

CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

JUNE 2026



Wednesday 3rd June

10am Holy Communion for *Corpus Christi*
(The Day of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion)

Saturday 6th June

4.30pm Holy Matrimony

Sunday 7th June

First Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist with God's Gang
(followed by refreshments)

Wednesday 10th June

10am Holy Communion
2pm First Steps.
5pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 11th June

10am Pilgrim Bible Study John 10
I am the gate I am the good shepherd

Saturday 13th June

2.30pm Summer Fete

Sunday 14th June

Second Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments) with prayers for wholeness
12noon and 1pm Holy Baptism

Wednesday 17th June

10am Holy Communion
5pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 18th June

10am Holy Communion at Springwood Corner
2.30-4pm Mustard Seed – chat, tea cake, good company

Saturday 20th June

St Alban's Pilgrimage

Sunday 21st June

Third Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist with God's Gang
(followed by refreshments)

Wednesday 24th June

The birth of John the Baptist
10am Holy Communion
5pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 25th June

10am Pilgrim Bible Study Group John 11
I am the resurrection and the life

Sunday 28th June Fourth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

MORNING PRAYER Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8.30am Join us in Church or on ZOOM. We follow the Daily Prayer app which can be downloaded on your smart phone.. Check the weekly sheet for any changes.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82117921556>

Christ Church Echo Square

Whatever The Weather...!



Summer



Fete



Saturday 13th June
at 2.30pm

Charity No: 1130741

Christ Church Summer Fete

13th June 2026 at 2.30p.m.

We are collecting items for all the stalls so please bring donations to church as soon as you can.

We need things for the book stall, bottle stall, children's toys, games and books, jigsaw puzzles, preloved and collectables, toiletries, chocolate (for a tombola), jars filled with anything that fits (for a tombola), White Elephant: (glass, china, kitchen equipment (not electrical or knives), artwork, mirrors, ornaments, photo frames, stationery, rugs, cushions.

Please bring cakes, preserves and plants on 13th.

The fete will take place whatever the weather, but hopefully in gazebos in the garden with some stalls in the hall and church.

Then please come to the fete with family and friends to have a happy afternoon eating cakes, drinking tea and coffee and buying from the stalls and playing on the sideshows, to raise money for church work and good causes.



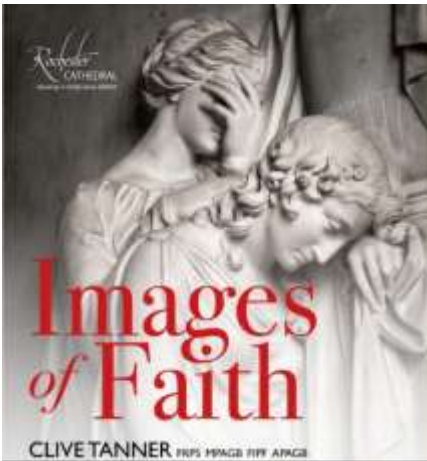
Diary Dates for July

7th July 6.15pm Semiquavers Concert

12th July 6pm Sea Sunday Evensong

25th July from 5pm Summer Party in the Pleasance

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL



Images of Faith is a retrospective exhibition bringing together Clive Tanner's evocative photographs of sacred spaces. From soaring interiors to quiet devotional details, his monochrome and colour images capture the beauty, craftsmanship and atmosphere of places shaped by faith, history and light. **Images of Faith** will run between 21st May and 30th June in the Rochester Cathedral Crypt and will be free of charge to visit.

St Alban's Pilgrimage 20th June

On 20th June we will travel to St Alban's to take part in the pilgrimage honouring the first saint and martyr of the British Isles. The Cathedral in St Alban's is built around the saint's shrine. A more recent addition are a set of statues on the choir screen where Alban stands surrounded by other martyrs, some local to the diocese, others recent to our times including Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Oscar Romero. All witnesses, martyrs for the faith of Jesus Christ.



The day begins with a procession through the city. Tall carnival puppets, representing figures from the story of St Alban, take to the streets to re-enact the historic events which lead to St Alban's execution at the hands of the Romans. The puppets are accompanied by people of all ages dressed as lions, Roman soldiers, angels, chariots and more, resulting in a stunning spectacle of colour and celebration.



The procession leads to the Cathedral for a Festival Eucharist and sermon. During the afternoon there is time to explore the city and or take part in activities in the Cathedral. The day finishes with a Pilgrimage Evensong and procession to the shrine of St Alban.

As there are rail engineering works between St Pancras and St Albans we will need to go by car. Please let the Vicar know if you would like to be a pilgrim and if you are able to take people in a car.

This year's preacher is Ruth Dearnley . Ruth is the former Chief Executive Officer of Stop the Traffik, the global anti-human trafficking charity she helped to establish, and was awarded an OBE for services to the prevention of modern slavery. For over two decades she has worked internationally to combat exploitation, strengthen communities, and advocate for human dignity. Her commitment to justice and protection for the vulnerable speaks powerfully to the story of St Alban — a man who chose courage and compassion in the face of injustice.

ORDINARY TIME?

In the church year, the colour of the vestments of 'ordinary time' is green, the colour of life and fertility. Ordinary time is the time that is necessary for anything to grow – as in the first verses of today's gospel. It teaches us the patience needed when nothing seems to be happening at all. Thomas Aquinas, in the thirteenth century, taught that the essence of courage is endurance, the quiet strength of those who carry on. It may look as if nothing is being achieved, and yet the seed is slowly germinating in the soil. The temptation is to despair of achieving anything. Is it all a waste of time? Ordinary time expresses the faith that human beings are destined to flourish. The green of ordinary time is the statement of our conviction that God intends human beings to arrive at the fullness of being, and that we shall do. If nothing much appears to be happening, then it is because the deepest changes are often invisible. We talk of watching the grass grow – one cannot see it happening, and yet it does! But we do not wait passively. This 'ordinary time', sharing the love of God, doing small acts that seek justice, is a hastening of the coming of the Kingdom.

Timothy Radcliffe (adapted)

Don't forget our FOODBANK collection – donations can be put in the bags in the porch.

Items needed include:

Tins of Custard

Tins of Hot meat/Cold Meat/Hot Dogs/Meat Pies

Crackers/Savoury Biscuits/Cereal Bars

Tins of Ravioli/Spaghetti Bolognaise

Small Bags of Rice (500g, 1kg, 2kg)

Tins of Vegetables (Carrots, Peas, Green Beans, Broad Beans, Sweetcorn)

Cous Cous

Tins of Macaroni Cheese

Small jars of instant coffee

Tins of Salmon/Pilchards

Evaporated Milk

Small packets of Instant Mash

Mayonnaise Shampoo & Conditioner

Washing up liquid

Ladies Deodorant

Non-Bio and Bio Laundry Tablets

Longlife Milk



Christ Church Gravesend
presents
An Evening in the Church Garden
Saturday 25th July
5pm - 9pm

Featuring the wonderful
Miss Vintage

Adults £10
Children £5

Includes a glass of Pimms
Bring your own picnic

To book contact Angela
on 07900430002

CHRIST CHURCH MILTON NEXT GRAVESEND BRANCH NEWS JUNE 2026

At the Diocese AGM, we were presented with a Bronze Award by Mary Margaret Yates our Rochester Diocese President and Glynis Carpenter the Lead on Social Policy and Gender-based Violence for supporting the Mothers' Union 'Rise Up Against Domestic Violence' campaign. This was achieved by support from our PCC, prayer, signposting support organisations with posters around the church and with our collection of clothes, kitchen equipment and toiletries donated to the Medway Women's Refuge. Well done to everyone who helped.



Lesley Harries has very kindly planted up the pots at the entrance to the church with the Mothers' Union colours of blue and yellow in celebration of the 150th Anniversary. Don't they look beautiful. Thank you Lesley.



At our May meeting our very own Angela Kirby came to tell us all about her work with the ADSS. Her talk was full of interesting and useful information sharing her personal experiences and passion



for her work with those living with dementia. We were also delighted to welcome Jacqui Bardo as a new member of our branch at that meeting.



MU members were full of praise when we saw the Mary Sumner dress worn by Felice on her arrival in church for the baptism of Chiamanda.



As some members are attending the 150th MU Anniversary Service at St Paul's Cathedral on 10th June there will be no branch meeting in June. Please check our notice board for upcoming meetings and events. Date for your diary - T@3 on Wednesday 19th August when we will be hosting our own celebration of 150 years of the Mothers' Union.

CHRISTIAN GIVING AT CHRIST CHURCH

Who pays for the vicar and the church building? We do. By contributing to the Diocese of Rochester, we pay for towards the cost of our Vicar. We also pay for the upkeep of the building, the cost of church services, and clergy expenses. Christ Church is self-supporting. It's paid for by the local people who come here. There are about 100 of us and we are grateful to all those who prayerfully give each week. We are also aware that giving at Christ Church has fallen by about 20% recently – which limits what we can do beyond our established work.

What happens to the money we give? Most of it is spent on making our contribution to the Diocese of Rochester, which trains and provides priests to its parishes (not just the ones who are paid), as well as lay ministers, and supports our work on the buildings and in safeguarding. The rest is spent on the charities we support, mission to the local community, church services, music and ministry; and on running and maintaining the building. Our annual report and accounts will tell you more – pick up a copy.

What are we asking you to do? To keep your giving under review in light of your income. If you're not already involved, to consider joining our scheme for regular giving scheme at Christ Church. You can give through weekly envelopes or set up a standing order. We know it's not easy at the moment but the church is facing higher bills as well.



How much should I give?

It's for you to decide, depending on your resources, and it's confidential to the recorder. As a guide, we are all asked for 5% of net income (also known as post-tax income or take-home pay). Giving a percentage of income means that those with larger incomes give more money and those on more modest incomes give less.

What do I do next? If you're a member of the scheme, review your giving at least annually. If you're not, or have questions, speak to Anne Thrush or the Vicar.



PRAYER CALENDAR

| | THE COMMUNITY | CHURCH |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | The Elderly | Those who use our hall |
| 2 | Those with poor mental health | Our preschool |
| 3 | The armed services | Our clergy |
| 4 | GPs and community health workers | Our Churchwarden Our Parochial Church Council |
| 5 | Foodbanks and those who use them The homeless | The children in our church Tots' Group, God's Gang and First Steps |
| 6 | Young people at university & college, or in work or apprenticeships | For vocations in the church, and those in training for ordained and lay ministry |
| 7 | The unemployed | Street Pastors |
| 8 | Our parliament and MP | Churches Together in Gravesend |
| 9 | Our emergency services | Our companion dioceses in Estonia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania |
| 10 | Social workers | Neighbouring Parishes |
| 11 | Children | Our lay ministers |
| 12 | Prisoners and prison staff | Prison chaplains |
| 13 | The victims of racism and discrimination | Christian Aid |
| 14 | Those who support people in the workplace | Our Bishops and Archdeacon |
| 15 | Our neighbours of other faiths | Those who are new in our church |
| 16 | Our local hospitals | Hospital chaplains |
| 17 | All who work with young people Our local Schools School pastors | Inclusive Church and all who work for inclusion and equality |
| 18 | Those living with dementia | Our safeguarding team |
| 19 | Musicians and artists | Our organist, choir & Semiclaviers |
| 20 | Family life | Our Mothers Union |
| 21 | Our councillors and council | Those who are persecuted for their faith |
| 22 | All involved in the production and distribution of food The Foodbank and DailyHub | Mustard Seed Those who are housebound or isolated |
| 23 | All who work on the river RNLI | Those preparing for marriage |
| 24 | Victims of domestic abuse | Those who care for our buildings |
| 25 | Those who care for green spaces | That we may be more aware of our impact on our planet |
| 26 | Those who are affected by modern day slavery | Baptism families |
| 27 | Those who work in information, journalism and social media | Those who prepare our notice sheet and communications |
| 28 | Local businesses Our local funeral directors | The bereaved |
| 29 | Those fighting addictions | Uniformed organisations |
| 30 | Refugees and asylum seekers | Our Cathedral in Rochester |
| 31 | Care homes in our parish SpringwoodCorner, Larchwood and Sheringham | Those preparing for First Communion or Confirmation |