



Christ
Church
Orpington

Family News 23rd October 2021

Dear All,

Well, the leaves are well and truly turning their beautiful autumn colours, and the colder weather is beginning to break through as the midday sun is gradually losing its heat. For much of nature our particular part of this little planet is preparing to go into its winter break, and we are reminded of Ecclesiastes' wise comment on life in Chapter 3 v 1 that:

*"There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity
under the heavens..."*

If you are like me and love the summer, there is a tendency to wish those lovely warm days would carry on for as long as possible, remembering how joyful it was to go out into the warmth without having to think about taking a coat, and the long days of light and life outdoors. But there is a reason that God in His wisdom has built seasons into nature. We are told in Romans 1:20 to look at nature to find the nature of God:

*For since the creation of the world God's
invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine
nature – have been clearly seen, being
understood from what has been made, so that
people are without excuse.*

And if God has built into nature that there are seasons, maybe we would be wise to look a little deeper at what He might be revealing of Himself through them.

I think one of the things we might infer from looking towards winter is that we too need to take rest periods, where we can just "be", let our "roots" stop working so hard to keep us going; not worry about not being green or fruitful; and be still with our creator. Good, long, regular quality periods with God are important.

Another thing we might infer is that while some plants are indeed evergreen, the most fruitful tend to be the ones who take a winter break. If we want to be the most fruitful we can be, maybe we should take proper breaks and not working more than is good for us.

Another, might be that after a period when the fruitfulness of the summer and autumn has passed and the winter rest is over, the new life of spring emerges. It isn't exactly the same as last year, or the year before, or the year before that. Instead, nature exults in the new life that has sprung into blossom. Maybe we sometimes need to let go of the old things, ways, times, and encourage the new. This is amusingly outlined by Ecclesiastes 7:10 who said:

Don't long for "the good old days." This is not wise.

I say amusingly because the book of Ecclesiastes is dated as being written between 2,300 and 3,000 years ago. So, people looking back at the "good old days" must have been happening then, and maybe we haven't changed so much! Most of us like things to be just as we used to like them - but God's word to us is "*this is not wise*". We need to embrace each new season He brings us into. So, when a new beginning starts as a tiny bud, we are not to look back longingly at last year's fruit.

There are so many lessons about God's nature that we can glean from creation, and I have only scantily outlined three here. So, if you have any thoughts that you might like to share with us, please feel free to send them to me.

With love and blessings,

Sharon & Andi xx

Community Club

Can you please note that there is no club this Tuesday, 26th October. However, we are beginning to think about our Christmas party on the 14th December. We would like to offer an invite to any of our 'Church elders' who would care to join us for our Christmas lunch. If you'd like to book a place, please speak to Mel Ketchin or let the Church office know by Monday 22nd November.

"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."

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.

Can you please note that **Café Mosaic** is closed 27th and 29th October for half-term – restarting on 3rd November.

Sunday 24th October

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

Tuesday 26th October NB NO Community Club

Sunday 31st October

clocks go back ONE HOUR

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Evening Worship – Reflect

Tuesday 2nd November Community Club

Wednesday 3rd November

Café Mosaic, open 9.15am to 2pm

Friday 5th November

Café Mosaic, open 9.15am to 2pm

Sunday 7th November

10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship – Go Deeper

Remembrance Sunday, Sunday 14th November

10.30am Remembrance Day service
3.00pm Remembrance of the Departed service

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/81261273137?pwd=Mk5OM1duaXdYalpROXRKY1Y4VFZldz09>

Meeting ID: 812 6127 3137

Passcode: s0y5iP

Operation Christmas Child 2021



Christ Church are supporting Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child again this year.

Operation Christmas child is the world's largest children's Christmas project, run by the Christian relief and development organisation Samaritan's Purse. Their mission is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

If you would like to support this project by filling a shoebox with gifts; please pick up a shoebox and leaflet on your way out from Church today and find out how to send a box of gifts to some of the world's most disadvantaged children. Your shoebox could be the first Christmas present they have ever received in their lives. Please bring your filled shoebox back to Christ Church on **Sunday 14th November**. Alternatively, you may wish to fill an online shoebox. Samaritan's Purse has made giving a shoebox online a very successful way of supporting this project. Details are available on their website:

www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/

With many thanks for your support

Notices for the next issue of the Family News by 12noon Saturday 30th October please

Email Vernon on vandjmapp@gmail.com



Northumbria Daily Prayer

You are invited to come along to Daily Prayer at 9.00-9.30am 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: 25th & 26th.

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@ccorpington.org

TOGETHER

One planet in the sky a solar system does not make,
Nor one star a constellation way up high.
An ear of wheat that's standing tall, bending in the wind
Will not be ground alone-and this is why.

Alone, it's milled away, there's mostly chaff but little flour
Which falls between the gaps upon the floor.
Bring in the field and grind it down, sacks of flour behold
Plenty there to feed the hungry poor.

And we, just like the ear of wheat may slip between the gaps.
But from God we can receive our Daily Bread
Our strength lies in the Lord, together we are strong,
Together let the hungry souls be fed.

We need to work together, to go out into the World,
To spread the Word of God to those we see.
Offer them a taste of God, food for their hungry souls,
Share with them how life with Him can really be.

Read His Word and feed on Him. Read His Word and grow.
Share His Word with one another when you can.
Feed on His Daily Bread and share this food around
The Son of God who died and lives for Man.

Christine xx
14/10/21

Christmas Wreaths

Homemade Christmas wreaths will be available soon to buy for the Christmas season. They are a great way to support Open Kitchen as well, as all profits will be donated to that ministry. Various sizes and styles will be available. To register an interest, please contact me, as stocks will be limited. More details on prices will be available soon so watch this space!

Liesel Stanbridge
Liesel.stanbridge@ntlworld.com
07511 876928

Christmas Choir

Calling all singers to join the choir for Christmas. We want to celebrate being able to sing in the church this year. Rehearsals will start on **Friday 19th November** from 8.00-9.30pm and continue on Friday evenings leading up to our Carols by Candlelight service on 19th December. Please let me know if you'd like to join us or ask for more information.

Many thanks. Liesel

Praying for young people

Many of our young people are studying away from home or have recently started jobs or apprenticeships. We'd love to pray for them. I will be producing a list to help us pray. If you have a name to add to the list, please send that to me. If you would like to pray in particular for our young people, again let me know. Let's lift them up in prayer!

Liesel

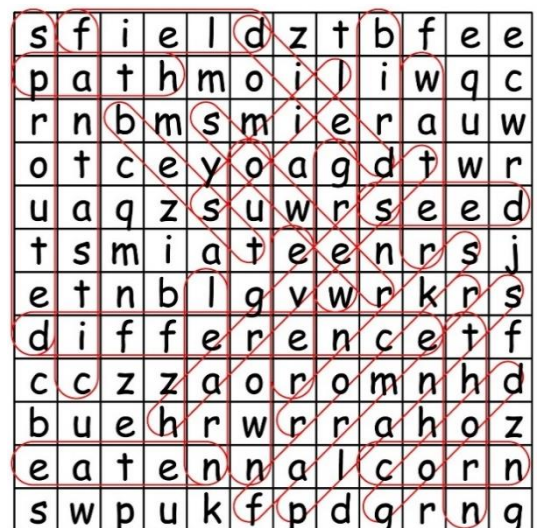
Orpington Flower Club

We have recently discovered that Orpington Flower Club are now having their monthly demonstrations at Christ Church. If you have the slightest interest in flower arranging, or just fancy a pleasant evening's entertainment, do come along on **Thursday 11th November**

The demonstration starts at 7.45pm with refreshments from 7.15pm. (£5). The demonstrator in November will be Graham Harmer who Barry and I have known for many years. He is very practical and down-to-earth (as well as imaginative) and is one of our favourite arrangers. We'll look forward to seeing you.

Barry and Joan Remnant

Solution to last week's Wordsearch



Wordsearch, Bible Bites, why should I read the bible
reproduced courtesy of www.parishpump.co.uk

why should I read the Bible?

The Bible is the world's best-selling book of all time. However, it isn't one book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over a period of 1500 years in a range of literature including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (end times). Despite having a number of different writers, the Bible claims one author: God himself!

This is the basis of the unity of its message and authoritative claim to be the primary way by which God speaks to us: *'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work'* (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired (*'the word of God in the words of men'*) and presents itself as a **manual for life**, equipping us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us in applying the words to our lives: *'the Spirit will guide you into all truth'* (John 16:13).

However, the Bible could also be described as a **love letter** from God, as He uses it to deepen our relationship with him. As Jesus said: *'You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me'* (John 5:39,40). Christians follow a person not a book, and the Scriptures are intended to help us to know Jesus better.

At her coronation the Queen was given a Bible with the words **'the most precious thing this world affords'**.

Does this reflect our own attitude to the Bible?

wordsearch

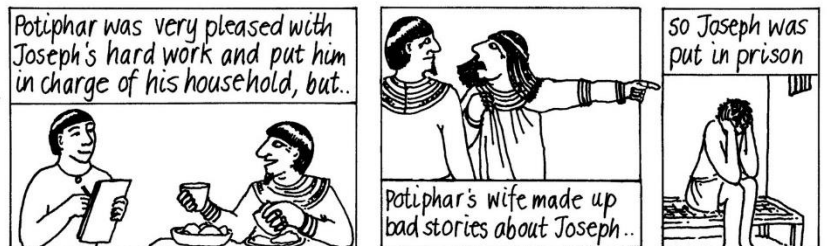
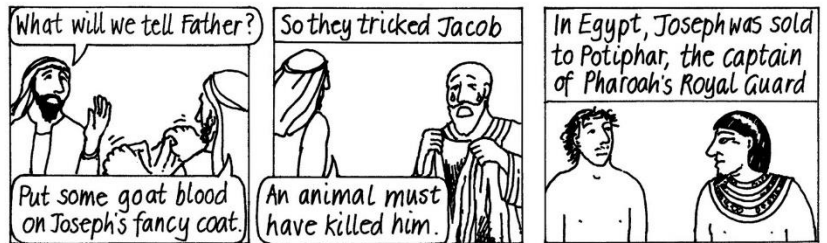
brothers	coat	captain
traders	well	Joseph
Jacob	dream	tricked
wife	prison	household
dry	hate	sheep
animal	goat	Ishmaelite
sold	bad	stories
slave	sons	work

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Genesis chs. 37:1-36, 39:1-20

Jacob had 12 sons but his favourite was Joseph, his beloved Rachel's son. He even gave him special clothes to wear...



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