

Bishop's Gathering for Epsom Deanery

Celebrations and prayer requests

We give thanks for the leadership of Revd John Marrow as Area Dean and are very grateful to representatives of the parishes in Epsom Deanery for submitting the following 'things to celebrate' and prayer requests for use at the Bishop's Gathering hosted by St Paul's Howell Hill on 6 July 2026.

Banstead

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Kate Blake and team.

Celebrations: New people are coming through the door, and many are staying — some are now considering confirmation. Many have little or no background in church, let alone our tradition; but it's the beauty of the liturgy and the music that they tell us has drawn them in, alongside the peace and the welcome they've found. And God is offering them so much more in the abundance of the Gospel. Chris Murray, our new Children and Families Worker, has just completed her Foundations in Ministry training and is launching Little Saints for pre-school children next week, alongside deepening relationships with local schools and families. Our PCC has new voices on it, younger and more diverse, sitting alongside those who have carried this church faithfully for decades.

Please pray for: new people arriving that they may find not just a welcome but a home and a lasting faith, and that some of them come to serve here as well as belong. Our Sycamore Summer Prayer Course is drawing people from across the Banstead Five churches, our local ecumenical group; pray that what's begun between us in prayer this summer doesn't end when the course does, and leads to depth and confidence in faith. Pray for Chris as Little Saints begins, that it becomes an opening into the church for young families, and into an authentic, rooted relationship with Jesus.

Chessington

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Nicholas Pye and team.

Celebrations: With a small, ageing congregation and no clear pipeline of future leaders, we are a parish on an adventure as, under God, we seek the revitalisation of St Mary's. Over the past six months we have agreed a new vision, values, and strategic priorities, providing clear direction for the next season of ministry, and appointed an interim treasurer for one year to strengthen financial oversight during this period of transition. We are also encouraged by the arrival of a new headteacher at our church school, who is improving educational provision, strengthening the school's Christian ethos, and willing to work in partnership with the church.

Please pray for: the Holy Spirit to enable the revitalisation of St Mary's by: calling and sending mature Christians to provide leadership and help strengthen and rebuild the church for the future, enabling us to agree and implement a new pattern of Sunday worship that enables regular members to grow in faith and become passionate about sharing Christ's love and newcomers, especially children and families, to discover Jesus and grow in faith.

Cuddington We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Rev Canon Dr Joshva Christopher and team.

Celebrations: we are encouraged by the ways God is drawing new families, children and young people into the life of the church. We have launched two new initiatives: **Youth Conversations**, bringing together young people and the wider community to explore biblical perspectives on topics such as environmental stewardship and peace, and a new **family-friendly Eucharist service**, led with the involvement of children and young people. Following a successful first Youth Conversation, the second will take place in July, and we have been delighted by the growing participation of young families, several of whom first came to church seeking baptism and are now becoming involved in worship, serving, and other aspects of parish life.

Please pray for: God to continue to deepen the faith of the children, young people and families who are beginning to connect with St Mary's, and that these new ministries will bear lasting fruit. Pray that our church family will grow as an intergenerational community where people of all ages flourish together in worship, discipleship and service, and that God will guide us with wisdom and creativity as we continue to develop these ministries over the coming year.

Epsom St Martin's and St Stephen's

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Canon Nick Parish and team.

Celebrations: opening our eyes to the diversity of his children and enabling us to become an Inclusive Church where everyone is welcome, helping us to reach out to those in the UK from Barbados who have been hurt by racism and our contested memorial and encouraging us to seek a new music director with a passion for engaging with children in the schools in our parish.

Please pray for: the Spirit to inspire more vocations to lay ministry as long-serving current ministers have to reduce levels of activity with advancing years.

Epsom Common Christ Church

We give thanks for the appointment of Revd Tom Hill Rev Tom Hill (from August 27th) and newly deaconed curates, Rev Rebecca Catterall and Rev Patrick Corley and team.

Celebrations: In the last year more adults as well as teenagers have come forward for confirmation. Three members trained as part of our Prayer Ministry Team and people have come forward to train as Lay Pastoral Assistants and one person has completed the diocesan Worship Leaders' course. There have been three Alpha Courses including a Youth Alpha and two new small study groups.

Please pray for: us to continue to be rooted in faith, growing in hope and nurturing healing, that we will grow in numbers and attract more families and younger adults under Tom's leadership.

Ewell St Mary's

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

Celebrations: we are seeing God breathe new life into our parish: new people are arriving and finding a home with us, long standing members are stepping forward to serve in fresh ways, and several individuals are exploring training for lay ministry. We are involved with a good proportion of local schools, and uniformed organisations, we help facilitate the CU in a local Senior School. In addition to this our own junior church is holding its own and we are looking to start an older children's group in September. Our choirs and junior choir continue to flourish, and we are maintaining a central choral catholic style of worship and devotion, including daily public worship, broadcasted services, retreat and study groups. We are conscious that as a Parish Church we should add to the community and cultural life of the village. We run many concerts, classical, choral and pop concerts, we run a craft group, we lead Ewell Village Fair, Ewell Yule and A Day for All. We value our social action activities both through activity of the Church, Ewell Parochial Trust, Acts435, Lunch club, and through collaboration with other organisation such as Neurospice Futures and the Good Company, this is deepening our presence in the community. We are a Gold eco Church and our net zero projects are gathering real momentum. We are grateful, too, to be taking a lead in Deanery Greenery, helping others imagine what faithful environmental stewardship can look like.

Please pray for: us to grow in confidence over the next 12 months, unity, and generosity as we follow where God is leading. Pray for continued growth in discipleship and worshipping life. For the strengthening of our social action ministries, and for wisdom as we steward our net zero and environmental commitments. For financial stability. Above all, pray that we become an ever more welcoming, Christ centred community where people of all ages discover faith, belonging, and purpose.

Headley with Box Hill We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Harry Latham and team. Harry celebrates running the entire Bible course without any clergy input! Please pray for more resource to support Harry in his ministry across the Hilltop Benefice and for the growth of the churches.

Howell Hill with Epsom St Barnabas We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Nico Ohlsson, Vicar, and Revd Harry Lamaison, Associate Vicar and lead at St Barnabas, newly deaconed curate, Revd James Wakefield, who will minister at Tattenham Corner and newly priested curate, Rev Simon Ward.

At Howell Hill we celebrate we're seeing many more baptisms of over 18s than we've ever seen. The amazing part of it all is that some of them start journeying with God by themselves and then end up meeting him in our services. **Please pray for** us as we starting to work with St Marks and praying that people will join the church and follow Jesus. We're wanting to have more 'front doors' across St Barnabas and St Paul's to engage with the community and share the gospel.

At St Barnabas we celebrate 10 adult baptisms over the past 18 months as people have come to faith in Jesus. Several of those baptised, along with new church members, have been CAP clients—an answer to long-held prayers. Since launching two new services in early 2025, God has raised up new leaders, leading to the formation of a lay leadership team to help shape vision and ministry. It has also been encouraging to see two people begin the journey towards ordination. **We pray for:** the new faith we're seeing in people to continue

and deepen, whilst we start Alpha, continue to develop Life Groups, and discern the identity and priorities God is calling us to in our new form of church.

Nork with Burgh Heath

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Vanessa Banbury from 15th July and welcome her tonight! Please pray for Vanessa and her husband, Sam, as they make their home amongst us and for wisdom as she seeks to lead the churches at Nork and Burgh Heath into renewed growth.

Ruxley Church

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

We celebrate: Our ecumenical partnership continues to thrive and is central to who we are and all we do. Definite upwards trend in numbers. We are an ethnically diverse congregation with 20 different nationalities. We are a multi-generational church, with children and young people's groups.

Please pray for us as we update our future planning and core priorities. For our upcoming residential weekend away with our young people. For our growing links with Riverview School and the Hope Federation.

Stoneleigh

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

We celebrate: Encouraging numbers at our two Sunday morning services, including new families. Our new monthly intergenerational service, The Gathering, and its planning team made up of committed parents of our church children. The response of church members and the Stoneleigh community to our capital fundraising campaign.

Please pray for a deepening of our discipleship and commitment to prayer as a church, Our Bible Society/ Bible Course sermon series and Home Group initiative planned for the Autumn. Prayers for good participation and increased hunger for Scripture, The fundraising campaign that is seeking to raise £60k for urgent repairs to church and parish centre.

Tattenham Corner

We give thanks for the ministry of the Revd James Wakefield and team.

We celebrate: We thank God for the many community ministries established by the recently retired Revd Des Williamson and the commitment of church members. The church continues to serve the local community with love and dedication. We thank God that, during the vacancy, the church has continued to grow gently in number, ministry, and service.

Please pray for: James and his wife Samantha. James was licensed yesterday at a joyful service attended by many people from the church and local community, including the Mayor. Pray for the church as it seeks God's guidance for the future and discerns how best to make Christ known in the parish.

West Ewell

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd John Marrow and team and for John's ministry as Area Dean.

We celebrate: we have recently adopted a new vision. As a church, we are committed to Following Jesus, Building Community, and Loving West Ewell. With this vision at the heart of all we do, we have seen a growing commitment to discipleship across the church. In January, we moved from fortnightly to weekly Fellowship Groups, launched a monthly Central Worship, Teaching and Prayer Night, and introduced a fortnightly midweek Holy Communion service. Throughout the year, we have also been reflecting on our verse of the year, 1 Timothy 1:17, which has provided a clear focus for both our Sunday worship and our daily lives as we seek to glorify Jesus as King. Alongside these developments, we have been encouraged to see several new initiatives take shape. We have launched a new Youth Club to complement our weekly drop-in Youth Café, and we have introduced new Sunday groups called Jnr Saints for children, including a new crèche. Our commitment to living out our faith extends beyond our church walls into the West Ewell community. This is demonstrated through the many activities and events we organise and support throughout the year.

We pray: to continue to grow in our discipleship and be 'Whole Life Disciples' always looking to Jesus to guide us in the year ahead, look to new creative ways of reaching our community of West Ewell, grow our Children, Youth and families work, our giving and raise the funds needed for running our church and funding our mission, to continue to pray and give thanks for the 25/100 year of fundraising and the incredible amount raised so far, to further develop our relationships with our local schools, to be faithful and obedient in our Ministry and Mission here in this place.

Youth Catalyst Team – support for your parish Tim Richards, Hub Leader, Epsom High writes We held a Youth Catalyst Connect worship gathering at St Paul's Howell Hill on Friday 17th October 2025. 122 young people and youth leaders attended this event. St Paul's Howell Hill are also bringing around 30 young people to the Youth Catalyst Satellites trip this summer. Jamie Walker the Youth Catalyst also visited the St Paul's Howell Hill Youth Weekend away where spoke and spent some time connecting with the young people there.

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