

# Christ Church Orpington Family News

## Issue 29, 10th October 2020

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Dear Christ Church,

During the peace and quietness of lockdown, when our streets were more or less deserted, I took up bird watching and put a bird table and bird feeders in the front garden by the hedge. I was delighted by all the feathered friends who came and enjoyed it; I counted fifteen different species who came to the table or feeders, and some of them I began to recognise as individuals.

But now cars and human traffic pass by seemingly just as much as they ever did, and my little birds are scared. Despite the fact that none of the cars or passers-by are the slightest bit interested in hurting them, they sit in the hedge too frightened to come to the table. And when they eventually decide it is safe and come, another car or passer-by goes past and they quickly fly back to the safety of the hedge. I'm sure they use more energy flying backwards and forwards than they probably ever gain from the food, so overall they are possibly worse off.

When the apostle Paul was training his young acolyte Timothy, he said *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."* (2 Tim 1: 7, NLT)

Paul was talking about stepping out in God's service and proclaiming the message of the Gospel, but it can equally refer to stepping out into life in God's name. Timothy might have been letting his fears stop him from going out and proclaiming God's word boldly. The birds were frightened of perceived threats, but they weren't real threats. None of those cars or passers-by intended to come into the garden and hurt them, but through fear, they lost out on life-giving food. And maybe we too are fearful of going out and living life in the present time because of fear?

The phrase "Do not be afraid" or "Do not fear" is the most frequently given commandment in the bible, occurring in one form or another over 200 times. If you count the positive times of God keeping you in peace etc, then the count (I am told) comes to 365, once for every day of the year.

This doesn't mean don't be sensible! The Israelites were not to go into battle wearing the equivalent of dressing-gown and slippers, and armed with a

feather duster. No, they were to go into battle with armour and weapons. And, they were to pray and seek God first, and find out whether or not He wanted them to go. Every time they did that, and God said go, they won. When they didn't pray, or God said not to go but they chose to go anyway, they lost.

Today, we don't face battles against enemies but we do face the threat of Covid-19. But God tells us not to be afraid, not to have a spirit of timidity, but to have a spirit of power, love and self-discipline. Like my birds, we could be missing out on good things through our fears. We do, however, need to be sensible at all times and put on the armour of face mask, social distancing, clean hands, self-isolating where appropriate, observing the "rule of six" and avoiding places where this doesn't happen. And we need to pray – and listen! Listen to what God is saying to us. What we mustn't be, is afraid. So, as we learn to live in our new way of doing "life" and put on our full armour, we don't need to be afraid. Otherwise, we could be missing out on so much that is life-giving that God is waiting to give us.

With much love and blessings,  
Sharon

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### Go Deeper – our third Sunday Service has re-started

Our third Sunday service that used to be held at 6.30pm re-started last week at the new time of 4pm. This is a trial as going home at 8pm in the dark and cold was difficult for some, so please do come and join us. It will be held in the church, and there is no need to register as there will be enough spaces to accommodate everyone.

There are two different styles held on alternate weeks, and last week we enjoyed a reflective service learning about keys to hearing God's voice. Tomorrow we will have a contemporary service with a more modern feel for those who enjoy worshipping to modern worship songs, and we will recap some of the book of Revelation that we started before lockdown.

Everyone is welcome, so please do join us there!

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### Due to the APCM this Sunday, there will not be Virtual Coffee

If anyone is interested in hosting, please contact  
Alan Goddard on [goddardaanda@gmail.com](mailto:goddardaanda@gmail.com)

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# Church Autumn Services



ALL SERVICES, GOD WILLING, WILL BE IN CHURCH (with the 10.30am also streamed online) AND ALL CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUPS WILL TAKE PLACE IN CHURCH (where possible, and also streamed online)

- Sun 11th Oct 9.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Worship Service & APCM  
4.00pm Reflective Service
- Sun 18th Oct 9.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Worship Service  
4.00pm Reflective Communion Service
- Sun 25th Oct 9.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Worship Service  
4.00pm Contemporary Service

In the 9.00am and 10.30am services this Autumn we are looking at "Dancing with David".

\* **The booking system** Bookings will open on Thursday mornings on Eventbrite (contact Anna for details if you haven't received an email). Those without email have received paper invitations.

\*\* **Please note** this is subject to change if illness or the Church of England, Government, or local guidelines change

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## "Youth Moving up to new Groups

As those of you who were able to make the Harvest Festival church service will know, we celebrated all those youth moving up from their present youth groups to their new groups. It is so good to see them moving on in the church, and growing even more maturity in their faith!

One who couldn't be there and missed out on the presentation was Samuel Sleath, so I would like to say a 'CONGRATULATIONS' to Sam to recognise his movement up from Pathfinders into Juice.

Well done Sam, and welcome to Juice!"

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## Items and Notices for next issue of Family News

Email to: [vandjmapp@gmail.com](mailto:vandjmapp@gmail.com) by

**12noon** this coming Saturday, 17th October 2020

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## WE'RE HIRING!

We are hiring a part-time admin assistant - please forward this on to anyone you think may be suitable and interested in getting involved with our team.

## PART-TIME ADMIN ASSISTANT REQUIRED

**SALARY: £7,010**  
**(15 hours per week, 41 weeks per year)**

The Admin Assistant will support the central management team based in Penge. You will be very much part of the team and get involved in all day-to-day activities. Strong administrative skills and a flexible approach are essential.

You will be proficient in the use of Word, Excel and PowerPoint and have the necessary IT skills to be able to quickly learn various systems and applications.

Tasks will include:

- Managing the database and keeping it up to date
- Taking phone calls and dealing with general e-mails and enquiries
- Acting as secretary to the Trustees
- Providing support to the Finance Administrator
- Other general administrative tasks

This role would usually be based in our Penge Office, but current restrictions will mean working mainly from home with most contact via phone and Zoom with occasional face to face, socially distanced, meetings.

For a full job description and person specification, please go to [https://mcusercontent.com/9aa204eac8b4665807815308a/files/729a1470-c207-4ba4-b007-6d440e04f059/Administrative\\_Assistant\\_Sept\\_2020.02.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/9aa204eac8b4665807815308a/files/729a1470-c207-4ba4-b007-6d440e04f059/Administrative_Assistant_Sept_2020.02.pdf)

Closing date for applications is **Friday 23rd October 2020.**

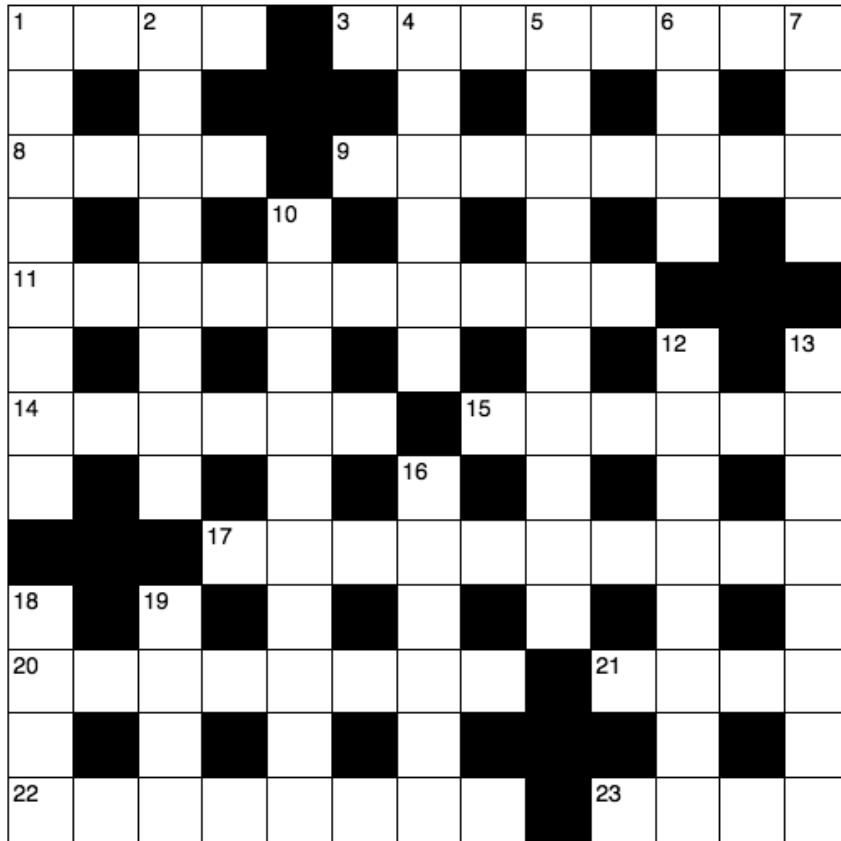
For an application form or to discuss the role further, please contact: Clare Holl: [clare@spinnaker.org.uk](mailto:clare@spinnaker.org.uk)

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Solution to last week's **Word**

	C	H	A	R	I	O	T	E	E	R	S		
C		U		A		I		C		A		C	
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**Across**

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2-4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

**Down**

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)

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**Acknowledgements**

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 Monte Grappa, Italy

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