



Christ
Church
Orpington

Family News 9th October 2021

Dear All,

One of the things that have helped me get through the dark times of Covid19 lockdown has been "YouTube". If you are blessed to have a computer which is connected to the internet, there are lots of good things that people have put up there free for anybody to watch, that we can look at to relax us, educate us, amuse us, make us think, or just let our weary brains switch off to. Unlike television, what we watch, for how long and when, is entirely our choice.

One way I found to relax at the end of the day was to watch some short videos from an American organisation called "The Dodo". Most of the videos are less than 10 minutes, so don't require much time. What they do require though, is a love for animals. Each short video tells the story of an individual animal who has been neglected or abused, and has been found by an animal shelter who invests their time building the animal's trust enough to be able to rescue them. Then they put them in families with experienced foster carers who rehabilitate them for as long as that takes, and when ready, find them just the right "forever home". The stories often bring tears of joy as you see how well the animals do, having their faith and trust in humans restored so amazingly. There is seemingly always a "happy ever after" – with a built-in restoration of faith and trust in the human race.

Very often though, it is not just with animals that humans (with all the power that we wield on this earth) can get it wrong. Sometimes we can get it wrong with each other. You too might be a victim, in some small or even not-so small, way. You too might have felt out of control in a situation that has been part of your life or even continues to be. It doesn't have to be in the same league as neglect – it could be as simple as, for example, as a boss expecting more of you than the company pays you for, with the suggestion that if you don't comply, that promotion you hope for will go to someone who does.

Only Jesus was 100% light, the rest of us are a mixture of light and dark – yes, even saints like Mother Teresa or St Francis. So, whether we

recognise it or not, there will be times when we are both hurt (when we know about it), and hurt others (when we might not know about it).

But God loves us all far too much to leave us in either of those places. It is at those times of realisation that we can go to God as our all-powerful and all-loving Dad. Unlike the animal rescue teams, He won't "find" us by accident - He already knows what is happening to us. He has already paid the price to rescue us – we just have to turn to Him and ask. He can heal us and lead us out of both those places if we ask Him to. He can put a new heart within us, and best of all - we can ask for His wisdom. Paul says in Ephesians 1: 17

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better."

We can ask him for revelation as to where we might be in either of those places, and wisdom as to how to deal with every situation that comes our way. Wisdom to know where it might be us that is doing the hurting, and the wisdom to know the difference. And again, if we ask, the help of the Holy Spirit is there for us, waiting to lead and guide us - we don't have to do it on our own.

May God bless you with revelation and abundant wisdom in all things. Amen.

With love and blessings,

Sharon & Andi xx



Northumbria Daily Prayer

You are invited to come along to Daily Prayer at 9-9.30am 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 for October are: 11th, 18th, 19th, 25th & 26th.

Notices for the next issue of the Family News by 12noon Saturday 16th October please

Email Vernon on vandjmapp@gmail.com

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

Meina is our GDPR representative and if anyone has any queries relating to GDPR to please contact her on: gdpr@ccorpington.org

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 10th October

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

Tuesday 12th October Community Club

Wednesday 13th October

Café Mosaic, open 9.15am to 2pm

Friday 15th October

Café Mosaic, open 9.15am to 2pm

Sunday 17th October

10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Holy Communion (Reflect)

Sunday 24th October

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

Sunday 31st October

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

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>

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84941624887?pwd=bn0wZlYwbVZ2MEtmenQrdCtKRm5vUT09>

Meeting ID: 849 4162 4887

Passcode: iYA0j3

A little thing

"We should not ask, 'What is wrong with the world?' for that diagnosis has already been given. Rather, 'What has happened to the salt and light?' Christian salt has no business to remain snugly in elegant little ecclesiastical salt cellars; our place is to be rubbed into the secular community, as salt is rubbed into meat, to stop it going bad" (John Stott)

Joan Remnant

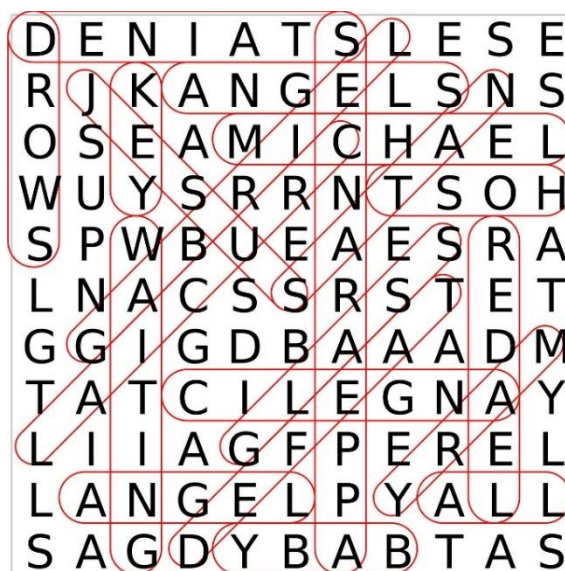
Community Club, Tuesday 12th October

On the Lunch Menu:

Pork & veg soup
Beef casserole, mashed potato & vegetables
Bread & butter pudding
Tea or coffee.

"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



Solution to last week's crossword

A	C	C	E	S	S		B	L	I	N	D	S	
D		R		I			A		Y			A	
R	H	Y	M	E		L	O	Y	A	L	T	Y	
I		S		G		A		B		O		I	
A	N	T	W	E	R	P		A	E	N	O	N	
N		A				P		R				G	
			L	O	F	T	I	N	E	S	S		
A				U		D				P		T	
S	A	T	A	N		O	B	A	D	I	A	H	
H		E		E		T		I		T		O	
O	N	E	A	R	T	H		S	T	O	R	M	
R		T		A				L		U		A	
E	X	H	A	L	E			D	E	P	T	H	S

Get ready for Operation Christmas Child 15-22nd November 2021



Mission

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to provide God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

History

Operation Christmas Child began in the UK in 1990, after Dave Cooke, a local businessman in Wrexham and his wife Jill felt called to do something in response to the plight of Romanian orphans at the end of the Cold War. Dave's sister Jan, came up with the concept of the shoebox gift as a form of easily transportable 'Christmas stocking' wrapped and packed with love. A tangible message of hope for children in the toughest of circumstances.

Dave decided to put out a local radio appeal for blankets, toys, medical supplies and transportation. The community responded generously to this volunteer-led initiative filling seven lorries for Romania. This initial load included just under 3,000 shoebox gifts. The precious cargo was gratefully received by a local pastor named Liviu who, together with local volunteers, shared God's love through distributing these simple gifts.

In the summer of 1993, Dave called Samaritan's Purse President Franklin Graham asking if he'd be willing to fill shoeboxes with gifts for children in war-torn Bosnia. Franklin agreed, but figured Christmas was months away. He forgot about the promise until Dave called back around Thanksgiving asking about the gifts.

Franklin asked his friend the late Pastor Ross Rhoads of Calvary Church of Charlotte to see if he could help with the need. A Sunday shortly afterward, Pastor Rhoads demonstrated for his congregation how to fill a shoebox with simple gifts and encouraged them to include a letter to the child as well. Within weeks, the church had 11,000 shoeboxes lining their hallways.



Due to their generosity and additional gifts from Canada, Samaritan's Purse sent 28,000 shoebox gifts to children in the Balkans that Christmas.

In the UK in December 1993 the BBC organised a live Songs of Praise link-up between St Giles Church, Wrexham and Second Baptist Church in Oradea, Romania focusing on Operation Christmas Child. The programme made a significant impact and elevated the campaign from a North Wales and Northern England project and launched it nationwide. Over the next several years, Operations Christmas Child caught the imagination of churches, schools and workplaces throughout the UK.

After actively partnering with Samaritan's Purse for two years, the Wales-based shoebox gift project became an official project of Samaritan's Purse in 1995.

Every year since, Samaritan's Purse has collected shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children around the world. Since 1990, more than 178 million children in more than 150 countries have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love.

Tens of thousands of volunteers from local churches around the world partner with us to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ at festive outreach events where children are surprised with these shoebox gifts.

The Greatest Journey

In addition, we have trained over 1.1 million volunteers from these congregations to teach The Greatest Journey, our dynamic follow-up discipleship course for shoebox recipients. Since 2009, 23.3 million children have enrolled in this 12-lesson program to learn how to follow Christ and

share Him with others. More than 11.2 million of these boys and girls have made a decision to accept Jesus as their Saviour during the course. Many are now praying for and sharing their faith with family and friends. As a result of this ever-expanding witness, new churches are starting and communities are being transformed!

Behind the Scenes

This whole process is made possible by caring individuals who pack shoeboxes full of quality gifts for children in need.

More than 100 year-round volunteers get the word out about the Samaritan's Purse project across the UK. In addition, thousands of short-term volunteers serve in around 1,000 drop-off locations open every year during National Collection Week, in November. Each shoebox collected then travels to one of 20 processing centres to be inspected and prepared for international shipment by thousands more volunteers. All of this is also supported by volunteers in our prayer network.

In 2019 alone, more than 10.5 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts were collected throughout Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.



shoeboxes will be available at Christ Church in the next couple of weeks to pack your own

For more information: www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ

shoebox gift ideas: www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox/

how to pack a shoebox: www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebox/

pack a shoebox online:

www.shoeboxonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk

Wordsearch

September and October bring us Harvest, and Psalm 65 expresses it perfectly: "You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with corn, for so you have ordained it... You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance... the hills are clothed with gladness, the meadows are covered with flock and the valleys are mantled with corn; they shout for joy and sing."

CORN	PUMPKINS	CARTS
RAIN	MARROWS	OVERFLOW
MUD	WATER	PRAISE
WHEAT	THANKFUL	CARE
ABUNDANCE	FOOD	BLESSING
GOODNESS	CROPS	MEADOWS
RICHES	SOFTEN	FLOCKS

D	U	M	N	R	O	C	M	O	N	D	R
S	N	A	E	E	S	I	A	R	P	C	P
E	K	T	T	A	S	E	R	I	R	L	N
P	A	C	F	G	D	R	R	C	D	A	N
W	U	H	O	S	N	O	O	H	O	O	W
O	D	M	S	L	N	I	W	E	O	V	B
C	R	O	P	S	F	H	S	S	F	E	S
A	K	E	T	K	E	K	N	S	L	R	E
R	R	R	R	A	I	N	S	R	E	F	A
E	A	O	T	H	A	N	K	F	U	L	M
C	G	O	O	D	N	E	S	S	S	O	B
D	E	C	N	A	D	N	U	B	A	W	N