



Christ
Church
Orpington

Family News 31st July 2021

Summer

is Here!



Dear All,

Today is the last day we will be producing Family News until Saturday 4th September. Please keep this one handy as it has in it all you need to let you know what is happening over the summer.

If we need to update you on anything, or give you any extra information, Anna in the Church Office will send it out in an email.

We hope you have a wonderful summer. Keep safe. Please enjoy Nelson's reflection. And we look forward to greeting you all in September.

With love and blessings,

Sharon & Andi xx

Sunday Services

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

Sunday 1st August 10.30am All Age Holy Communion
Followed by **CHURCH BBQ**

Sunday 8th August 10.30am Morning Worship
Featuring YWAM'S Jim & Katie Whitear

Sunday 15th August 10.30am Morning Worship
Featuring The Bible Society, with Kristin Stevenson

Sunday 22nd August 10.30am Morning Worship
Featuring Christians Against Poverty, with Martin Pointing

Sunday 29th August 10.30am Morning Worship
Watch this space!

Sunday 5th September 10.30am **Invitation Sunday**

Sunday 12th September 9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship resumes

What is Invitation Sunday?

Sunday 5th September is "Invitation Sunday", and is one day when we join together as a church to each invite someone, who doesn't yet know Christ, to come to church with us.

As people who know Jesus we hold the key to life, and life in all its fullness. And we would like to take the opportunity to share this with someone who doesn't even yet know they need a key. We will have a gentle, friendly service that will be accessible to everyone, and follow it with love and cakes.

So please be thinking and praying about who you can invite, and then be praying for the Lord to touch their hearts and provide the opportunity for you to ask them.

2 Timothy 1 v 7-8a "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord..."

Services available 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>

Community Club resumes on **Tuesday 3rd August** and attendees are invited to arrive from 12 midday for lunch at 12.45pm. For the summer period we will just be meeting for lunch but hope to resume our usual coffee and service from September. Masks are requested for those not exempt in the halls unless you are seated at your table. Hand gel will be available.

Our menu for the 3rd is

Soup,
Cottage pie and vegetable
Lemon Cheesecake
Tea and Coffee.

Cost £5

Community Club are about to trial using a minibus to transport members in to club and have two drivers. Ideally we'd like four so that we only have to call upon each person once a month. If you are under 70, hold a full driving licence and could spare one day a month to help out please call Mel on 01689 871067.

Thank you.

Funeral for Pat Bills

Pat's family would like to issue a warm invitation to anyone who would like to attend their Mum's funeral on **Thursday 5th August, 10am** in the church. Please let the office know if you hope to come. Thank you.

If you would like to do something in Pat's honour, her family have suggested you might like to give a donation either to Cancer Research UK or St Christopher's Hospice. Thank you.

Celebration for Sarah Beston

Nick and the family would like to issue a warm invitation to anyone who would like to attend Sarah's Celebration on **Saturday 4th September, 2pm** in the church. Please let the office know if you hope to come. Thank you.

Today is the last day we will be producing Family News until **after** the summer break.

So notices for the next issue of the Family News by 12noon on Saturday 4th September please

Email Vernon on vandjmapp@gmail.com

Virtual Coffee Sunday 8th August from 11.45am

(NB **no** virtual coffee on Sunday 1st August)



Photo by Lisa Fotios on Pexels

You are invited to join **Heather Kroiter** for virtual coffee on 8th August on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83690087818?pwd=UVFNSIFQL21tQjFaSW1WM1cvWitzdz09>

Meeting ID: 836 9008 7818

Passcode: znBOXU

"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,

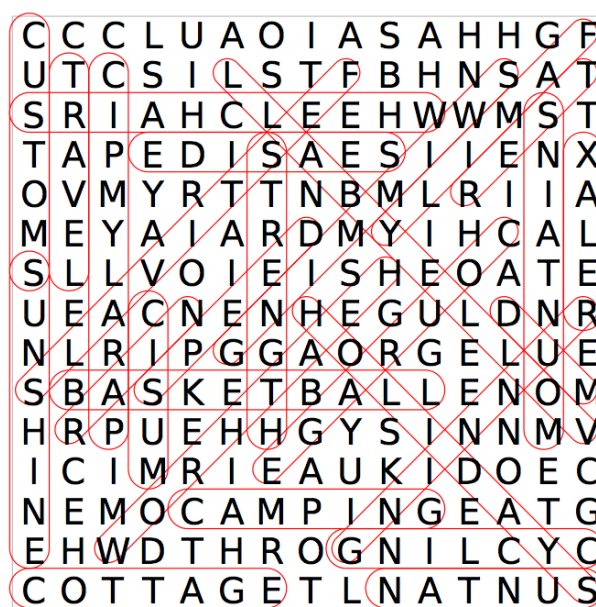
or by sending a cheque payable to

Christ Church Orpington PCC to

165 Charterhouse Road, Orpington, BR6 9EP.

Thank you so much for your wonderful generosity."

Solution to last week's Wordsearch



Part of a talk given by Nelson Pallister on Wednesday 21st July to Harris Academy

A few weeks ago, someone asked, “Why are we here? Why are there people?” I turned to the Bible’s account of creation in Genesis 1 & 2 to see if I could find an answer. Here are some thoughts that struck me: (a) God went to extraordinary lengths to provide an infrastructure where people could thrive, (b) It appears that all the work outlined at an interplanetary level down to a microscopic and even atomic level was to prepare the way for the pinnacle of His creation – humanity or people - which He said was **very** good, (c) He accepted the choices they made in assigning names to the different animals, (d) He enjoyed spending time with them.

Further on in the Bible in Ecclesiastes, the wisest man alive asked similar questions and gave us the benefit of his researches. His initial conclusion was that everything was meaningless because it all ended in death and it wasn’t even possible to ensure that the person who inherited the work he had done would be wise or a fool. He does, however, conclude that people should fear God and keep His commandments because “this is the whole duty of man”. He finishes by stating that God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

So let me try to tease out more about the way life is. Is anything true? It seems to me that we have to deal firstly with whether there is a standard of truth. In particular, for the Christian the question may be, “Is the Bible true?” For me, a fundamental question is whether things came about by chance (evolution) or by the supernatural act (creation) of a supreme being (God). When I was growing up in spite of attending numerous Bible studies and preachings, nobody ever dealt with this fundamental question.

I have heard it said that science has **proved** evolution to be true but creation to be a myth. But we have to distinguish between scientific fact and scientific theory. For example, people will claim that the earth is 4.543 billion years old as though it were a scientific fact. But to be able to establish something as a fact you have to be able to re-create an experiment that comes to the same answer. All that the scientist can claim is that matter when exposed to radio-carbon or other experiments produces a result that would

apply if the matter were that age and if the various assumptions built into the formula were true. By definition we cannot replicate the experiment because we cannot go back in time.

Let us revert to what we do know. Take the watch on your wrist or the mobile phone in your pocket. How would you react if I told you that these items came about purely by chance? Quantities of steel, lithium, plastic and various other materials gathered themselves together by chance in exactly the right proportions to create a watch which keeps perfect time or a phone that enables you to send and receive data from anywhere in the world in a moment of time and presents it to you in a form that you can immediately understand and act on. Would you not say that I am mad? You know as well as I do that if you have a design there must have been both a designer, and a manufacturing process that turned the design into a working model.

Consider a working model with which we are all familiar – the human body. It consists of a massive collection of cells, originally thought to be the smallest living unit. These cells have different functions. Some form into skin, others into bone etc. In recent years they have discovered that each cell is made up of mitochondria, which themselves are made up of even smaller components. Groups of cells form into hands, or feet, or digestive systems, or eyes etc. Talk about a complex design! Add to that, the ability which is built into every living being – to be able to reproduce! No designer?!

As it says in the Bible, “Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.”

However let us move forward. An increasing number of scientists have embraced the concept of “intelligent design”, accepting that the chance of everything having just happened is beyond the bounds of possibility. But is there more? Normal experience teaches us that the designer must be greater than the design. But people do not just have mechanical “life”. They have emotions – love, joy, hatred, embarrassment etc. Is it possible that the

design has these emotions but they are foreign to the designer? Therefore I submit that the “intelligent design” must come from a designer that also experiences these emotions. There must be some kind of super-person.

If this is so, that there is a living being that has all the powers of creation and also the ability to feel emotion, would it not be reasonable for that being to want to communicate with his/her/its creation? Is there any evidence that such communication has happened? Most religions start from people, seeing the amazing character of creation, dreaming up their own concept of who that being is, and how he/she/it should be served. However, the Jewish religion describes in detail several occasions on which it claims such communication took place. In addition, they were recorded in writing over a period of 3,500+ years and by around 40 different authors.

The Bible purports to describe from God’s perspective how that act of creation took place, the global conflict in heavenly (supernatural) realms which spills out on to the earth and the way that God, in His intrinsic ability to control history, chose the Jewish nation so He could have a special relationship with its people. He authenticated this choice by delivering the slave nation of Jews from the authority and power of the strongest nation at that time – Egypt. He smashed their economy, killed their firstborn and drowned their army.

This global conflict becomes a fight to the death between good and evil. Right at the beginning, the devil (source of evil) won a battle by persuading the only living couple that God (the source of good) was trying to hold back a blessing from them. As a result, they disobeyed the only command that God had given them and effectively transferred their allegiance to the devil, and their guilt to every succeeding generation!

That one act started a process where God was giving them opportunities to restore the relationship with Him. But they messed up at every turn and God decided that the only way to resolve the situation was for Him to appear to people as a person, deal with the penalty (punishment) that rebellion against God required and thereby offer to the whole of humanity forgiveness and restoration of fellowship and friendship with Him.

Let us now consider the facts surrounding the incoming and life of Jesus of Nazareth. He fulfilled many prophecies in Old Testament scripture; He demonstrated control over the weather (calming a storm), over the formation of material substances (changing water into wine), over demonic forces, over sickness and even over death. He refused to acknowledge authority when it had been usurped (religious leaders holding people in bondage). He stood up against oppression but went out of His way to support the weak and marginalised.

He made outrageous claims, including that he was God’s Son. He so offended the religious elite that they concocted a plan which included working with the occupying forces to eliminate Him. They thought they had succeeded when He died, but their scheming was thrown into disarray when a whole variety of people claimed to have seen Him alive! And then their confusion was compounded when these people started saying that while the ruling elite had killed Him, God had raised Him up – a miraculous event witnessed by as many as 500 people.

They were faced with an even more uncomfortable choice. It’s a choice that people have had to face ever since, down through the centuries. Where was the truth and would they choose truth or political expediency?

C S Lewis put it succinctly:

Jesus was either bad, mad, or actually God.

When He claimed to be God, He either knew He was not, but claimed He was – bad; He was trying to deceive people. All the evidence pointed to His being good; Lewis could not accept He was bad.

Or He thought He was God, but wasn’t – He was mad. But the best minds of the day were arrayed against Him and would surely have penetrated any cracks in His statements. In actuality scripture records that they retired from their attacks acknowledging that nobody ever spoke like Him.

The only other alternative was that He actually was God. As a consequence, Lewis was forced against his will to accept that this was the only logical conclusion and he became the “most reluctant convert in Christendom”.

Incidentally, if anyone is going to “follow a dream” like Martin Luther King, make sure it is based on supernaturally authenticated facts and has the seal of God’s approval.

This is the Lord Jesus in whom I believe. God manifest in flesh. God of love and grace. God of forgiveness. God who created us. The God who has promised in the Bible to come back to the earth and resolve once and for all, the issue of right and wrong, truth and deceit, good and evil. Because they were so convinced about who Jesus was, every one of His disciples (possibly with the exception of John) was martyred without ever recanting; throughout the ages, men women and children have paid the ultimate price rather than deny the Saviour who loves them.

Starts 30th September



If you are wanting to explore faith, then the Alpha course is an excellent way to start. Over 24 million people have already tried it.

At Christ Church the Alpha course involves food (an evening meal), a short video clip and an opportunity to express your views and listen to what others have to say in a relaxed environment. It could be one of the best autumn resolutions you make, to go on an Alpha course.

There will be an initial taster session on
Thursday 30th September.

To find out more, please contact:

Alpha@ccorpington.org or

call the church office (01689) 871601

School of Prophecy Course:

Everyday. Everywhere. Everybody.

Learning to listen to God.

Learning to recognise heaven’s communications with us is such an important part of our Christian life, and at the **School of Prophecy** we have a passion to help people on this aspect of their journey with our Father in heaven.

No prior knowledge or experience is required for our online zoom **Everyday Prophecy for Everybody** workshops. Simply come as you are with an open and curious heart, and learn how God may be speaking to you and through you in ways that may surprise you. Then develop this further through our teaching, workshops, feedback and coaching. We will together discover how simple and effective it can be to release this beautiful gift of prophecy in our everyday walk with God to bless ourselves and those around us.

Date: Tuesday evenings,
14th September to 12th October.

Sessions: Five Sessions from 8.00pm to 9.30pm

Cost: £8.00 per session. Concessions available.

Online: A Zoom link will be sent by e-mail prior to each session.

To register, please let Anna know by 4th September. Early booking is advisable as places may be limited.

David Shadbolt will be the main tutor. He is a prophet, author and has a background in business. He is the Founder of the School of Prophecy and loves to help people learn to recognise heaven’s communications and written several books including God’s Healing for Business and Hello David I’m God.

School of Prophecy

Everyday. Everywhere. Everybody.

Online prophecy training. Join with other people just like you to learn to prophesy in a fun and friendly environment.



After service refreshments

Please contact Anna Carey on
ccorpington@talktalk.net
or 01689 871601

Mosaic Café

Please contact Anna Carey on
ccorpington@talktalk.net
Or 01689 871601

Church Flowers

Flower assistants
no experience of flower arranging
or creative talents needed
Please contact
Mel Ketchin 01689 871067
or Judith Motto 01689 837351

Community Club

drivers to transport folk to/from club
each Tuesday and someone to work in
the kitchen alongside Colin and the
community payback team
Please contact
Mel Ketchin 01689 871067

Crèche

on Sunday mornings
Please contact Jo Cuthbertson on
jo@ccorpington.org

We have various areas of ministry who are in need of volunteers. If you are able to help out in any way, we would love for you to get involved!

Please see list of areas below in need of help. If there is an area you would like to volunteer for, please contact the relevant person using the details noted.

Tea and Toys

on Wednesdays
during term time, 1.30pm-3pm
Please contact Jo Cuthbertson on
jo@ccorpington.org

Tech Team

Sound desk/Audio/Visual –
training will be provided
Please contact Mike on
mike@zartell.uk

Youth Ministry

Please contact Andi Smith on
youth@ccorpington.org

Social Functions

organize or help
Please contact Anna Carey on
ccorpington@talktalk.net
or 01689 871601

If there are any other areas of ministry you would be interested in helping out in, please let us know on ccorpington@talktalk.net or 01689 871601.

Thank you!

✚word

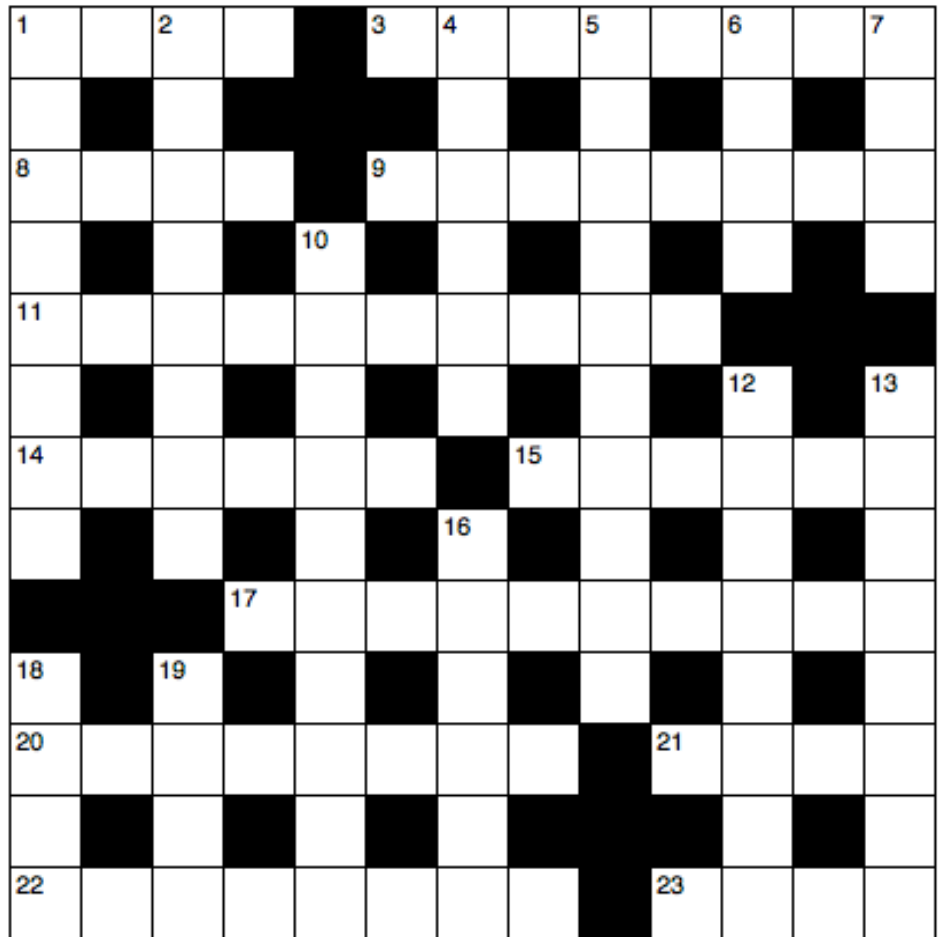
Solution to last week's ✚Word

ACROSS

- 1, Wickedness. 7, Harpist.
8, Teach. 10, Side. 11, Impostor.
13, Encamp. 15, Saddle.
17, Ignorant. 18, Tent. 21, Grass.
22, Olivier. 23, Wrongdoers.

DOWN

- 1, World. 2, Crib. 3, Entomb.
4, National. 5, Started.
6, Whispering. 9, Harvesters.
12, Imprison. 14, Centaur.
16, Unload. 19, Evils. 20, Give.



Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
- 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on — —' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
- 8 Seep (4)
- 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
- 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
- 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (6)
- 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12-13) (6)
- 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)
- 20 'Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)
- 21 Sail (anag.) (4)
- 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)
- 23 Eye sore (4)

Down

- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)
- 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that —, Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)
- 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)
- 5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)
- 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)
- 7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)
- 10 '— —, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)
- 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)
- 13 Jesus to Peter: '— — of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)
- 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)
- 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)
- 19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)