

Development Co-Ordinator's Report for the Forum on 10th February 2026

HCT Events since the last Forum

Worship & Prayer Event

On Sunday 23rd November 2025, we gathered at Kingdom Faith Church for an evening of worship & prayer, organised by Horsham Churches Together.



Inspired by the Christ the King Sunday in the liturgical calendar, our time of sung worship centred on exalting Jesus as our Lord and King, stirring our hearts for mission and discipleship. Clive Urquhart (HCT Moderator) reflected on Acts 10, urging us to share our faith with those outside our comfort zone. Pete Dibdin (HCT Development Co-Ordinator) then invited us to adopt a posture of prayer for the season of Advent, as we prayed over the seasonal mission and evangelism planned across our churches.

Carols in the Carfax

The sound of Christmas filled the market in Horsham town centre on Saturday, as people gathered for Horsham Churches Together's Carols in the Carfax. The Slinfold Concert Band opened the morning with festive music before leading everyone in classic carols, including "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "Joy to the World".

Between the carol singing, the Christmas story was read by local representatives from the Salvation Army, the YMCA and Christians Against Poverty. Hearing these familiar words from people who walk alongside some of the most vulnerable in our community reminds us that the Good News of Jesus' birth still brings hope into our community today.



Rev Tim Stilwell, vicar at St Mark's Holbrook, brought smiles all round as he captured the joy of a child playing hide-and-seek, and the pure delight of being found. It was a beautiful image of a God who loves to be found. The band closed the event with a mix of festive favourites that carried the sound of joy throughout the Christmas market once more.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Throughout the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we were guided by the ancient, prayerful traditions of the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches. The focus of the week was on St Paul's timeless call to be 'one body and one Spirit' in Ephesians 4.

Each day, we explored a different theme, including call to unity, the bond of peace, and one God over all. With this, we shared a wide range of worship styles and prayer practices – from prayer stations and small-group reflection to moments of quiet, attentive silence. One evening also centred around conversation and prayer shared over a meal. The week ended with a United Service, led by St John the Evangelist, which is available to watch on demand via [St Mary's YouTube Channel](#).

Thank you to everyone who joined with us in prayer and worship, and to the churches and leaders who so generously hosted and led our times together.

Future Events

Dates for 2026

- World Day of Prayer, Friday 6th March, part of a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.
- Good Friday Service in the Carfax, 3rd April, 11:15am. Ruth Bushyager, Bishop of Horsham will be speaking.
- Prayer & Praise in the Park will be at 5pm on Sunday 15th June 2026 in Horsham Park.
- HCT will be hosting a stall at the Funday Sunday on 5th July 2026 in Horsham Park.
- We are also planning dates for Worship & Prayer events, and Carols in the Carfax – watch this space!

Updates

- During the festive season, we created a “What’s On at Christmas” guide, to promote Christmas services and festive events taking place in our local churches. The online guide received 1000 visitors during December, and our Christmas Eve events post on Facebook clocked 7000 views.
- I’m working on a redesign of the weekly notices email, to improve engagement, reduce workload, and make it more easily readable on mobile devices. The plan is for the notices to be fully integrated into the HCT website, helping to promote news and events to a wider audience. If you would like to part of the trial, please let me know.
- I’ve had conversations with Home for Good, a Christian charity who help promote and support fostering and adoption within Horsham. Come along to their vision event at 7:30pm on Wednesday 18th March at Christian Life Centre to hear inspiring stories of local Christians who are making a real difference in children’s lives.
- I attended the Age UK Older Persons Network, the Horsham Matters Forum and HDC’s Community Support Networking Marketplace, connecting with various charities and community groups.
- I was invited to the High Sherrif’s Mental Health Matters Conference, which explored mental health across Sussex, and was a good opportunity to network with local organisations and community groups.
- The Spurgeons Connect Hub has been progressing, and with a 12-month pilot program coming to an end, the three Horsham churches involved are discerning whether to continue with the paid program.

Rev Pete Dibdin, Development Co-Ordinator

07566 202 741

pete.dibdin@horshamct.org.uk

www.horshamct.org.uk

www.facebook.com/horshamchurchestogether