



Christ
Church
Orpington

Family News 30th October 2021

Dear All,

Following on from last week when I was looking out at the autumn trees and musing about the coming winter, I'd like to offer three more scant thoughts about Ecclesiastes 3:1 wisdom on life that:

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

... and Romans 1:20:

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.

Autumn and winter are the time when the sap stops rising in our fruit trees, and therefore it is often the best time to prune them. Over the summer they have grown new leaves and new branches, and often produced a delicious harvest for us to enjoy. But if we left them without being pruned, they may not be as fruitful next year.

They may have grown straggly, blocking the light from their centres so that the sunlight can't get through to the fruit properly to ripen it. And for us, after we have had a season of blessing, growing in all sorts of directions, I think God prunes us in much the same way. In order to enjoy the "Son-light", we need to be pruned and have our branches cut back, so that when our next season of blessing and fruitfulness comes, the fruit that we bear will have maximum "Son-light" to bless it and bring it to maturity.

As well as straggly branches blocking out the light, if we left them without being pruned the tree might not be so fruitful as it might put too big a strain on the tree and end up giving small and inferior fruit. So, for our own benefit, God prunes us, so that we won't end up producing fruit that is small and inferior.

And lastly, in John 15 Jesus refers to Himself as the vine, and us as the branches, and the Father cuts off every branch in Him that bears no fruit, whilst every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. A grapevine in full bloom is often about 6-9 feet tall, but when it is pruned, it can be cut back to just 2-4 feet tall. Ouch!

When we are pruned it hurts - parts of what makes us "who we are" and where our comforts are stripped away. Sometimes we can even feel in free-fall as one by one props are removed and we are left alone with God. Our souls are stripped bare as He works with gentle tenderness to prune us, ready for the next season to come with the promise of new life, new hope, and new fruit. And the deep joy of increased faith.

So next time you are in a season of pruning, trust God that He is in charge, has always known this was going to come, and nothing is taking Him by surprise. There are times when our world has crashed around our ears and I don't want to be flippant to those for whom life is a living hell. But I'd like to encourage us that He is with us, and one day we will say with the writer of The Song of Solomon 2:11-12:

*¹¹ See! The winter is past;
the rains are over and gone.
¹² Flowers appear on the earth;
the season of singing has come,
the cooing of doves
is heard in our land.*

With love and blessings,

Sharon & Andi xx

"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.

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 Day, 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/87166208820?pwd=Z3hNTXIsUEp0ZmdhZ3ozOTVPaHRGQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 6620 8820

Passcode: 8QKcMi

Community Club, Tuesday 2nd November

Communion is at 11am

On the Lunch Menu:

Veg soup
Roast gammon, potatoes and vegetables
Celebration cakes and fruit
Tea and coffee.

Operation Christmas Child 2021



Thank You to everyone that has already taken shoeboxes and leaflets to fill in support of Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child, shoeboxes and leaflets are still available at the back of church please take one and find out how to send a box of gifts to some of the world's most disadvantaged children. Please bring your filled shoe box back to Christ Church on

Sunday 14th November

For people who would prefer to fill an online shoebox; we have set up a 'Goal Page' for Christ Church at the following web address:

<https://shoebonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk/goal-pages/ba8ef042>

this will allow any boxes filled online to be added to the number of physical boxes donated by Christ Church.

With many thanks for your support

Notices for the next issue of the Family News by 12noon Saturday 6th November 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 November are:

1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 15th & 16th

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 8pm-9.30pm and continue on Friday evenings leading up to our Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 19th December. Please let me know if you'd like to join us or ask for more information.

Many thanks. Liesel

ALL HALLOWS' EVE

What are you doing on All Hallows' Eve?
Oh....

Let us tell you what we truly believe!

We will not, when together with others we meet,
Wear masks on our faces, demand trick or treat.
We will concentrate fully on the gifts from above
That we get from Jesus, and sharing his love,
To join with His people, and those gone before,
And together we'll worship the God we adore,
For the meaning of Halloween has nothing to do
With witches and wizards and hobgoblins galore.

So off with you, demons and imps of the dark,
Who think what you're doing is only a lark.
Rather than beasties that go bump in the night,
We'd rather see God's angels of light.

© M.R.G, October 2001

Correction:

Last week's poem 'TOGETHER' is by Christine Amos

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

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

Dear Foodbank Supporters,

The latest needs list is below:

Long Life Fruit Juice

Tinned Cold Meat

(corned beef, spam, chicken)

Sugar Free Sweets

Size 5 & 5+ Nappies

We are also looking for

Christmas Sweets, especially for Children

Mince Pies and Yule Logs (These must be dated 26th December or after otherwise they will not be able to go in our Christmas Hampers, as they will be out of date before the clients get them)

An invite to Deanery Synod

The next Orpington Deanery Synod Meeting is an 'open' meeting and so can be attended by anyone.

Rev Eucharia Asiegbu, recently ordained Curate at St John's Sidcup with Footscray will facilitate a discussion about the Archbishops' Anti-Racism report 'From Lament into action'. The report paints a vision for the Church and how we might in the future lead our nation on issues of anti-racism and racial justice.

The meeting is at St Barnabas Church, St Paul's Cray on 18th November 2021 at 7.30pm. I encourage you to attend.

Andy Goddard
Lay Chair of Deanery Synod

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 and is £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

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

Solution to last week's Wordsearch

b	b	f	s	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

wordsearch

Egypt	food
grapes	birds
butler	cows
pardoned	Joseph
advisors	thin
someone	seven
forget	juice
trusted	Pharaoh
baker	dream
famine	bread
prison	bumper
trustworthy	choose

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Genesis chapters 39: 20-41:44

Joseph's brothers had sold him as a slave and he had ended up in Egypt. Then he was wrongly accused and was sent to prison.



Joseph was trusted to look after the other prisoners.

Then Pharaoh's butler and baker were sent to the prison. One night they had strange dreams.



...I made juice from the grapes and gave it to Pharaoh..

...all the bread in my baskets was eaten by birds.

God knows what your dreams mean - you will be pardoned ... but you won't.



The two men left the prison.



Don't forget me!
But they did

Two years later Pharaoh had a dream



None of his advisors could explain it...



...then his butler remembered Joseph.

So Joseph was cleaned up and sent to Pharaoh



and then the seven thin cows ate the seven fat cows but they were still thin.

God says there will be seven bumper years, then seven years of famine.



You must choose someone trustworthy to store the spare food in the good years

Pharaoh was so impressed he gave Joseph the job!



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