

Bishop's Gathering for Emly Deanery

Celebrations and prayer requests

We give thanks for the leadership of Revd Jackie Richardson as Area Dean and are very grateful to representatives of the parishes in Emly Deanery for submitting the following 'things to celebrate' and prayer requests for use at the Bishop's Gathering hosted by Holy Trinity Claygate on 14 July 2026.

Claygate We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Patrick Bateman and team.

We celebrate seeing encouraging signs of renewed openness to God's presence through worship, prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit, a recent healing service and the Way Maker Path which have created new opportunities for people both to encounter God in profound way, but also engage in natural non pressured ways with our church community. We have been especially encouraged by visitors who are connecting with the Christian faith and beginning to find a place within our church family.

Please pray for us to remain faithful to our calling to encounter, celebrate and share God's transforming love, growing ever deeper in our relationship with Him and with one another. Pray that more people would take their next steps with Jesus as disciples, discovering their gifts and sharing their faith. Please also pray that our 24-7 Prayer week in September would deepen our culture of prayer and lead to greater evidence of God's kingdom at work among us.

East Molesey St Paul's

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Anne Farmer and team.

We celebrate: growing our seniors' ministry, encouraging small groups and growth in our Sunday numbers.

Please pray for: us to grow our Sunday morning welcome team, encourage deeper discipleship and build our prayer ministry.

East Molesey St Mary's

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Nate Kurz and Mary Kurz and team. Please pray for God to bless and refresh Nate and Mary during Nate's EMDL (sabbatical).

Esher

We give thanks for the appointment of the Revd Jo Winn-Smith, formerly Chaplain to the Bishop of Guildford, as the new vicar of Esher (which was announced following the gathering) and pray for God's blessing on Jo in her new ministry.

Hersham

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Jackie Richardson and team, for Jackie's leadership as Area Dean and for the recent ordination of Revd Tristan Stone as priest.

We celebrate: God raising up new lay and ordained leaders at St Peter's. We now have two people on the Foundations in Ministry (FiM's) course and are excited to be developing and expanding existing ministries in our local schools, social outreach and also pastoral care in our residential homes. We have new occasional preachers, a new deacon has joined us to serve his title post and we are delighted that we will have an ordinand in September, as one of our team has been accepted for ordination training and will start a contextual course in Trinity Bristol in September. Also, we are starting to see some of the young families from our Thursday Tot's Praise service joining us in church on Sundays and are excited by the opportunities for discipleship with this group.

Please pray for: We would love to serve our community more and plan to open a community café (pay what you can if you can), alongside our FoodBank. We have completed phase one, but would value prayers for funding for the next phase which will allow us to install a kitchen and disabled access toilet. Also, we are starting new lunchtime clubs in two of our local schools in September, please pray that they will plant seeds of faith in the lives of our children.

Hinchley Wood

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Josh Baines and team. We continue to pray for Josh's complete recovery from illness and for his return to parish ministry.

Long Ditton

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Dr Kuhan Satkunanayagam and team.

We celebrate: Our monthly BookBox community outreach events are flourishing and providing a valuable stepping-stone to other areas of church life. Our regular Choral Evensongs are proving to be an easy invitational point for bringing new people in to experience our thriving Anglican choral worship. Introducing an intentional SoulSpace element of prayer and reflection to our monthly Friendship Lunches is yielding positive and encouraging feedback.

Please pray for: the success of Alpha, the Bible course and other seasonal courses we offer. We also long to see deeper links with our local schools and creative ways to reach children and young people through our strong choral and sacramental tradition.

Oatlands

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Mark Ashworth and team.

We celebrate: God is opening opportunities to go into our 4 schools regularly, growing community connection and gospel opportunities. He is drawing people to Himself and we are regularly discipling a steady stream of enquirers.

Please pray for: The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Pray for our newly established midweek children's ministry and the pathway of faith from infant to Senior to strengthen. Give thanks for the many opportunities to speak of Christ in our community.

Thames Ditton

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Andrew Cowie and team.

We celebrate: Our community hub and cafe and our ministry to people with special needs, addictions and mental health issues. The 4 people who have completed the Foundations in Ministry course, 3 who have completed the pastoral visitors course and 1 person who is exploring ordained ministry. Our participation in the Diocesan Youth Catalyst programme with youth pastor, Lauren.

Please pray for: the potential to partner with Colets (local health club) in building community and sharing faith, **us to** build on our work with our local **schools and** for the opportunity to run an after school drop in club.

Walton-on-Thames

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Jonny and Revd Cathy Blair and team and for Revd Kirsty Evans recent ordination as priest.

We celebrate: seeing lives transformed with people coming to faith and serving, several individuals invited onto the Occasional Preachers course and one person considering ordained ministry and new young people attending the Youth Groups we run.

Please pray for: our All Together Contemporary Service to flourish under new leadership, for the Holy Spirit to flow through the all congregations, for the flourishing of our Youth Ministry and connection with the local secondary school and for the 'next invitation' for our events as we seek to share Jesus.

West Molesey St Peter's

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Alex Munro and team and for the recent ordination of Revd Sue Langwade as priest.

We celebrate: God has been both pruning us personally and deepening our understanding of discipleship, whilst increasing our capacity to outreach in our community by giving us use of a second community hub, which is almost ready to be opened with the help of many volunteers working alongside our wonderful staff team.

Please pray for all who attend the community hub to have the opportunity to encounter Jesus, whether guests or volunteers. We would like to pray also for wisdom and an openness to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. as we try to work out how best to serve those around us. And for ourselves to accept any further pruning with joy!

Weston We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Richard Rugg and team and for the recent ordination of Revd Miranda Ransi as priest.

We celebrate: Over the last few years we've seen our congregation steadily grow both in number and in depth of those attending or connected with All Saints. Our Sunday services have grown from about 20 people four years ago to nearly 80 people - including some new families, we have new Small Groups and suitably equipped church building. Most excitingly our new toddler group, started last October, is now regularly attracting lots of babies/toddlers helping us to build connections with more people in the community.

Please pray for: We are in a season when we looking to start new ministries to connect with and reach more of the local community. Please thank God for those taking a lead on these initiatives, for the right people to come aboard and for our PCC decisions around when to start.

Weybridge

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Father Damian Harrison-Miles and team.

We celebrate: we have been experiencing the “quiet revival”, with people aged in their 20’s-30’s appearing at worship. Our Compass Group provides a monthly gathering for that age group. We have also seen more younger couples wanting to be Married in Church and have their children Baptised. Our Church Electoral Roll has grown back over the 200 threshold, congregation attendances have maintained and grown a little and our finances appear robust this year, which given the present financial climate is another positive indicator. Steve our Church Treasurer has completed training for Ordained Ministry on the Caleb Stream and God willing will be made a Deacon in November.

Please pray for: Our top priority in our CDP 2027-2030 growing younger, with an emphasis upon: A Youth Choir, Holiday Club, Appointment of a F&C minister and After School Café/Teenagers drop-in Club. We are an inclusive intergenerational community seeking to mirror the diversity of the wider Parish / Town Centre of Weybridge. Our Big Project – building toilets/linking the church and Parish Centre together! Growing more small groups - 5 so far - only started September 2025.

Youth Catalyst Team – support for your parish

Tim Richards, Esher Hub Leader based at Esher (C of E) High writes: We have now held 2 worship gathering in the area in the past year; one at Christmas 2025 at Esher CofE High School and one at Esher Green Baptist Church at Easter 2026. Around 30 young people attended each of these events, some of whom were from unchurched backgrounds. We gave out a total of 10 new Christian packs to young people at these two events. I also run lunch clubs at the school in partnership with local church youth workers. Dom from HTC has been incredibly supportive in the last year with the Christian Union as well as leading assemblies during Lent.

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