

Bishop's Gathering for Leatherhead Deanery

Celebrations and prayer requests

We give thanks for the leadership of Revd Renos Pittarides as Area Dean and are very grateful to representatives of the parishes in Leatherhead Deanery for submitting the following 'things to celebrate' and prayer requests for use at the Bishop's Gathering hosted by St George's Church, Ashted on 14 June 2026.

Ashted

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Tom Darwent and team.

We celebrate: three people exploring a call to ordination in the past year, the set up several Connect Groups as missional-communities, around classic films, curry, poetry and as a Community Choir, open mic nights to get musicians from the church and wider village together quarterly, our first Alpha course in several years, which has been well attended, more joint prayer and outreach events with the other churches in the village, which is going excellently and several new families, young adults and older adults have joined the church

Please pray: that we would build on the success of Alpha by running even bigger courses over the next year, as well as an effective post-Alpha ministry, be able to make cost savings and increase giving to balance our books and start even more missional communities

Cobham

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Mike Branscombe and team and for Mike's appointment as Canon Missioner of Guildford Cathedral.

We celebrate: our potential involvement in a new community hub in partnership with Walton charities, Cobham Food Bank and Oasis charities.

Please play for our church during the upcoming vacancy and for God to lead the right person to us as our next incumbent.

East Horsley

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Renos Pittarides and team.

We give thanks that St Martin's is delighting in seeing God gently but clearly at work in East Horsley. Relationships are deepening through regular pilgrimage walks, and the intergenerational Wild Church services, and weekly coffee mornings see new people attending, whether to the Hear Hear Clinic or just for coffee and conversation. Our new Anna Chaplain is growing our pastoral ministry with senior members of the community, including hosting popular Community Lunches. The Point, our small youth group originally formed as a Lent Course, has continued into the summer term at the young people's request, and we've extended each session by half an hour to give them the extra time for discussion and Bible study they asked for.

Please pray for our Rector, Revd Renos Pittarides, as his extended ministerial development leave draws to a close and he returns to parish life in early July, that our ministry with children, young people and their families would continue to grow and flourish and Tessa, our newly-appointed Anna Chaplain, for fruitful ministry and depth of relationships as she develops her role.

Effingham with Little Bookham

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Phil Barlow and team.

We celebrate: our Kids and Families Pastor and all the work she is doing; our Life Group; Twelve:30 our Ladies group; our Church Café team; and all those who volunteer in our Parish.

Please pray for: continued growth of our Toddler group and primary school relationships; multiplication of our Life Group; and a major refurbishment of our Church Hall with a view to creating a better place for our community and church to interact.

Fetcham

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Leah Bates and team.

We celebrate: We are encouraged and excited that our community outreach activities are starting to show signs of people wanting to find out about faith - our current Alpha has people attending from several outreach pathways and we are seeing new people joining us for worship. We are also grateful to have been able to take an important step in our commitment to move towards Net Zero, by installing Solar Panels on our church hall, with air source heat pumps to be installed over the summer. This will allow our church hall to be disconnected from the gas supply, and run on clean energy only.

Please pray for: the smooth transition of energy in our busy church hall, that any teething problems can be quickly addressed. We are also in the middle of a survey of our congregants' thoughts on our variety of worship services. We are seeking to widen the reach of our survey to hear from families and individuals in our community who don't currently come to church, those who attend very occasionally, and those who attend our community outreach groups. We are excited for how God will guide us in our next steps as a church, but please pray that we listen well to God and to the responses from the survey.

Great Bookham

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Canon Alan Jenkins and team.

We celebrate: following our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, most vacant positions were filled. We are grateful for everyone who faithfully uses their gifts in the service of Jesus and his church. We give thanks, too, for a new Discipleship Group just begun, which provides an opportunity to be further rooted in faith, gain confidence in the Bible and go deeper in prayer. And we give thanks for the ministry to young and older people which we share with other local churches, and for the work of our Families and Children's Ministry Leader.

Please pray: that a greater number of families would desire to join with us in worship on a Sunday morning. We also pray for our church as we seek the Lord's direction over the next 2-3 years, particularly with an impending change in Rector. And we pray that we would each desire to grow in discipleship, each availing ourselves of the many opportunities before us.

West Horsley

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Phil Herrington and team.

We celebrate: the largest attendance on Alpha courses, with attendees joining our congregation, becoming Christians, renewing their faith and integrating into church life, the success of the Lent course, working through Screwtape Letters; and the latest Bereavement Journey Course, appointments of a children's pastor and office manager to better resource the office, growing, faithful attendance and fellowship at our Tuesday Said Communion service, faithfulness of so many volunteers serving in so many ministries, spiritual growth of so many in homegroups and at weekend away.

We pray that our children's work continues to flourish and that we attract families with 'Roots' age children to join us, Phil's sabbatical brings him rest, spiritual refreshment and leadership renewal and for the Youth weekend away in September.

Leatherhead Parish Church

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Will Perry and team.

We celebrate: real hunger to disciple people and look at God's Word together. Over 50 people have completed our Bible Study Leaders training weekends with over 180 in groups weekly looking at God's word together, people giving their lives to Jesus! We're seeing lots of people in their 20s and 30s, often with no church background, picking up Bibles, coming to Alpha and church, and responding to the gospel. Praise God! Our rising generation ministries continue to grow as we partner with parents to raise passionate Jesus followers. We're welcoming new families most weeks from across Leatherhead.

We pray for workers for the harvest, four passionate Jesus followers who can help lead our youth ministries, for the team we are sending to Epsom with Tom & Megan, for unity, passion for the gospel and deep love for people of Epsom. That thousands would come to follow Jesus! Pray that we would stay rooted in God's Word and dependent on the Holy Spirit, with a growing passion for Jesus, a zeal for God's glory, and lives marked by holiness and obedience.

Mickleham

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Sandra Faccini and team.

We celebrate: a small but steady growth in numbers, our strong Bible study groups and for a recent well attended guest service for bikers. Praise God for a good team of volunteers and for good progress towards the gold eco-church award.

We pray for wisdom about how to develop our work with the very small number of children who come along fairly regularly. Pray for the sadness over the imminent threat to close the Church Infant School and preparations for a service to celebrate all it has meant locally on July 5th. Pray for wisdom as we seek to prioritise what we do over the next 6 months.

Oxshott

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

We celebrate: the growth in children and families over the past few years, from 1-2 children on a Sunday, to now regularly 12-20 each Sunday, and up to 40 through 'messy church' style @4 service - and successful recruitment of a Youth and Children's Minister (beginning in August). Several people stepping into vocations - LLM, Ordination, Curacy, FIM etc -

praise God that he is sending people to serve in specific ways in the parish, and that encouraging others to follow their call too.

We pray for: Opportunities for the diversification of our worship style/pattern - we recognise the need to offer a more diverse style of worship within our parish, especially in the more contemporary style - so, prayer for the resource to do so. For succession planning - we have a few key people who are likely to 'retire' from their roles in the next few years, without clear successors - so please pray for the Lord to send the right people at the right time to step into these roles.

Ripley and Ockham and Hatchford and Downside

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Anna Norton and team.

We celebrate: that we have a thriving Toddler Group in Ripley and a growing number of families who we see on a weekly basis. Our congregation in Downside has a new lease of life, having grown in number – and with 2 representatives on the PCC. We are looking to open the chapel on a daily basis to provide a prayer space with labyrinth for the community. Ockham is about to increase its population ten-fold with the new development on Wisley Airfield. We are working closely with the developers to create a new warm and welcoming community there.

We pray for: We have a huge job to do here with three small, committed but aging congregations. We have three churches, 3 graveyards and 3 schools as well as many other local needs. We long to see more resources to help run services and community events across the benefice and support our Vicar and hard working volunteers. Please pray for the signs of growth we see, for those who are tired and for all in Ripley, Ockham, Hatchford and Downside to be transformed by the God who loves them and knows them by name.

Stoke d'Abernon

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Sr Phae Pamphilon-Green and team.

We celebrate: many new people joining our congregation, Monday's@Marys where we offer hospitality, chair yoga, a compassionate cafe and Hear Here takes place, for our Christian Meditation Group, and for the growing desire to go deeper in our faith.

Please pray for: God's blessing on our community outreach programme and for us to help the many new people to grow in faith.

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.

We have set up a support network of youth leaders in around the Mole valley area to meet and pray and learn from each other's ongoing youth ministries. This group also plans the local termly youth catalyst worship gathering. Please continue to pray for the ongoing partnerships between the local churches in this network as we continue to work together to support the local young people together.

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