



Christ
Church
Orpington

Family News 18th September 2021

Helen writes

Next Saturday afternoon I will be ordained deacon in Rochester Cathedral and then I will be officially welcomed at Christ Church during the morning service on Sunday as I become your part-time self-supporting (i.e. Unpaid!) Curate (Vicar in Training).

I have been a Lay Reader since 2003 firstly in the Chichester Diocese and then at Cudham and Downe. Since my early twenties I've run various church youth groups with my husband John, led at least two toddler groups, and been a children's worker in two different parishes. I've been a leader on Beach Missions at Abersoch and on Pathfinder camps for children from a socially disadvantaged area of the Wirral.

A number of years ago I ran an Alpha Group, was part of a ministry team and also involved in prayers for healing. While at university I read the book 'Nine o'clock in the Morning' by Dennis Bennet about the beginning of the charismatic movement in the Church of England and later became involved in charismatic worship influenced by John Wimber and St Andrew's Chorleywood. I have also attended a couple of summer sessions of the Emmanuel Community, a community for Catholic charismatic renewal, in Paray Le Monial, Burgundy.

The church where I grew up was evangelical, a CPAS parish like Christ Church. As a child I was sent to Sunday School, later I went to Pathfinders and then CYFA. I decided to become a Christian at the age of 14 and at university in Manchester I joined the Christian Union. I am immensely grateful to my Pathfinder and CYFA leaders, the Bible teachers at the Christian Union and other places since, from whom I learned to love the Scriptures and to hear God speaking to me through them. Later I was introduced to other ways of hearing God speak including silence, imaginative contemplation of Scripture and creation.

Coming from a background in Biochemistry I have worked in a hospital Haematology laboratory, been an infant teacher and a professional gardener, a job I still do, particularly here in the Vicarage garden, continuing to make it into a quiet garden that other Christians can enjoy. My theological training began in Lichfield Diocese with the Bishops Certificate, closely followed by another(!) Bishop's certificate in Chester Diocese and then Reader training in Chichester Diocese. Recently I have studied theology part time for three years at St Augustine's College in West Malling.

I have been married to John, a Vicar, since 1983. Originally from Staffordshire I have lived in London and the South East for nearly 25 years. We have two children and four grandchildren living at opposite ends of the country – one in Southampton and the other in Durham.

So why now? Why get ordained now? Looking back God first began to call me to ministry in my late teens and early twenties and has gone on nudging me ever since but I have not always listened and have gone off and done my own thing. On Christmas Day 2017 I finally realised that this calling that I'd tried to keep hidden wasn't going to go away.

I am a Diocesan Accredited Spiritual Director. On the first day of training for this ministry I nearly left as I thought why am I here? This isn't all that I feel called to do. I heard God saying to me, 'Finally I've got you to listen, I want you to be ordained.' This time I did listen and contacted Pamela Ive, Diocesan Director for Ordinands and Vocation – and so here I am!

I thank God for all who have prayed and supported me over the years, especially my husband John and my children, the congregations at Cudham and Downe who have given me feedback throughout my recent theological training, my ministry supervisor Christine and my Spiritual Director. I want to thank God too for June, a dear lady in a previous parish who prayed for me through some difficult times.

And now I thank God for you too, Christ Church, especially for making me so welcome and allowing me to join you in the next part of our adventure with God. I look forward to ministering among you.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.'

Dear All,

It has been lovely to see the church so well attended these last two Sundays. Please remember to put our Harvest Festival and our new Curate Helen's induction, followed by a bring-and-share lunch on **September 26th** at the **10.30am** service, in your diaries. There will be no evening service that day so that everyone will be free to come in the morning.

The following week, **October 3rd** from 12-3pm we have been invited to help the other Orpington churches at the Orpington Food Festival. There are all sorts of things to do including being in the information tent, praying for people, helping with simple games and serving food at the BBQ. Please do sign up on the sheet on the welcome desk if you are able to be part of this wonderful mission of the united churches to our town.

With love and blessings,

Sharon & Andi xx

You are invited to join **Heather Kroiter** for zoom coffee after church from 11.45am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85494946511?pwd=-dGFLRVZJcGhhREY3cE12czdKWGhIQT09>

Meeting ID: 854 9494 6511, Passcode: 5GRmxQ

Community Club, Tuesday 21st September

On the Lunch Menu:

Oxtail soup
Gardener chicken and mashed potatoes
Blackberry and apple crumble and custard.
Tea or coffee.

MAF FLYING FOR LIFE MAGAZINE

Some of you already receive the magazine direct from MAF, but spare copies of the new edition are in the Magazine Rack in the Welcome Area for anyone who would like one – they are in large white envelopes.

Date for your diary

The Quiz Night provisionally planned for Saturday 2nd October will now take place on **Saturday 9th October** at 7.30 pm. Please put the date in your diary and watch this space for further details!

Sunday Services

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.

Sunday 19th September

10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Holy Communion (Reflective)

Tuesday 21st September Community Club

Wednesday 22nd and Friday 24th September

Café Mosaic, open 9.15am to 2pm

Sunday 26th September

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Harvest Festival
Celebration lunch for our new Deacon Helen and Harvest Festival

NO EVENING SERVICE

Sunday 3rd October

10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship (Reflective)

Sunday 10th October

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Evening Worship (Go Deeper)

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>

To all our Friends at Christ Church,

We would like to say a huge heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who helped towards the Thanksgiving service for Gordon on Friday; as we gave thanks to God for his life. So many people gave of their time and gifts to make the service and hospitality afterwards so special, for which we are very grateful. We have been overwhelmed by all the kindness and love we have received.

With many thanks Joy, Alison and Gillian.

Notices for the next issue of the Family News by 12noon Saturday 25th September please

Email Vernon on vandjmapp@gmail.com

To help us mark our 35th birthday, you are invited to the Spinnaker

Celebration & Fundraiser

A showcase of all that Spinnaker does and is



on **Thursday 7th October** from **7pm** to **9.45pm** at Jubilee Church, Bromley or online. More information and booking details can be found on the website

<https://www.spinnaker.org.uk/events/4-spinnaker-showcase>

Find out what we do and help us celebrate.

We look forward to seeing you there!

"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."

HARVEST FLOWERS

The flower arranging team would like donations of foliage on Saturday 25th September. Please bring foliage to church from 9.30am. Also, from 9.30am, we would welcome volunteers to help with arrangements as we have fewer helpers than previously. No experience needed! 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.

Dear Foodbank Supporters,

There is an urgent need for stocks of UHT milk and long-life fruit juice.

The warehouse manager has said that

"We have had requests for **26 crates of Milk** in just 7 orders from our Centres since the beginning of September, that's **312 litres of Milk**, so you can imagine we are running low.

The Long-life Fruit Juice need is also pressing, but I know that our loyal donors will rise to the challenge and replenish our shortfall."

So this is the new needs list:

UHT milk (URGENT)

Long life fruit juice (URGENT)

500g bags of rice

Sugar free sweets

Shower gel (male and female)

Shampoo (male and female)

Size 6 nappies

Baby wipes

Not required: pasta, cereals, baked beans or baby milk.

Thank you so much for your support,

Vanessa Dixon, Foodbank Volunteer

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





LBC News Flash

Dear friends, greetings from Latvia!!!

How refreshing it is to read the words of Ap. Paul in these uncertain and unpredictable times: "21 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, 22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." (2 Cor. 1:21-22, NIV). It reassures us in the present times, but also points to a wonderful and certain future! Thank you, Lord!

LBC news



The new academic year 2021/22 has begun! This year we are starting the new academic year with a few uncertainties "hanging around" us. Many people are still scared of the pandemic and confusing rules, set by the government, tend to change every so often. In addition to this, there is a big percentage of the Latvian population that resists vaccination, including Christians, and this affected us in our educational activities. Currently, only those who are vaccinated or have a negative test or had Covid in the past can sit in the class. The students without these prerequisites need to watch it online (livestream). Therefore, the new intake of students for this academic year was unusually slow. Nevertheless, we've got 22 new students. On the 3rd of September, we opened a new academic year with prayer and celebration.



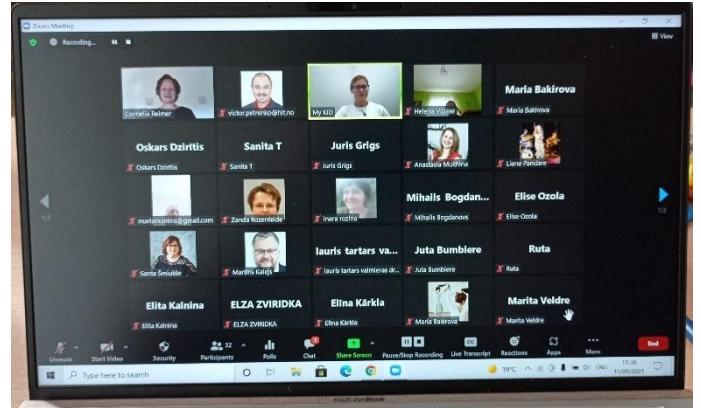
School of Preaching



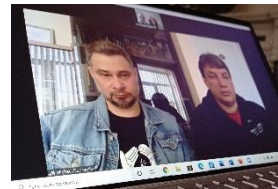
It was quite an event in the life of the School of Preaching! After 1 year of online teaching via Zoom, we managed to meet face to face in the classroom @ LBC! Oh, how refreshing that was!!

We were covering the topic of "Whole life Preaching", which is designed to help preachers to see how they can better learn about the context that they are preaching and to preach prophetically into this environment. Our teachers were A. Billington from the UK and John Woods, LBC's co-ordinator for the School of Preaching.

Church-based counselling



LBC in co-operation with the church 'Salvation Temple' and a Counselling ministry in Germany, has started a counselling course to equip men and women for pastoral care in the churches. We had a wonderful day of teaching with around 50 people being represented and from around 3-4 churches – Russian and Latvian-speaking! That was great to see that kind of co-operation.



Co-operation on CWS program with a seminary in Russia

We are continuing our talks with the Eurasian Theological Seminary in Moscow. The Russian textbook for this course is already finished and we are going to sign a memorandum of understanding between our schools soon. We ask you to support us in prayers regarding this development!

Prayer needs

- **Praise** the Lord for the new students on Theology & Ministry program.
- **Pray for:** The continuation of a good partnership between LBC and pastors from Latvian and Russian speaking churches.
- The recruitment of a new director to succeed Victor.

Thank you, dear friends, for all your prayers, support, and love for LBC's ministry. You are our partners, and we treasure the relationship and friendship with each one of you.

God bless, Victor & Ester Petrenko

(On behalf of LBC staff, students, and teachers)

www.bible.lv <https://www.facebook.com/LBC.RIBI>

Instagram: latvijasbibelescentrs



LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH THE PASTORAL PRINCIPLES COURSE

Led by Rev Jane Winter
Diocesan LLF Advocate
Rev Dr Joel Love
Diocesan LLF chaplain

The Pastoral Principles guide how we engage with Living in Love and Faith materials.

The taster day is for those who would like to lead the course in their own churches. It covers the five sessions and five different learning activities.

Wednesday 22 September

10am -3.30 (coffee from 9.30)

Please bring your own lunch, hot drinks will be provided
Cost for the day £10

To book please contact:
bookings@stbenedictscentre.org
52 Swan Street, West Malling, ME19 6JX

01732 252 651

@stbenedictscentre

@stbenedictscr

www.stbenedictscentre.org

...a place apart

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

Word Search

On 3rd September, the Church remembers St **GREGORY** the Great (540-604AD), one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages. He is well worth remembering, because he also changed the course of **HISTORY** in the British Isles. The **SON** of a very rich **ROMAN SENATOR**, Gregory **CONVERTED** as a **YOUNG** man, and sold his vast **ESTATES** to found six **MONASTERIES** in Sicily and a seventh in Rome. He gave **GENEROUSLY** to the **POOR**, and became a **MONK**. Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some **ENGLISH SLAVES** for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, 'They are **ANGLES.**' Moved with compassion for these despised men, he replied, 'They are not Angles, but **ANGELS!**' He planned to go to England to evangelise the Angles, but **PLAGUE** broke out in Italy about 590, and during this time he was **ELECTED POPE**. But Gregory did not forget the Angles. In 596 He sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the **APOSTLE** of the English

