

# Bishop's Gathering for Guildford Deanery

## Celebrations and prayer requests

*We give thanks for the leadership of Revd Fr Neil Roberts as Area Dean and are very grateful to representatives of the parishes in Guildford Deanery for submitting the following 'things to celebrate' and prayer requests for use at the Bishop's Gathering hosted by Emmanuel Church, Stoughton on 10 June 2026.*

### Burpham

We pray for the ministry of Revd James Hanson and team.

**They give thanks** for tangible growth in diversity across the church family from new families coming to join us, engagement with mens' ministry and pub and community partnerships and conversation and an exciting cultural shift and buy-in towards Intergenerational ministry.

**Please pray for** excitement not trepidation about setting out on two large building projects, sustainability (we are seeing a busy season with occasional offices and only one Priest), prayers for supporters and taking the opportunities to develop really deep partnerships with our pre-school and community café.

### East and West Clandon

We pray for the ministry of Revd Barnaby Perkins and team.

**They give thanks** for the new and active members which have started attending in the past year, a growing sense of calling to be a church with inclusion at our heart, the likely commencing of our building project this summer and some amazing new services/initiatives (contemporary service, Taize service) with lots of interest from the community.

**Please pray for** strength for those working hard for completion of the building project, that during a period of significant work and disruption, we would manage to sustain ministries in the Clandons and that, after ten years of hard work on the building project, we would continue to commit our work to God's glory.

### Guildford All Saints

We pray for the ministry of the Revd Beverly Watson and team.

**They give thanks** for a Confirmation Class with 5 of young people and one adult going well, with a view to Confirmation later this year.

**Please pray** for Big Build project, that we'll be able to start the physical work this year.

### Guildford Christ Church

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Nick Williams and for the appointment of the Revd

Dave Matthews as the new vicar of Christ Church (announced after the gathering took place).

**They give thanks for** a real sense of the Spirit of God moving here and inviting new people of all ages into the congregation, some coming to faith for the first time and others returning to faith. This has led to us running our first Alpha course for a while for a small group who, hungry to hear more, have continued with a further course studying the Gospel of Mark. During the Vacancy we have seen more from within the church family stepping up to use their gifts in a variety of ways, not only for the church to continue to operate during this time but seeing the church thrive and individuals blossom in serving God. We have had six people who have or are completing the Foundations in Ministry course and are excited to see their ministries develop.

**Please pray for** our new vicar, Revd Dave Matthews, that we will see families and young people returning to Christ Church and we will be able to find the necessary staff and volunteers to support children, families and youth ministry. That we will continue to seek new ways of reaching out into our community and draw people to Christ and for our Seniors ministry, Men's ministry and Café Friday to continue to grow as places of welcome, hospitality and friendship.

### **Guildford Emmanuel**

We pray for the ministry Revd Thom Gee and team.

**They give thanks for** our Tuesday after-school children's group which has grown rapidly, and we're now regularly welcoming 70–80 people each week. Most come from non-church backgrounds, and many are from lower-income households, as we seek to care for them both physically and spiritually. In September, we'll be relaunching this as a new midweek intergenerational congregation.

**Please pray for** wisdom, depth, and lasting fruit as we share the good news of Jesus and seek to help this new community grow.

### **Guildford Holy Trinity with St Mary's**

We pray for the ministry of the Revd Simon Butler and team.

**They give thanks:** At Holy Trinity and St Mary's we have appointed a new full-time children's and youth minister who will be joining us later this month, to work alongside our growing choir, youth group and young families. Haven, a new inclusive modern worship service at St Mary's on Sunday evenings, which has grown organically and been blessed by talented musicians and inspirational speakers. The Friday Night Vigil, at St Mary's, continues to attract many visitors from Guildford's busy night life who come into the church between 9pm-11pm to light a candle for peace. The Methodist Modern Art Collection also brought over 4,000 visitors into St Mary's over 4 weeks!

**Please pray for** the pilgrimage to Assisi which departs tomorrow. For safe travel, deeper relationships with God and each other, for new experiences and for spiritual encounter and enrichment. For our new children's and youth minister who starts on 21 June. For her to settle in well and for God to hold her as she begins this new exciting journey with us.

## **Guildford St Clare's Park Barn**

We give thanks for the ministry of James Herring, Pioneer Minister, and team.

Please pray for St Clare's as it enters a new season which will bring many changes. We give thanks that St Clare's will still be the church built by the people of Park Barn, for the people of Park barn, whoever they are and regardless of anything else about them.

## **Guildford St Nicolas**

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Fr Neil Robets and team.

**They give thanks:** We are very aware of the emerging enquirers making their way to st Nicolas mostly in their 30s and 40s. It seems to us that there is a growing interest in the authenticity, mystery and depth found in the ancient rituals and traditions which have been safeguarded by the Catholic tradition of the CofE. When the established community then focus our attention on intentional welcome - clarity of the offer, clear signage, hearty welcome and good hospitality as well as sound preaching we are simply trying not to get in God's way. We recently confirmed 10 new members and these and other new members are now embedding themselves in the life of the church, taking up roles as Treasurer, servers, readers, intercessors etc. We have two members who have completed Faith in Ministry courses for pastoral visiting, we licensed a new LLM and have another starting their training in September. Another member is seeking discernment for ordination. Our outreach activities to the wider community include our Community Fridge, Toastie Tuesdays for Junior age children, Cafe Play for pre-school children, Pizzas at 8 (our ladies group) and Beer & Banter (our mens group).

**Please pray** for our work with our young people especially our Junior school provision and for more volunteers with all our outreach activities.

## **Guildford St Saviour**

We pray for the ministry of Revd Graham Shaw and team. **They give thanks for** the 7 full-immersion baptisms we had 10 days ago. They were all youth and students. Some had come off the back of our January Alpha course and the meals service we originally set up during the pandemic to provide food to vulnerable members of our parish. 6 years on and the ministry is still going, having provided over 35,000 meals! However, it's not just about the food - those who deliver the meals also look to have life-giving conversations which point people to Jesus.

**Please pray** as you feel led for the Lord to guide the next stages in the life of the church.

## **Guildford Stoke Hill**

We pray for the ministry of Revd Kirsten Rosslyn-Smith and team.

**They give thanks for** the flourishing community engagement ministries at the church and the funding received to date to enable them to launch their building project, which will enable them to grow these ministries. Please pray for the successful completion of the project.

## **Merrow**

Please pray for the ministry of the Revd Tim Clifford Hill and team.

**They give thanks** for the growing community profile of the church, updating the sound system, installing screens and live streaming.

**Please pray** for the church to continue to flourish and for the local church junior school in a season of change.

### **Pirbright and Wyke**

We pray for the ministry of the Revd George Watkinson and team.

**They give thanks** for the giving initiative across both churches with the aim of increasing regular giving by 30% and funding a House for Duty Minister, and we are delighted to have already reached around 75% of that target. We are grateful for the generosity of our church family and encouraged by their commitment to the future of gospel ministry in our villages. We have also been encouraged by the growth we have seen, both numerically and spiritually, as we have sought to take church beyond the church building and engage more intentionally with our communities. It has been a joy to welcome new people, see faith deepen, and witness God at work through a range of ministries and outreach opportunities.

**Please pray** that God would provide the remaining financial support needed for the House for Duty post and lead us to the right person for the role. Please also pray that we would continue to grow as disciples of Jesus and that many more people in our communities would come to know Him.

### **Shalford & Peasmarsh**

We give thanks for the appointment of Rev Helen May as our new Vicar, which was announced after the gathering took place.

We pray for Helen's ministry, the continued flourishing of the parish and particularly for the restoration of the spire at St Mary's from damage caused by water leaks.

### **Stoke-next-Guildford**

We pray for the ministry of the Revd Mark Woodward and team.

**They give thanks for:** our new worship leader, Judah, and renewed worship team, our fabulous children and youth ministry, and three youth to be baptised in Guildford Lido in July, a wonderful Staff and Ministry Team and new vocations to ordained ministry coming through.

**We pray for** our ongoing Next Chapter Church Development Project, outreach to students living in Guilden Village and for us to reach 45 new disciples in the Parish of Stoke.

### **Worplesdon**

We pray for the ministry of the Revd Dawn Lucas-Brown and team.

**They give thanks:** Following changes to our service times shortly after the arrival of the new Rector, attendance at Sunday services remains modest but is gradually growing. We are particularly pleased to see some baptism families continuing to worship with us and becoming part of parish life. As a parish with many baptisms, weddings and funerals, we recognise the missional opportunities these occasions provide and seek to deepen our engagement with those we meet through them. We have also recently celebrated the completion of the reordering of the kitchen and toilet facilities at St Mary's, giving thanks for this improvement to our welcome and hospitality.

**Please pray** that our faith in Jesus and our love for him would be vibrant, visible and contagious in our community. Pray that we would grow in confidence in sharing the hope we have in Christ and be increasingly shaped by Scripture, prayer and the sacraments. We would value prayer for children and young people, that God would draw new families into our

church life and enable us once again to develop a thriving children's ministry. Finally, please pray for wisdom, discernment and courage as we explore opportunities for a new service or outreach initiative in the community in the residential area between our two churches, that we may respond faithfully to where God is already at work and join in his mission there.

## Youth Catalyst Project

Please pray for the Revd Alastair Etheridge and the whole team including Oli Deeks in his ministry at Christ's College. **Oli gives thanks** that:

Our worship gatherings ONE at Christ's College are going from strength, with an average of 80 young people attending. But most importantly we are seeing new Christians at the events and a depth of encounter during our worship and ministry times. Praise be to God and the wonderful youth leaders that help run the event

Praise and prayer for the 22 young people who attended our alpha youth course afterschool on Mondays. The Holy Spirit session was a particular highlight having Kate Flanders lead worship and seeing the young people being open. 2 have connected with local churches and 1 has gone onto be baptised. AMEN to that!

**Please pray** for the Prayer Space that will be happening on 22nd June for the week at Christ's College, for the two young people doing work experience with Oli, for the team of Church leaders organising Way Camp in the summer and for the whole Year 7 attending Wintershall for a retreat day in the form of watching dramas of the life of Christ).

**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](mailto: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](http://cofeguildford.org.uk/prayernetwork)**