

Bishop's Gathering for Dorking Deanery

Celebrations and prayer requests

We give thanks for the leadership of Revd Peter Nevins as Area Dean and are very grateful to representatives of the parishes in Dorking Deanery for submitting the following 'things to celebrate' and prayer requests for use at the Bishop's Gathering hosted by St Martin's Church, Dorking on 3 June 2026.

Abinger and Coldharbour

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Kia Pakenham and her team.

We celebrate: the record number of baptisms across the two churches last year (15), a new safeguarding structure, two churches with amazing PCCs, wardens at the heart of their communities and a brilliant organist / choirmaster.

Please pray for: St. James, Abinger with its community lunches, family fundays, quiz nights, games night, softball on the common, small group bible studies, small youth group, SJ's café every Wednesday and Christ Church, Coldharbour with its (record) Fete, huge community effort, artisan Christmas craft fair with all local residents, village band and lots of community events taking place in the church.

Capel and Ockley

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Liz Richardson and her team.

We celebrate: the continued attendance of children at the Village School After-School club, the willingness of the team who run these sessions, the start of the new fellowship group coming out of the Alpha course held this Spring with one attendee looking for confirmation and the success of our increased digital presence thanks to the commitment of new team members.

Please pray that, following the move of the village school to The Weald, the Church club in whatever form it will take at its new premises will thrive and flourish enabling the children to continue in their relationship with God and that the new fellowship group will thrive and that members deepen their own relationship with God as they continue on their spiritual journey and that the period of vacancy in our parish will be fruitful and positive culminating in the happy appointment of a new incumbent.

Dorking St Martin with Pixham St Mary and Ranmore St Barnabas

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Dr Anthony Rustell and team.

We celebrate: at **St Martin's**, 50% growth in the congregation to around 65, their role in supporting/leading a deanery youth group for 11-14 year olds, and in launching a school music project and progress in planning building works at St Martin's to allow a range of social and missional activity to take place there, including youth and children's work

and at **St Barnabas, Ranmore**, we celebrate launch of a Friends group to reach out to the people of the Common and enable the church to be open for pilgrims and visitors

Dorking St Paul's

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Alex Cacouris and team.

We celebrate: God's provision for all we have needed, the encouragement of faithful saints who have worshipped for decades, new people, (including lots of children and young families), seeing people growing in depth of faith in the church family this year through personal practices and going out with Him in their daily live, the encouragement of seeing God healing people within the church family as they have been prayed for, and the 60 people (including young people) who have done Alpha this year.

We also give thanks for the fun of going out and being present in the Parish through the gala event and door to door visiting and offering to pray where it was asked for, connecting with 60 people through various activities like Gather Community meal at the Christian Centre & Free English Classes (One Brazilian lady who came with no English, who stayed with us for a year and has improved her language enabling her to get a job).

We give thanks for our growing Partnership with St Pauls Primary school / Nursery (Collective worship), wonderful partnerships with other Churches in Dorking, with Besom / Beatitudes / CAP / Be me / Catalyst Youth project and Food bank in partnership with other churches in town.

Please pray that: God would continue to shape us (our culture) into a community of Jesus disciples (hungry for God, Living for Christ, dependent on the Spirit, Sharing the gospel and doing all that in community. We pray that we can increasingly shape disciples through small groups and also pray for our young families and children's ministry, our services and our community mission (community social transformation and evangelism).

Holmwood

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Jane Schofield and her team.

We celebrate: the continuing growth in numbers, their six FIM students, four of whom are new, and their new lay led "New Thing" monthly afternoon service. Before the debut service on Pentecost Sunday, Jane had the joy of baptising 6 new Christians and we celebrated at the service with gospel singers and testimony and prayer and a picnic.

Please pray for our church family in this season of growth that we will all, including those who can find change unsettling, do all we can to make our new members welcome as they make their spiritual home amongst us.

Newdigate

We give thanks for the churchwardens, David Newbury and James Baker, and team, and for the flourishing of this parish in vacancy, including successful outreach initiatives including Alpha. Please pray for the person of God's choosing to become the new Rector of Newdigate.

North Holmwood, Okewood and Forest Green

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Dr Peter Nevins and team including our curate, Rev Sarah Murphy, as she begins priestly ministry, and for Peter's role as Area Dean.

We celebrate: new and growing disciples, as well as new faces regularly turning up. These new faces aren't church hoppers, but people curiously wondering about who Jesus is and how to follow Him.

Please pray for: more and more people to turn to a life of faith and obedience to Jesus and for the efficient and effective completion of our building reordering.

At **Okewood and Forest Green**, we give thanks for fruitful community engagement, growing numbers, and upcoming confirmations and pray for spiritual fruit and dynamic growth in our parish.

Westcott

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Tim Armstrong and team.

We celebrate: seeing more young families connect with us and join us for worship; increased opportunities to connect with and reach out to our community; well attended monthly prayer meetings which started last year; and stories of individuals and families in our congregation who are seeing God at work in their lives.

Please pray that: we may be able to organise our structures and raise up more leaders, reaching more people with the gospel, for a deepening of our discipleship that we may all, in our diverse and varied spiritualities and practices, follow Jesus more closely and respond to His calling in this season.

Wotton and Holmbury St Mary

We thanks for the ministry of the Revd Canon Roy Woodhams and team.

Please pray for **Wotton** to have the resources (human and financial) needed to keep functioning as a viable church and, at Holmbury St Mary, for our efforts to grow numerically and in our faith, for our efforts to become net-zero and particularly our work to replace the heating system and improve accessibility.

Youth Catalyst Team – support for your parish

The youth catalyst project has been supporting the youth ministries in the deanery by providing help with local church's youth events, providing training for young musicians through the Band nights and we have seen a number of young people from the deanery attend a Youth Catalyst worship gathering.

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