



Christ Church Orpington

Family News 1st May 2021

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Dear Christ Church,

I've just enjoyed two weeks leave and what joy it was to be able to get out and about – the shops open to wander round, the cafe's offering roadside food, the parks full of people once again, exploring different coasts again, and just being able to relax into life with people again. These are things we have taken for granted (at least, in my lifetime) and 15 months ago never dreamed were luxuries and gifts from God to be daily thankful for.

Genesis 2:18 says *"The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone'"*

To be in company with one another is God ordained, so it is no wonder that lockdown hurt, and as life opens up again it brings with it a joy and a peace that humans so crave. We can mostly cope quite well with being alone for shorter periods; indeed some people have coped quite well the entire year. But we still almost ALL need other people or we shrivel.

So going out in a sensible way, now the government and scientists deem it safe, is such a blessing. But we have spent a year living in fear, and that is a long time to get into new habits of living within four walls, staying indoors, and mistrusting even when the science says we are safe. But the biggest issue we need to get over is fear. The Lord God says *"Do not be afraid"* or *"Do not fear"* to His people 88 times in the bible. In fact, all His most prolific commands – *"Do not be afraid"*, *"Do not fear"*, *"Rejoice"* and *"Give thanks"* - add up to a wonderful *"trust God and be happy"*. How easy it is to say, but how hard it can be to act on it.

So, as we come out of our *"annus horribilis"*, to quote a very famous person (the Queen), I pray we will begin to see all God's blessings to us in a new

light, and develop an attitude of gratitude for all the gifts He has given us, including each other and church. And as the church is open again, we look forward to all being back together again, as we are all the poorer for any of us who are missing. Let us be blessings, each to one another, not waiting for others to come to us, but reaching out to whoever God puts across our minds. If you can use a phone, please think about contacting Pastoral Care and asking if there are people you can contact and encourage. Don't wait to be asked, or someone to contact you, God needs you now to step out and help encourage His people in His name. Greta's numbers are 01689 821576 and 07940 010570. You won't regret it.

With much love and blessings,
Sharon & Andi xx

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Annual Church Meeting

On **Sunday 16th May** the **10.30am** service will include the annual reports by the Vicar, Youth Minister and Children's Minister and will be immediately followed by the annual PCC elections, electoral roll report and the financial review. As the number of nominations received for the elections does not exceed the number of places. there will be no need for voting.

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Electoral Roll

Do you know whether or not you are on our Electoral Roll? **If you aren't sure**, either contact Anna in the office who can tell you, or fill out the email form anyway and send it back to Anna.

If you are new and know that you haven't yet filled out an Electoral Roll form, then we would love you to contact Anna for a form on ccorpington@talktalk.com or 01689 871601.

It doesn't sign you up to anything other than the joy of knowing you are part of our community. We are revising the list right now, and would love to hear from you asap.

Please note that next Sunday – 9th May – is the last day to apply for this year's Electoral Roll.

Many thanks.

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If you would like to share your testimony and encourage us all, please send it to Sharon at Sharon@ccorpington.org

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Items and Notices for next issue of Family News

Email our editor, Vernon: vandjmapp@gmail.com

by 12noon Saturday 8th May 2021

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Sunday 2nd May 2021

Zoom Virtual Coffee

You are invited to join **Kaego** for virtual coffee 5 mins after the morning service finishes on Zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71117046566?pwd=N3FZNTdMREpFMW1rSXBwc3dObUNNQ109>

or

Meeting ID: 711 1704 6566

Password: 020075

If anyone is interested in hosting, please contact Alan Goddard on goddardaanda@gmail.com

There are many ways to **join a Zoom meeting**, but the easiest way is to click the join links above. You can also click **Join** in your Zoom client and enter the meeting ID and passcode. You will want an internet device with a camera, microphone and sound like a laptop, tablet or smartphone. If you do not have an internet connected device then you can still join for sound but not video with a normal phone. To join in, you will need to dial Zoom software free number 020 3481 5240 and then you will then be asked to enter the Meeting ID number and then the Passcode.

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Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Please note one change...

The Annual Meeting will take place in two week's time on **Sunday 16th May**. As last year, reports by the Vicar, Youth Minister and Children's Minister will be made during the 10.30am service, and the Financial Report and elections will follow **immediately** after the service.

All the proceedings **may** be shown online, however, we may not have enough Tech volunteers to do this, so please do make every effort to come to the service in person.

Anyone interested in standing for election to the PCC is asked to contact the PCC Secretary, Don Bower, or the Church Office for a nomination form asap.

The financial accounts for 2020 have now been produced and agreed by the PCC. If you would like to see a copy of the report, please contact Anna in the office who will send you a copy: ccorpington@talktalk.net

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2021 Sunday Services

All 10.30am services will be both in church and online (if we have the Tech Team to provide this)

Sunday 2nd May 10.30am Holy Communion

Tuesday 4th May The second of the studies on **"How was the Bible written?"**
Bob Kendall will look at the history of the Old Testament stories – who wrote them? How true are they? And what do we know about those Minor Prophets?
8.00pm on Zoom - see the link overleaf

Sunday 9th May 9am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 16th May 10.30am Morning Worship followed by APCM

Pentecost Sunday
Sunday 23rd May 9am Holy Communion
10.30am Pentecost Morning Worship

Please book for the 10.30am services via the email link Anna will send, or by phoning the church office on 01689 871601. If you are unable to book, please just come anyway – unless we get a sudden influx, we will fit you in.

There is no need to book for the 9.00am services.

For online services through the Christ Church Orpington website: www.ccorpington.org

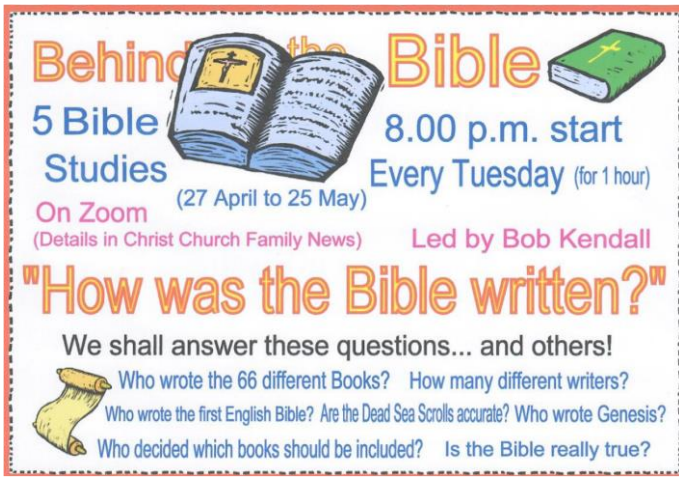
Or on Facebook (you don't need to have a Facebook account) <https://www.facebook.com/ccorpington/live>

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Church Garden

The church garden needs a spring clean. Nick Marchant and Alan Goddard will be there from **10am on Saturday 8th May** with some gardening implements to spend an hour or so weeding and carrying out basic grounds' maintenance to the garden.

If you want to join us for about an hour do email goddardaanda@gmail.com or just come and join us and bring any refreshments you want to have a socially distanced break after we finish or at about 11am

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Behind the Bible
5 Bible Studies
8.00 p.m. start
Every Tuesday (for 1 hour)
On Zoom (27 April to 25 May)
 (Details in Christ Church Family News) **Led by Bob Kendall**

"How was the Bible written?"

We shall answer these questions... and others!

Who wrote the 66 different Books? How many different writers?
 Who wrote the first English Bible? Are the Dead Sea Scrolls accurate? Who wrote Genesis?
 Who decided which books should be included? Is the Bible really true?

**BEHIND THE BIBLE:
 "HOW WAS THE BIBLE WRITTEN?"**

We recently ran a series of Bible Studies about the Last Week of Jesus' Life, on the "Behind the Bible" theme. Many of you joined in via Zoom and we hope you all found the studies interesting and useful.

In the coming weeks we are having a further series. The subject will be "How was the Bible Written?" This will be slightly different, as we shall genuinely be looking Behind the Bible, and finding out many things we probably didn't know we didn't know!

The studies will help If you want answers to questions such as:

- What were the languages used for writing the Bible?
- Who did write Genesis?
- Who was the most prolific Bible writer?
- Hasn't archaeology disproved the Old Testament?
- Who decided which 66 Books should actually be included in the Bible?
- Are the Dead Sea Scrolls reliable?
- Who wrote the first Bible in English?
- Is the Bible true?!

If you want the answers, join in via Zoom, on **Tuesday 4th May**, starting at **8pm** for about an hour. Bob Kendall will be leading the studies. Details, and the zoom link, will be in the Family News each week. We believe there may be some of you who aren't much interested in the history background. Well, give it a try – you may find it more fascinating and valuable than you imagine.

There is a lot of gold Behind the Bible!!

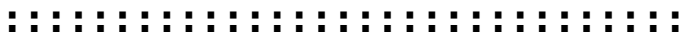
Zoom details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89784912834?pwd=T2p6VzdTdmxY3MraldaSWQ1bDJNdz09>

or

Meeting ID: 897 8491 2834

Passcode: Bob



Dear Foodbank Supporters,

Here is the latest list of Foodbank needs:

- Tinned Tomatoes**
- Cold Meat**
- Desserts**
- Tinned Soup**
- Tinned Fish**
- Tinned Rice Pudding**
- Biscuits**
- Washing Up Liquid**
- Washing Detergent Capsules**
- Toilet Rolls**

NB: There has been a problem recently with people leaving frozen food in the collection point at Orpington Sainsbury's.

Donors, please note that the foodbank cannot accept chilled or frozen food.

NB: The warehouse will be closed for the two Bank Holiday's in May: **Monday 3rd May and Monday 31st May**

Finally, please no baby milk, as the foodbank is not allowed to give it out.

Thank you for your continuing support

Vanessa Dixon
 Foodbank Volunteer



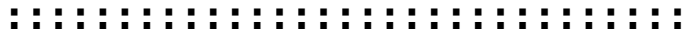
Café Mosaic

We are pleased to announce that Café Mosaic will be open from

Wednesday 19th May from 9.15am – 2pm

To get there, we are looking for volunteers to help either with the cooking in the kitchen or helping to take orders and serve tea/coffee/meals on either a Wednesday or Friday morning (or both). If this is something you would like to get involved with, please contact the church office on:

ccorpington@talktalk.net / 01689 871601



The Journey

2014

You whispered.
My heart began to stir,
Invisible cords drew me on
Into the journey of Life.

The road is long
And stretches out before me.
It seems so easy –
Yet soon some crossroads loom.
Which way to go?
It seems to be the left that makes most sense,
But maybe right is better?

What should I do?
I carry on, looking for a map to tell me what to do –
I'm lost again so soon.

I choose the path I think is right,
But then
I slip, I didn't see the pothole.
I fall and feel the pain,
But gentle arms reach down and lift me to my feet.

I stumble on and feel I know the way.
I break into a run
But red lights bar my path.
Angrily I wait,
And when they let me pass I hurry through.
But in my haste I fail to see the grid
That trips my foot
And sends me down again.

Bleeding and sore
I reject the helping arms this time.
Clambering to my feet
Defiant
Determined
And in my pride I fail to see the sign -
That warns me on this narrow path
Lie rocks.

The road seems easy now,
The going flat and fast.

But then, the path and all that is familiar
Disappears,
And cruel rocks that cut and scar
Are underfoot;
There's no way out and no way on
The rocks are just too big and just too sharp.

I cry.
The loving arms reach down again
And draw me upwards;
Cradled tender as a child –
My wounds still sore
The rocks still cruel on my road,
But I am safe.

I look and see another bleeding and in pain.
Guilty nails through innocent flesh
Imprisoned on a cross –
And then he's gone!
The cross is empty, bare.

I turn to see the arms that hold me
And look into the face of love.
His face, weeping at my pain
Bathing my wounds with his tears.
Holding me close,
So close, that if I listen hard
I hear his heartbeat.

And looking from the safety of his arms
Those jagged rocks have lost their fear.
They lay redeemed, transformed,
Their power turned inside out
Under the cross of Christ.

He gently sets me down again.
Together we look at the path.
He knows and sees the rocks that lay ahead –
He walks it by my side
And that is enough.
There is peace.

Word

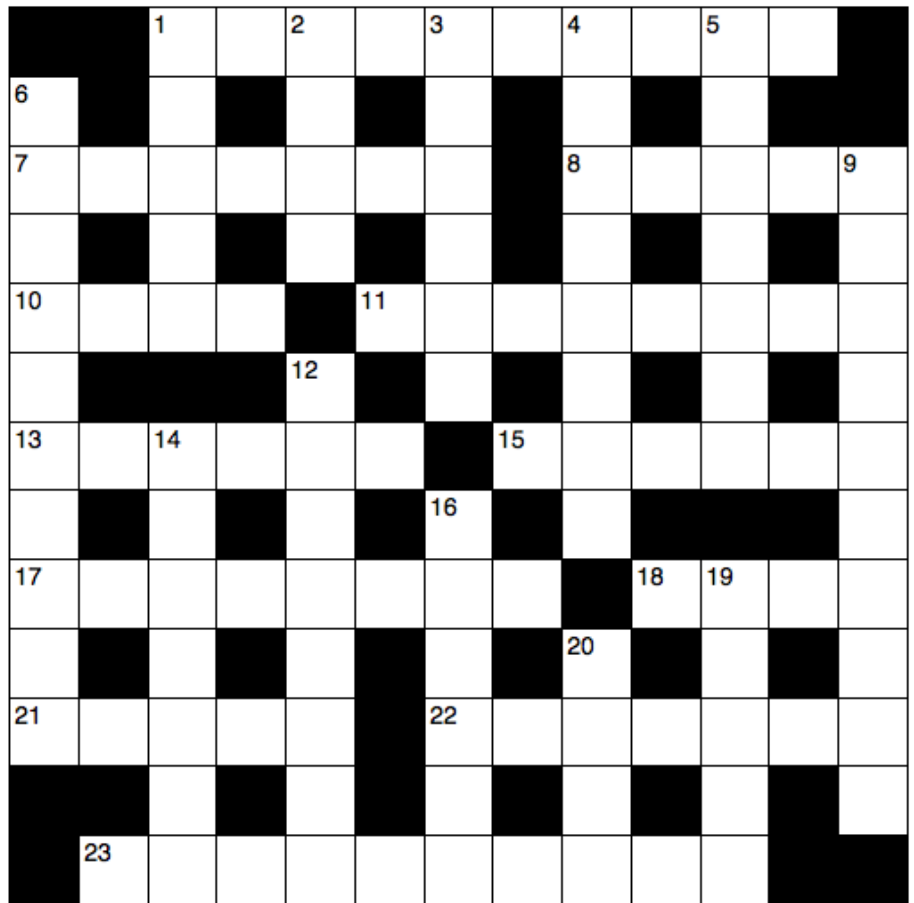
Solution to last week's Word

ACROSS

- 1, Planet. 4, Rugged. 7, True.
 8, Augustus. 9, Attitude. 13, Bed.
 16, Participation. 17, War. 19, Hillside.
 24, Baldhead. 25, Bede. 26, Census.
 27, Arisen.

DOWN

- 1, Path. 2, Adulterer. 3, Tract.
 4, Rigid. 5, Gust. 6, Exude. 10, Irish.
 11, Uriel. 12, Esau's. 13, Blindness.
 14, Deny. 15, Spew. 18, Awake.
 20, Ideas. 21, Lydia. 22, Odes.
 23, Lean.



Across

- 1 'You are a chosen people, a royal — ' (1 Peter 2:9) (10)
 7 Exact copy (Joshua 22:28) (7)
 8 Jesus' first words to Jairus's daughter, 'My child, — —' (Luke 8:54) (3,2)
 10 Idol made by the Israelites while Moses was on Mount Sinai (Exodus 32:4) (4)
 11 Role allotted to Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 42:6) (8)
 13 'Lord, when did we — — hungry and feed you?' (Matthew 25:37) (3,3)
 15 'Though seeing, they do — —; though hearing, they do not hear or understand' (Matthew 13:13) (3,3)
 17 Happening (1 Kings 21:1) (8)
 18 'Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the — of Christ' (Philippians 3:7) (4)
 21 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1,1,1,1,1)
 22 Stamp on (Amos 2:7) (7)
 23 Liable to rot (1 Corinthians 15:42) (10)

Down

- 1 Of the pope (5)
 2 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything — —' (Psalm 24:1) (2,2)
 3 Hebrew word for the kind of peace that Jesus promised (6)
 4 Member of a 16th-century Protestant reform movement in France (8)
 5 Sing out (anag.) (7)
 6 Ceremonial column of people on the move (1 Samuel 10:5) (10)
 9 One of the things love always does (1 Corinthians 13:7) (10)
 12 Esther's cousin who foiled a plot to assassinate King Xerxes (Esther 2:7, 22) (8)
 14 See cape (anag.) (7)
 16 'No one can — them out of my hand' (John 10:28) (6)
 19 Often mistakenly identified as the fruit that led to the first sin (Joel 1:12) (5)
 20 'He was led like a — to the slaughter' (Isaiah 53:7) (4)





Iceland

Photo by Alexander Milo reproduced courtesy of Unsplash