

Bishop's Gathering for Godalming Deanery

Celebrations and prayer requests

We give thanks for the leadership of Revd Sally Buddle as Area Dean and are very grateful to representatives of the parishes in Godalming Deanery for submitting the following 'things to celebrate' and prayer requests for use at the Bishop's Gathering hosted by Godalming Minister on 16 July 2026.

Chiddingfold

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Rachel Greene and team.

We celebrate: In Chiddingfold, we are seeing God at work in many ways and are encouraged to see people wanted to learn more and contribute to the ministry we offer. We are delighted to have a part-time curate in IME 5 and a parishioner beginning Foundations in Ministry training this September. We also see God at work as we map the ways the church is serving the wider village community; it is exciting to see how that gives rise to involvement in the church and creates potential for fruitful partnerships.

Please pray for our clergy, and all that they do. As we work to set St Mary's on more secure footing, through resourcing its ministry and better staffing, we ask for your prayers for the recruitment to key positions and wise stewardship of all we have been given.

Compton

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Sally Buddle and team and for Sally's leadership as Area Dean. **We celebrate:** God's blessing on our work with children & families (Fledglings (toddlers), Muddy Church & seasonal parties) and our developing community links, including with village groups, pilgrims & visitors.

Please pray for: better accessibility to church for all and another 'room' (we have no church hall or other space) and for church members to have confidence to lead ministry areas.

Elstead, Thursley, Shackleford and Peper Harow

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Hannah Moore, Revd Delia Orme and team.

Celebrations: At St James Elstead we are expanding the use of the church after taking out the pews. We now have a parent/carer and toddlers Refresh space once a week, and a thriving after school club once a week. We have a coffee club for seniors combined with a Hear Here clinic and the FoodBank is back home in church. Through this activity we are seeing new ministries developing in the old and the young.

Please pray for: Elstead developing ministries to old and young and the modern contemporary service for more worship leaders, and for a musician for the traditional services. For Thursley for the continued close engagement with the village community and finding new ways to spread the Gospel in their parish. For Shackleford & Peper Harow for

God's guidance and wisdom as we pursue the path of closure for St Mary's church Shackelford and the development of ministry from St Nicholas Peper Harow. Pray for those lamenting this decision.

Farncombe

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

We celebrate: We have had a few new people joining us over recent months: it is always a joy when souls find we are a safe place for their spiritual journey, but it's no more than usual so I hesitate to say this is a mighty movement of the Lord. A same-sex couple has asked for their child to be baptised, and as we don't go out of our way to present ourselves as 'inclusive' I am pleased they should feel they can. The other day I turned up to say Mattins and found the churchyard strewn with rubbish from the bins. I had so much to do that morning I was on the brink of despair. I came out after the prayers and found some angel had tidied up. No worshipper has claimed responsibility so I assume it was a member of the community. That may seem prosaic but I regard it as a deep blessing, if only for me.

Please pray: that St John's remains faithful to Christ and bold in the Spirit.

Godalming Minster

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Chris Lion, Revd Mike Moritz and team, and for Revd Chris Garner's recent ordination as deacon.

We celebrate: Following a sustained season of prayer, we are sensing a call to go deeper in discipleship, be bolder in witness, and shine brighter in service and love. We are encouraged by Alpha, where people have been exploring and coming to faith, and we are preparing for a Youth Alpha in September alongside the Trinity Trust team. We are also seeing new conversations about how our Sunday services can help us function more clearly as one church, a growing sense of call towards mission in the town centre, and a number of people exploring or moving towards ordained ministry at different stages.

Please pray for: God to deepen this renewed vision among us and help us respond with courage, unity and faith over the next few months of change. We would value prayer for our foodbank funding, for the current administrative squeeze as we seek new admin staff and ministry-experience students, and for more volunteers across the life of the church. Please pray for our café and other ministries where long-serving volunteers have recently stepped back, that new people would be raised up so these ministries can continue.

Grayswood

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Fiona Gwynn and team.

We celebrate: we are encouraged by our outreach to men through John's Firepit foodies and a new small group who have been following *Practicing the Way* by John Mark Comer in addition to our regular home group.

Please pray for our church to grow younger as we have a wonderful, committed, spirit filled congregation but they're not getting any younger.

Milford

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Jo Lamberth and team.

We celebrate: our church choir is flourishing and we have people who were not previously part of church joining. We are having a run on baptisms which is a joy. We are looking forward to a Vision and Strategy Day that will be hosted by Bob Cooper at Guildford Cathedral.

Please pray for: Our organ is on its last legs and extremely temperamental and we will be looking to replace it as soon as possible. Please pray for the Lord's guidance in that project.

Haslemere

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Chris Bessant and team.

We celebrate: It has been a challenging last 12-months, but fruitful in many ways. We are pleased to have a new community hub open, two in ordination training, and much hope in new visitors to the church. We are so pleased to find the relationship we have with our school is so deeply valued by the church and community. We are building on that well. We are also seeing some lovely environmental and biodiversity ideas come to life, with our churchyards and youth groups and hope to go further still in creating little Edens for people around our churches. We are seeing much growth in requests for baptism and are seeing growing spiritual needs and awareness in younger people. The training programmes the diocese have been really super for those wanting to begin something new in their lives. We are confident and encouraged to seek the calling of so many. We want to be in a season of discipleship for ministry in the community.

We pray for: We pray earnestly to grow and reach into the parish, with families and those in need being especially on our hearts. There is much work to settle-down our new community hub. Please pray that we can embrace the new families we often see in church.

Seale, Puttenham and Wanborough

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Stephen Thatcher and team.

We celebrate: God is growing new life across our united parish, with rising attendance in all four churches and newcomers arriving through occasional offices. Our ministries with children, pilgrims, and café based community outreach are flourishing, and discipleship is deepening with a renewed sense of unity. We give thanks for those stepping forward into greater ministry, including our ordinand, and for the gentle strengthening of pastoral care in our care homes.

Please pray for: our outreach to children, young people, pilgrims, and those exploring faith through Emmaus, that many more will join us and grow in Christ. We ask God's help as we support increasing numbers of parishioners living with dementia, and as we nurture generous, covenant shaped giving so that our shared ministry across the parish can flourish. We seek God's blessing on our new young pilgrims trail and our continued move towards eco awareness.

Shottermill

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

We celebrate: Opening the door at our local secondary school. We started a Transforming Lives for Good coaching programme in Jan 26. We now have 7 coaches and permission to start a lunch time faith exploration course from Sep. It's a real answer to prayer & we praise God that we are growing in diversity (age, ethnicity & background).

Please pray for: God to move powerfully through his Spirit in our church, drawing people to faith, that we can establish a healthy trellis with people being released to lead & serve in new ways and for God to multiply & bless our kids & youth provision.

Witley We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Amy Webb and team.

We celebrate: The continued outreach of 'Pop Up Tea'. Every Wednesday during term time we serve FREE mini cupcakes and gingerbread men for the children, and FREE tea and coffee to the parents, as the children come out of school. We started Choir Club a year ago. It began slowly and has grown steadily. It takes place in church, after school on a Friday, for 1 hour, for children in school years 2 - 5 (so ages 7 to 11). The children learn about singing and breathing techniques, they learn about the Christian faith and what happens in church services. This fledgling choir have sung on a couple of occasions for services in church. One of our long-standing members of Choir Club asked to be baptised.

Please pray for: Our new (first!) Alpha Course which is starting in September. That God would encourage people to both join the team, and to attend as participants and our new Youth Group, which is launching in September, and a monthly evening service of a more contemporary worship.

Youth Catalyst Team – support for your parish

We're excited as we continue to build connections around deanery and wider area, as young people connect in with our worship gatherings. It's been brilliant championing youth leader Ben Barnes at Godalming Minster, and hosting worship gatherings around surrounding areas. Locally, our Guildford gathering continues to draw between 80-90 young people, and we look forward to continuing our gatherings at Haslemere, which are growing and have been a joy to serve at. **T**

he 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