



Christ
Church
Orpington

Family News 4th September 2021

Dear All,

It is one of those things, that having come back from being away, the washing machine gets a bashing as a whole case-full of clothes need washing. Some of the clothes might have been sitting with sand or food stains for a week or more, and no matter how much you scrub they continue to stubbornly resist your efforts. In fact, the longer they stay unwashed, the more the stains seem to embed themselves.

And stains or dirt linger in our lives too. Sometimes we have stains from our past that we try to forget about and certainly wouldn't want anyone to know about. Sometimes they are new and our conscience nags us that we shouldn't still be doing that, looking at that, or saying that.

I remember a famous preacher saying that if we knew who he really was, we would cross the road to avoid him. You could hear a pin drop as a couple of hundred people all held their breath wondering what he could have done. But then he said, "and if I knew who you really were, I would cross the road to avoid you too". We all carry things with us, even if it is past hurts that still infect our present. And the longer they are there, the more they become embedded in who we are. But God...

"Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. ²The LORD said to Satan, 'The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?'

³Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. ⁴The angel said to those who were standing before him, 'Take off his filthy clothes.'

Then he said to Joshua, 'See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.'

Zechariah 3:1-4

Joshua never tried to deny Satan's accusations. He knew they were true. But God in His mercy rejected the accusations and removed Joshua's filthy clothes and clothed him in fine garments.

What a wonderful example of God's gracious mercy to those who love Him. There is nothing we can do to earn forgiveness of our sins, but it is God's free and abundant gift, given in love to His children. In a way it is freeing to know that we don't have to earn our forgiveness – it takes the burden away from us. All we have to do is admit our sins, and stand before God in submission and sorrow for them – and He will forgive us and remove them from us "as far as the east is from the west".

So if you feel dirty, stained or unworthy, don't let it fester, but go to God for forgiveness and cleansing. Only He can take away the stain of sin and guilt. And when He does, He will replace it with a clean conscience and pure heart – and a wonderful lightness of life you may be surprised by!

With love and blessings,

Sharon & Andi xx

What is Invitation Sunday?

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

We look forward to seeing everyone at a simple, friendly service tomorrow followed by coffee and cakes.

Please speak to people you don't know so that newcomers will go away feeling loved, and that they might like to become part of our family here.

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...."*

Sunday Services

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

Sunday 5th September

10.30am **Invitation Sunday**
6.30pm Evening Worship (Reflective) resumes

Sunday 12th September

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship (Contemporary) resumes

Sunday 19th September

10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Holy Communion (Reflective)

Sunday 26th September

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Harvest Festival
Celebration lunch for our new Deacon Helen
6.30pm Evening Worship (Contemporary)

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>

Funeral for Pauline Cooper

Pauline's family would like to issue a warm invitation to anyone who would like to attend her funeral on Monday 13th September, 11am at Kemnal Park Cemetery.

With John, Pauline was a much-loved member of our congregation and friend to many, serving faithfully including chauffeuring elderly people to and from the weekly lunch at Community Club and Sunday services. We shall miss her dearly.

If you would like to do something in Pauline's honour, you may wish to give a donation to St Christopher's Hospice via this link:
<https://paulinecooper.muchloved.com>. Thank you.

Dear Friends at Christ Church

Thank you very much to all our friends at Christ Church for your cards, kindness, thoughts and prayers at this very sad time.

We will be having a Thanksgiving service for Gordon at Christ Church on Friday 17th September at 2.15pm. It would be lovely if you are able to join us as we give thanks for his life.

There will be a retiring collection, with any donations being shared between the Intercontinental Church Society and St Christophers Hospice, there is also the possibility of donating using the below Just Giving page.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/gordon-holt>

Joy and Alison Holt

HARVEST FLOWERS

The flower arranging team would like donations of foliage on Saturday 25th September. Please bring foliage to church from 09.30am. We would also welcome volunteers to help with arrangements as we have fewer helpers than previously. No experience needed! Also from 09.30am. Thank you

SILK FLOWERS

If anyone has any silk flowers they no longer need, the flower arranging team would love to be able to use them.

Please contact Mel Ketchin or Judith Motto.

Notices & items for the next issue of the Family News by 12noon Saturday **11th September** please

Email Vernon on vandjmapp@gmail.com

"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."

**Starts 30th
September**

Try **Alpha**



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

Recycling

Did you know that you can now recycle all those soft plastics at Tesco that you can't put in your recycling box?

So ...

- Any plastic bags
- Crisp packets
- Food & pet pouches
- Plastic wrappers
- Any plastic film

... can be recycled at Orpington Tesco next to the cash machines on the ground level



Solution to 31st July's **Word**

ACROSS: 1, Wine. 3, The alert. 8, Ooze. 9, Passover. 11, Garden Tomb. 14, Cannot. 15, Elisha. 17, Gethsemane. 20, Own house. 21, Lisa. 22, Flogging. 23, Stye.

DOWN: 1, Wrong act. 2, Nazarene. 4, Health. 5, Assemblies. 6, Envy. 7, Turn. 10, Before long. 12, Iscariot. 13, Take care. 16, The Son. 18, Loaf. 19, Unto.

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 ASAP. 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.



**TO DONATE TO
US ONLINE SCAN
THE QR CODE**



WANTED

OUR MOST NEEDED ITEMS ARE:

**BAGS FOR LIFE
COOKING SAUCE
UHT MILK
500G BAGS OF RICE
SUGAR FREE SWEETS
ADULT TOOTHBRUSHES & TOOTHPASTE
CHILD'S TOOTHBRUSHES & TOOTHPASTE
MALE & FEMALE DEODORANT
CONDITIONER
ITEMS NOT REQUIRED
PASTA
CEREALS
BAKED BEANS
BABY MILK**

**TAKE A PHOTO OF THIS LIST
WITH YOUR PHONE TO
REFER TO WHILE YOU SHOP!**

**IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF FOOD SUPPORT
PLEASE CONTACT US ON 0800 9 20 23 24**