

Bishop's Gathering for Woking Deanery

Celebrations and prayer requests

We are very grateful to representatives of the parishes in Woking Deanery for submitting the following 'things to celebrate' and prayer requests for use at the Bishop's Gathering hosted by Christ Church Woking on 1 July 2026.

Byfleet

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

Celebrations: The growing number of young men arriving in church has led to the formation of a Christianity Explored group that meets regularly for Bible, beer and pizza. Our LLM has just been accepted for ordination, one of our sisters has just finished FIM and another sister is about to start her second year. People who have never served before are stepping forwards to serve.

Please pray for: We are revisiting what our work with children looks like and hope to relaunch the Sunday school in September- pray for its success, direction and growth. We are considering how we confront loneliness and social isolation (particularly with more senior people) within our parish and are have to decide whether we redevelop a current ministry or create a new ministry to work into this issue- pray for direction, volunteers and the procurement of funds. We are blessed with a beautiful Church building but major maintenance work does need to be carried out- please pray for the funds to be raised.

Goldsworth Park

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Scott Smith and team.

Celebrations: our ministry to children and families continues to 'bubble away' post-COVID and our links to local schools (through Open The Book and other events) remains strong. Our Messy Church (which occurs six times per year) continues to grow and build connections and stepping stones across the community. Alpha remains relatively small but impactful. As well, I would say that our vision of Loving God with all our heart and reflecting God's heart to Goldsworth Park and beyond (of formation, discipleship and outreach) is becoming embedded in the life of the church.

Please pray for: us to hear God's voice in discerning how to better identify and resource the things that God is calling us to, as well as growing our teams to especially serve in our ministries to children, young people and their families.

Horsell

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Dmitry Lutsenko and team.

Celebrations: we are seeking to grow a culture of faith sharing at St Mary's Horsell as we explore faith together in different ways. New fresh expressions of church like Breakfast Church, shaped around dwelling in the Word, have brought rich conversations, warm engagement, and real joy, alongside testimony moments in services that are helping people share their faith more openly. Around Easter time we held 'The Bible Verses' exhibition, which offered encouragement to the congregation and brought some people from the community into the church. We have also held a recent Alpha course, creating space for people to explore their faith. This has also led to a new house group being set up, that will be meeting monthly. We are encouraged to see three members of our congregation involved in the FiM course with the Diocese.

Please pray for: that openness to the Gospel will continue to in our community, giving us courage, wisdom, and sensitivity as we share our faith. We long to see more people encounter Jesus personally in the coming year - through conversations, courses, creativity, and Scriptur and for new and existing members of our church to step forward in serving and in discerning calls to lay and ordained ministry. Please pray for a new youth group and that we can use our new hall facilities effectively to reach out to the community.

Knaphill with Brookwood

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

Celebrations: We give thanks for the arrival this week of our new curate, Emily-Grace and for our new Children's and families minister in January. We've just enjoyed a fantastic church weekend away, with more than 100 people joining us. It was a beautiful time to relax, build new friendships, and deepen our understanding of the Father's heart for us. We're thrilled to see around 25 people taking part in Alpha, with several already coming to faith. New people are continuing to join the church and discover who we are and what we're about. Our Bereavement Café, which began quietly at the end of last year, is now growing steadily and becoming a meaningful place of support.

Please pray for us as we continue to pray as we work out our new vision as one church (Woodhill Church) in the parish. It takes time for new things to bed in and grow. The PCC will be starting to look at how we proclaim the gospel in Brookwood and looking at how we can make meaningful connection across the whole of Brookwood.

Send

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Louise Vincer and team.

Celebrations: our growing connections with the community through relationship building, work with our school and our church groups. Growth in numbers and depth within the congregation including people exploring their calling to training for potential leadership roles in our parish.

Please pray: that we will inhabit our values of compassion, confidence and connection as a congregation, continue on our path towards financial sustainability, for imagination, courage and faith as we invest for mission this year, for using creative means to proclaim the good news, as we work on a new church logo, relaunch the website and engage with new media and that more families and younger people may be drawn to our church.

West Byfleet and New Haw

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Keith Elford and team and the imminent arrival of Rev Gillaine Holland.

Celebrations: We are very excited that we are about to be joined by Revd Gillaine Holland as our Associate Priest. We have seen very encouraging results so far from our programme to 'strengthen the core' – our 'what is God calling you to' programme has identified at least two likely candidates for ordination as well as allowed people to offer to serve in other helpful ways. Overall our leadership team is getting younger.

Please pray: we will see our core continue to strengthen. We also want to develop better pathways across the benefice for new arrivals, especially families and children. We do not lose sight of the fact that our eyes must be on the Kingdom of God as the great driver so we need help to impact the life of our community. Please pray for these things and for Gillain and her ministry which we see as playing a big part in all this.

Wisley with Pyrford

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

Celebrations: Emily Lissaman who has just been deaconed. We are focussing on mission and many people have been sharing their stories of coming to faith in the Sunday services and this has helped people see they all have a story; there is some real fruitfulness in intergenerational activities; we are learning to live by faith.

Please pray: that we really embrace mission opportunities including the village show, alpha in the autumn and school engagement; pray that our intergenerational activities flourish and grow and that everyone can see how vital they are in God's mission whatever their age; pray that God will supply all our financial needs especially as we seek to change our heating system.

Woking Christ Church

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Adrian Beavis and team.

Celebrations: We at Christ Church are incredibly grateful for all that God has begun this year, and hopeful for what is to come. At the end of March our 'Gateway' building project began (after 15 years in the making!) and we are at present meeting off-site in Nova Cinema and St. Andrews Goldsworth Park, while the builders do their thing. We would like to praise God for the project beginning, and for the generosity of our congregation; of donors, and of grant bodies that have got us this far.

Please pray for: Ash and Ridge our builders/project managers, that they would continue to know God's protection as they work, and that everything will finish on time. We'd love prayers for wisdom and vision as we will soon be recruiting for a new Cafe Manager.

Woking St John

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Glyn Lucas and team.

We celebrate: encouraging stories of new people arriving, flourishing new ministries, more people serving including those offering themselves for training for lay and ordained ministry. Our three most recent baptisms have been for teenagers who appeared unexpectedly, after reading the bible alone or having contact with Christian apologists / evangelists online. One led her parents into regular church attendance too. One couple are considering moving

abroad to support ministry in India and are making positive steps towards this. Flourishing relationship with two local primary schools, with weekly opportunities in assemblies, RE lessons, visits to church, school fetes, etc.

Please pray: Although new ministries and opportunities are exciting, we'd really like a steady year of doing the basics well: preaching the word in and out of season, welcoming and integrating newcomers effectively, connecting more of the church family with small groups, and a growing commitment to prayer across the whole church. We'd like to find lay leaders for our evangelistic ministries, e.g. Christianity Explored, and to carry forward building work. For us to develop our relationship with our local secondary school (Winston Churchill).

Woking St Mary of Bethany

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

Celebrations: We have been seeing significant growth over the last two years, especially in the sorts of people we have not often seen in church. We are praying for more, especially for young families.

Please pray: We have also completed a £350k renovation of our church building and are hiring someone to help us use it more effectively – pray that this will be fruitful in getting it used more. Our Associate Vicar Ruth goes on maternity leave at the end of July – pray for the safe arrival of her baby and for our ministry as we continue in her absence for the next few months.

Woking St Paul

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Naomi Ngururi and team.

Celebrations: "St Paul's has continued to be richly blessed and has seen answered prayers to healing of extended family within the congregation. We also give thanks for the arrival of a new family who are attending regularly, and a young man who recently joined us and is already serving faithfully with our AV ministry team. We are exploring new ways of making the Church more visible within the community and neighbourhood, including holding outdoor worship services. We are having a whole church family awayday this Saturday to seek God's guidance and vision in growing the church in our community. We are also delighted to have recently interviewed for a new Parish and Hall Hire Administrator and look forward to making an appointment soon.

Please pray that we may grow both in faith and in numbers as we seek to follow Christ and serve our community. Pray for fruition in our outreach activities and that God would draw new people into the life of the parish and deepen our witness to his love. Please also pray that more lay people will hear and respond to God's call to serve in our church and community."

Woking St Peter

We give thanks for the ministry of Revd Jonathan Thomas and team.

Celebrations: We ran our first Alpha for many years in spring with 7 attendees which impacted all of them positively in their faith. Caroline Harvey is being commissioned as a Lay Associate Minister on 4 July having finished the FiM course.

Please pray for our new afternoon monthly 'Re-energise' service at St Mark's starting in July aiming to attract new families from our community work into the church. For the change to new service times at St Peter's and St Mark's starting in July to be smooth and not a hindrance to anyone coming to church. For the appointment of a new Community Worker role this month, to help integrate our midweek community work with Sunday worship.

Woodham, including Sheerwater

We give thanks for the ministry of Fr Roland Olliff and for the ministry over recent years of Rev Gillaine Holland.

Celebrations: God is drawing people into the life of our churches through both worship and community engagement. Specifically at St Michael's, Sheerwater, the Community Engagement continues to build relationships with children, young people and families who would not normally cross the threshold of a church, many of who are not Christian. At All Saints, Woodham, we continue to welcome new worshippers, many of whom are seeking a church home where the richness of the Christian tradition is cherished and maintained. We are encouraged by a growing number of people each month, some offering themselves for service and leadership within the life of the parish.

Please pray: for us as we continue the next chapter of our life together following the reunification of St Michael's and All Saints, that we may grow as one parish with a shared vision for mission and discipleship. Please pray especially for our ministry through Church at the Margins, among children, young people and families, older people, and those from other faith backgrounds. Pray that God would raise up new leaders and volunteers, deepen the faith of those already connected with our churches, and help us reach those who have little or no connection with Christian faith, old and young. We are excited to hold our next Diocese wide youth worship gathering, Youth Catalyst Connect, in Christ Church Woking on 10th July. Please pray for this event, that young people may encounter God and that it may have a lasting impact on all who attend. Do also pray for the youth leaders, clergy, and volunteers in the deanery who lead their youth ministries so well.

Youth Catalyst Team – support for your parish

We are excited to hold our next Diocese wide youth worship gathering, Youth Catalyst Connect, in Christ Church Woking on 10th July. Please pray for this event, that young people may encounter God and that it may have a lasting impact on all who attend. Do also pray for the youth leaders, clergy, and volunteers in the deanery who lead their youth ministries so well.

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