thank you for praying with us this evening. Bishop Paul warmly invites you to join the Prayer Network he is establishing to support a renewed diocese-wide commitment to pray. Please enter your name, email and parish at the address below or scan the QR code, ideally this evening, to receive prayer bulletins.

cofeguildford.org.uk/prayernetwork