



Christ
Church
Orpington

Family News 11th December 2021

Isaiah 42: 1-7

'Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom I delight;

I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will bring justice to the nations.

²He will not shout or cry out,
or raise his voice in the streets.

³A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out.

In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged
till he establishes justice on earth.

In his teaching the islands will put their hope.'

⁵This is what God the LORD says –
the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out,
who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it,
who gives breath to its people,
and life to those who walk on it:

⁶'I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.

I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people
and a light for the Gentiles,

⁷to open eyes that are blind,
to free captives from prison

and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness

The beauty of Isaiah's poetry is breath-taking. This piece has been entitled The Suffering Servant and in it, it is God Himself who speaks. He foretells of a servant, His servant on whom He would put His Spirit, who would bring justice [v1], peace [v2], gentleness [v3], justice and hope [v4], life [v5], light [v6], and freedom [v8] to a broken and hurting world.

What an incredible gift! That our heavenly Father would love us so much that He would send His only Son as the suffering servant to save us from sin and death, with the promise of a world of justice, peace, gentleness, hope, life, light and freedom. What joy that will be when all of this is fulfilled and we live in the world as God always intended it to be.

But while we wait for that time, we often struggle through a life that can sometimes look very different from this. As we head back into a period of uncertainty over this next variant of Covid-19, we once again wonder what lies ahead, how long it will last, what it will look like, will we and our loved ones all be safe, and will Covid ever go?

We may not understand it, but we have a mighty God who has always known this was going to happen, who knows the end from the beginning, and has given wonderful gifts of wisdom and skills to our scientists who work to bring us vaccines; doctors, nurses and support staff to care for those who are ill; and an amazing logistical network to get vaccinations and medicines from the laboratories to an entire nation.

So this Advent, as we draw near to our suffering servant King, and look forward to the wonderful world that will one day be ours, let's thank Him for all the good that is in our world, starting with His provision for help against this horrible disease, and never forgetting that despite all the sensational and often ugly news that bombards us every day – there is still a lot more goodness and kindness in the world than we will ever know. It might not make the headlines for the world's sensational news, but our God is sensational!

With much love and every blessing,

Sharon & Andi xx

Notices for the next issue of Family News

email them to Vernon vandjmapp@gmail.com

by **12noon, Saturday 18th December** please

"If you would like to give to Christ's work
here at Christ Church,
the best way to give is via
our bank account, Sort code 40 52 40,
and account number 00095465,
or by sending a cheque payable to
Christ Church PCC Orpington to
165 Charterhouse Road, Orpington,
Kent BR6 9EP.

Thank you so much for your wonderful generosity."

What's on...

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

Please Note: The online services will be streamed at 10.30am on Mondays rather than on Sundays.

Saturday 11th December

4.00pm Messy Christmas
5.00pm Messy Christingle only

Sunday 12th December

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Blue Christmas

Tuesday 14th December

~~Community Club Christmas party~~ **POSTPONED**

Sunday 19th December

10.30am Crib Service - All Age
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Friday 24th December

11.15 pm Holy Communion - Christmas Eve Mass

Saturday 25th December

10.30am Morning Worship - Christmas Day/All Age

Services available online at 10.30am on Monday 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>

Join **Heather Kroiter** for zoom coffee after church on Sunday (12th December) from 11.45am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86865402957?pwd=S2h0bVlUTCs2MXk1WGo4SUIRWWVWdz09>

Meeting ID: 868 6540 2957

Passcode: RS71LX

Community Club Christmas party

After much discussion we have reluctantly decided to postpone our Community Club Christmas party. It has not been an easy decision but considering the uncertainties at the moment and the age range of our members, we felt this was the responsible course of action. All members will receive a telephone call requesting permission for us to deliver a small gift and their meal in a box.

We plan to resume gatherings on 11th Jan but will review the guidance and our situation in the New Year. Members will be notified should this date need to be moved.

Sunday 12th December

9am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

Welcome

Notices

Opening Prayer

Confession

Song Let our praise
Song Prepare Him room
Song Your Grace is enough

Intercessions

Bible Reading Luke 3 v 7-18

Sermon

Song Servant King
Song On Jordan's bank

Final Prayer and Blessing

6.30pm Blue Christmas

Gift Day

"The figure including the tax we are due to claim is £38,152."

Derek Foxen, Treasurer
Reverend Sharon Smith
Christ Church Orpington

We are so grateful for people's generosity for our Gift Day

THANK YOU for everyone who supported the mosaic sales two weeks ago. I am pleased to report I've been able to send a donation of £700 to Alzheimer's society this year, following sales at church and at my school. Thank you so much for buying (and if you still need to pay – I'll be there on Sunday!)

Best wishes, Gail (Haythorne)

"It is with much sadness that we have to announce that Myra Mansi passed away on the 30th November after a long illness. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her, especially old and dear friends from Christ Church. Funeral details will be announced shortly."

Winterburn's update December 2021 Bonnes Nouvelles!



Jack, Sarah and Ben, preparing for mission in Tours, France from King's Church Durham.

I hope this finds you well.

I thought it would be good to send another newsletter a bit sooner than originally planned to update on some answered prayer. Since we last wrote, we have moved house (praise the Lord). Also, Ben has turned 2, and Sarah has also had a birthday, and we have a new (to us) car.



Winterburns at the dinner table.

God can grow us in the waiting.

Thank you all for your prayers regarding finding a house to live in, we are happy to be able to say we have now moved into a lovely ground floor apartment in Tours Nord, about 30 mins walk from the church building. We have been looking for 'meubles' (furniture) and are almost there, except a slightly malfunctioning hob. Praise God for His provision. Bizarrely, it was the first flat we visited, just after we had arrived in France. At the time I wasn't sure if we had wanted to live here, then we were rejected on the grounds of our dossier (paperwork mountain) but God provided a way for us to have our dossier accepted (namely an estate agent who wanted to make it work for us, a guarantor, advice from a lawyer in church and Jack's student card all helped, as well as the flat not having been snapped up quickly which was surprising). I think the waiting time has made me more grateful to God for the gift of this place to live, and from which we can be hospitable to others.

Jack's language school

Jack has been studying at the Institut de Touraine for a few weeks now. He has met all sorts of different people, such as a Californian wine grower, a Japanese banker, and a Swedish monk. Jack is enjoying the routine of his studies too, and the travel is much better now we are in Tours Nord.



Our block of flats - ours is behind the hedge closest to the camera.



Sarah playing the flute in the band with Amen (centre) and Marc (right) leading the service.

What else are you up to?

Jack and I had the chance to share our testimonies last week (including Jack speaking French) which I'm told was encouraging. Sarah has been helping with the worship music which she has enjoyed, and will be helping Jody with the creative workshop planning and Jack is going to be helping a bit with the Maison de la Solidarité. Here are a couple of examples of songs we have sung in church for you to listen to and enjoy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3c-yvpq1p8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0RAXg9bTY8>

- Praise God for answered prayers, such as finding a place to live, finding a car (we now have a Toyota Yaris). Bless Tim and Jane for letting us live in their gite for the first month and a bit.
- Pray for us as we get to know our neighbours (possibly with a housewarming party) and continue to get to know the people in our church
- Pray for us as we look for a 'nounou' or crèche for a few mornings a week for Benjamin. Lots of people use 'nounous' for childcare (people who look after a small group of children in their own homes). You can pray that God guides us to the right person, and someone who is willing to do part time.
- Pray for the 'atelier creatif' on the 11th December. This is a creative workshop where normally people bring their own crafts to work on together, and people from church invite friends to come along. This one is a special Christmas themed one and the first in person for a long time due to Covid. Please pray that guests would come and feel welcome and experience

something of the love of God, and that the church members would enjoy fellowship together over Christmas crafts!

- Pray for the Christmas celebration on the 19th December (I'm not yet sure what this entails but will find out!)
- Pray for the admin of our CAVIMAC (health & social security) to be ironed out (there have been law changes recently in France meaning that the way things have been done for foreign missionaries previously will have to change slightly).

Thanks so much for praying. We'd love to hear from you too!
Do get in touch.

Our mailing address is: winterburns@kcd.org.uk

We're trusting God to continue providing the finances we need. To join the financial support team, just get in touch and we can give you the details.

Christmas church flowers

The flower arranging team would like donations of foliage on **Saturday 18th December**. Please bring to church from **9.30am**. We would also welcome volunteers to help with arrangements as we have fewer helpers than previously.

No experience needed!

Advent Prayer Space

Poet-priest Malcolm Guite writes: "Advent is a season for stillness, for quiet, for discernment. It is a season of active waiting, straining forward, listening, attentive and finely tuned. It's good to keep a quiet space, a sacred time, an untrammelled sanctuary away from the pressures, to be still and hear again one's deepest yearnings for a saviour."

To help us focus on God in this season which can be so busy, I am going to lead a time of prayer and reflection in church at 8pm each Wednesday evening during Advent. There will be words and music to listen to, pictures and silence for reflection and prayer.

Please come and join me at 8pm on the 15th and 22nd December. If you would like more info, contact me on melanie@zarttell.uk.

Melanie

Open Kitchen – Please vote for us!

We have been nominated by Asda Swanley to be part of their Green Token Giving scheme during December and January. This gives us the opportunity to be awarded **£500** from the Asda Foundation, but we need your support. Only the charity with the largest number of votes will be awarded this grant.

Please vote for us **EVERY WEEK** during this month and January 2022. Go to www.asda.com/green-tokens, select Swanley from the dropdown menu, and then vote for Open Kitchen at Christ Church Orpington. Please share this with your family and friends, encouraging them to vote each week. This money will make such a difference to local families who are in need, all with the click of a button.

Thank you so much for your support!
Liesel Stanbridge
Open Kitchen foodbank



Northumbria Daily Prayer

You are invited to come along to Daily Prayer at 9am-9.20am in the chapel on Mondays and Tuesdays led by Helen Musson, our curate.

There will be readings from Scripture, a short meditative reading, prayer, reflection and silence.

Dates we are meeting in December are:
13th, 14th, 20th & 21st.

CHRISTMAS NIGHT

The sheep are in the fields, braving winter winds
Huddled close together by the wall.
Woolly of coat and heavy with lambs,
The shepherds know and care for them all.

The night is clear now, stars twinkle in the sky.
Frost sparkles on the frozen blades of grass
No moon tonight to light a travellers way
As on the dark and frozen tracks they pass.

Who journeys on a night like this
When all around are still and sleep?
Who makes their way down rocky climbs
And slips and slides on hills so steep?

Frozen puddles crack and creak under weary feet.
Biting winds eddy all around
An owl swoops past with whispering wings
Then footsteps are again the only sound.

Cold and tired they journey on, following the star.
For surely, as its written, it is so.
Would I be in their number if I could
On that cold dark night so many years ago?

Is this freezing journey nearly coming to an end
As the star shines ever brighter overhead.
Surely this is not the place to which it leads
An old and draughty, wooden cattle shed!

Trembling now, excitement builds,
Hearts pound with joy and fright
As Heavenly Angels fill the sky
Upon this glorious night!

Step inside, come see the Holy Child
Wrapped in cloth to keep Him from the cold.
Bend low the knee and offer now your gifts
Just as the ancient Prophets all foretold.

Christine Amos 06/12/2021



Blue Christmas

This time of year, is a time of great excitement and joy for some, but for others, it is a time of loneliness and pain. There may be pressure on us to 'join the celebrations' - even though they may be different this year.

Sometimes we are just not in that place. We really don't feel like celebrating because of bereavement, financial struggle, an over busy life or as a result of the pandemic or just feeling fed up.

You are invited to a Blue Christmas service at Christ Church on **Sunday 12th December at 6.30pm** – a quieter and reflective carol service especially for those who find Christmas challenging and don't feel much like celebrating.

Carol Singing 
Led by our CTO Worship Team
To be part of the choir please email
Cliff (cliffelms@gmail.com) or
Holly (hollywood.all@virginmedia.com) 
Thursday 16 December 6.00-7.30pm
outside Walnuts Leisure Centre
(by the temporary Ice Rink)
We need you all to come and sing to
shine the light of Jesus to remind
Orpington of the reason for the season
- bring a lantern - **ALL WELCOME!**



**On your own for Christmas?
Come have Christmas lunch with us!**

At the Vicarage...

...after the Christmas Morning service



11.45am – 3pm

Buffet Lunch

Christmas pudding & cream to follow

Please RSVP to Sharon or Andi

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in John chapter 2 verses 1 to 10

Jesus, his mother, and his disciples were guests at a family wedding in Cana. The bridegroom was responsible for the food and drink.



r	u	f	o	o	d	d	a	y	s	d	y	o
s	f	e	r	w	g	i	c	j	h	r	k	z
e	l	a	d	w	f	g	b	h	a	n	d	s
w	a	s	h	i	n	g	u	m	m	r	t	p
h	d	t	c	i	s	y	l	o	e	n	s	e
c	m	s	d	w	l	c	o	u	a	j	l	c
t	f	d	q	i	m	r	i	v	l	b	t	i
c	e	f	m	n	g	u	r	p	s	c	a	a
w	h	a	t	e	v	e	r	t	l	h	s	l
g	f	m	d	i	s	c	i	p	l	e	s	b
x	d	i	s	a	s	t	e	r	b	e	s	t
q	r	l	d	r	i	n	k	b	b	r	d	x
b	g	y	h	t	n	j	e	s	u	s	k	x

GDPR

The Data Protection Act 2018 is the UK's implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Everyone responsible for using personal data has to follow strict rules called 'data protection principles'. They must make sure the information is: used fairly, lawfully and transparently.

Meina is our GDPR representative and if anyone has any queries relating to GDPR to please contact her on:

gdpr@ccorpton.org

Solution to last week's Wordsearch

z	c	n	d	e	b	s	a	m	e	k	w
z	v	i	v	i	e	s	u	s	l	v	u
f	a	i	r	o	e	d	b	n	z	t	l
p	g	x	n	l	n	a	z	e	s	u	s
m	a	r	k	e	t	p	l	a	c	e	s
x	i	r	i	s	y	o	l	o	p	l	t
h	n	r	n	t	h	a	e	a	u	g	o
x	f	u	g	w	h	i	r	e	d	s	r
j	i	e	d	m	k	g	o	d	i	e	y
b	r	w	o	r	k	e	r	s	n	y	l
t	s	z	m	o	n	e	y	w	a	g	e
k	t	g	u	h	u	v	o	d	i	h	u

Wordsearch

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| wedding | hands |
| Mary | cheers |
| wine | drink |
| special | meals |
| disaster | bridegroom |
| best | washing |
| family | feasts |
| jars | family |
| disciples | shame |
| days | food |
| disciples | Jesus |
| whatever | servants |