



Christ  
Church  
Orpington

**Family News 27th November 2021**



## **Bishop Simon's Advent message, 2021**

### **THE HOPE THING**

The Church cannot avoid talk of the end of all things, because Jesus, Peter and Paul spoke about it frequently. When you look closely at what they said, however, it becomes clear they were talking about how we live as followers of Christ now, in the light of our future hope. Speculation about the mystery of Revelation is discouraged. After all, the present is the only sphere in which God can meet with us.

As a season, Advent helps us prepare for the coming of Christ – not just his first coming as a child, but his coming reign as king. The next few weeks give us a chance to reflect on how we live for God in the light of Christ's first advent and his second advent. Or at least they would do if our culture didn't get in the way because the season of Advent has been ruthlessly flattened by the steamroller of commercialism.

Gosh, only X more days to Christmas! This always puts the skids under us as there is so much to do. Advent has become a merciless countdown clock, with presents to buy and wrap, decorations to put up and food and drink to stockpile like it *is* an apocalypse. Apologise if I've made your blood pressure rise as you read, but these are the constraints we live with each year.

Advent is more than a pitiless countdown to Christmas; it has its own intrinsic merit – like Lent – in being a penitential season. In a noisy, high maintenance world which deprives us of space to think beyond the next Zoom, Advent asks us an awkward question: am I prepared to meet God? Jesus said: *keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come...What I say to you I say to all: keep awake (Mark 13: 35 and 37).*

Jesus calls us to travel lightly through this world, but instead we walk down the path of life with our

worries burdening us like an excess of bulky plastic bags cutting into our fingers.

It is unrealistic to revolutionise our lives in one easy move. But there are steps to be made, as individual Christians and as parish churches.

Just one personal commitment to keep Advent as it was meant to be kept is enough. Perhaps it is an act of generosity to someone who won't return the favour. Maybe it's time to sign up to a homeless charity or a development agency. Perhaps it's a commitment to pray for peace in Ethiopia or Sudan. Or to intercede for Uighur prisoners in the grotesque re-education camps of Xinjiang. Maybe it's visiting an elderly person rather than going shopping one Saturday. It could be committing to spend a short time each day with God – the Reflections for Advent from Archbishop Stephen Cottrell and Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani could be a good place to start.

When we offer hope, we receive it back in spades. And the hope we have isn't a wishful projection into the future, a whimsical punt that things will be better one day. Hope is all around us, in the now. It is the sign of the future breaking into the present - of the kingdom of God drawing near - and it comes in different shapes and at different speeds. At one time, it can be like watching a plant slowly unfurl; at others, like fireworks lighting up the dark night. The resurrection of Jesus assures us of a new creation disrupting and one day replacing the old.

And we are part of that new creation.

Last Christmas was the pits for lots of people, let's face it. In the south-east, we had been locked down for nearly two months already, with many months to follow; local infection rates were through the roof but we didn't really know why; a lethal global variant was incubating in Kent. And then the family Christmas was cancelled at the last minute. Our churches were patchily open and people were afraid to mix.

It's not as if the pandemic has disappeared, but this Christmas there is a chance to make up.

This year, the Church of England's Christmas theme invites us to explore and share with others what is 'At the heart of Christmas'.

We are learning many things through this global crisis, but one enduring truth is there is nothing more valuable in life than the relationships we make. We get enough of stuff eventually, but never of people, and not just those we are close to. It

should not surprise us, since Jesus told us these relationships are, ahem, the whole point of life:

*Love God and love your neighbour as yourself.*

Making space for each of these relationships should be the heart of our preparations for Christmas 2021. Communities have been separated, afraid, deprived. There is a different witness to be made, a welcome to be offered, and an everlasting God to be craved.

*Bishop Simon Burton-Jones  
Advent 2021*

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## Notice

Margaret Beilby (Brockett, Wells) who was a very active member of Christ Church for over 50 years, died in Sheffield on 11th November aged 96. Her funeral will be taking place in Sheffield on Wednesday 1st December. In fact, she was No 398 on the Christ Church Electoral Roll, having joined just before Kath and Paul Harris (412 & 421 respectively). She was therefore the longest survivor of former CCO members.

For further information contact Russell Brockett by email on [brockett@btinternet.com](mailto:brockett@btinternet.com)

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## Notices for the next issue of Family News

email them to Vernon [vandjmapp@gmail.com](mailto:vandjmapp@gmail.com)  
by 12noon **Saturday 4th December** please

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This Sunday, Gail will be selling mosaic gifts and tree decorations after the service. All proceeds go to Alzheimer's society – so please have a look over a coffee to support a really important charity.

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## Change of address

Dear friends, this is just to inform that our temporary address until July 2022 is:

27 Kraslavas iela, Riga, LV1003

Peace and blessings to you during this Advent period!!! Jesus is coming back again!!

With love, Vitali & Ester Petrenko

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## Community Club, Tuesday 30th November

Community Club are going on an outing.

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## 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 28th November

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

### Tuesday 30th November

Community Club outing

### Wednesday 1st December

**Café Mosaic**, open 9.15am to 2pm

### Friday 3rd December

**Café Mosaic**, open 9.15am to 2pm

### Sunday 5th December

10.30 am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evening Worship - Go Deeper

### Saturday 11th December

4.00pm Messy Christmas  
5.00pm Messy Christingle only

### Sunday 12th December

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

### Sunday 19th December

10.30am Crib Service - All Age  
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

### Friday 24th December

11.15 pm Holy Communion - Christmas Eve Mass

### Saturday 25th December

10.30am Morning Worship - Christmas Day/All Age

Services available online at 10.30am on Monday through the Christ Church Orpington website: [www.ccorpington.org](http://www.ccorpington.org)

Or on Facebook (you don't need to have a Facebook account)  
<https://www.facebook.com/ccorpington/live>

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Join **Heather Kroiter** for zoom coffee after church on Sunday (28th November) from 11.45am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86305004423?pwd=UTdSTUI3Nk1TazBPellSZTRVZGI4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 863 0500 4423

Passcode: Sky9EW

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## Northumbria Daily Prayer



You are invited to come along to Daily Prayer at 9am-9.20am 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.

We won't be meeting on 29th or 30th of November.

Dates we are meeting in December are:

6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th & 21st.

## Dear Foodbank Supporters,

Bromley Borough Foodbank remains enormously grateful for your ongoing generosity and hopes that you won't be offended by a further request.

The Christmas 'Most Wanted' list still applies. However, the foodbank centres are increasingly busy and stocks of 'regular' items are running down rapidly.

Below, the 'Most Wanted' details the expanded list of urgently needed items.

Thank you, as ever,  
Vanessa Dixon, Foodbank Volunteer



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



# WANTED

OUR MOST NEEDED ITEMS ARE:

**COLD MEAT  
TINNED FISH  
TINNED PEAS  
TINNED CARROTS  
RICE (500G BAGS)  
LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE  
SWEETS (REDUCED SUGAR)  
TOILET ROLLS  
SHAVING FOAM/GEL  
MEN'S & LADIES DEODORANTS**

**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**

## SKYLARK

I walked across the fields today,  
Above the traffic I could hear  
The singing of the skylarks,  
although they were nowhere near.

I thought about their hollows snuggled  
safely in the ground.  
How the hand of Christ cradles us  
And keeps us safe and sound.

And as the skylarks soar up high  
To sing their wondrous song,  
So we must soar up high for Christ  
And praise Him loud and long.

And when our voices have been heard  
Above the traffic of our day.  
We can settle in the hand of God  
And in His love we'll stay.

Christine Amos 18/10/21

## Fairtrade and Eco Christmas stall

Fairtrade Bags and purses and items made from Upcycled Packaging and Fabric, suitable for Christmas gifts

Friday 10th December in the Cafe area, whilst the Mosaic Café Christmas Meal is in progress

Open for anyone not attending the Christmas meal as well. 10.30am-3.00pm

## Blue Christmas



This time of year is a time of great excitement and joy for some, but for others, it is a time of loneliness and pain. There may be pressure on us to 'join the celebrations' - even though they may be different this year.

Sometimes we are just not in that place. We really don't feel like celebrating because of bereavement, financial struggle, an over busy life or as a result of the pandemic or just feeling fed up.

You are invited to a Blue Christmas service at Christ Church on Sunday 12th December at 6.30pm - a quieter and reflective carol service especially for those who find Christmas challenging and don't feel much like celebrating.



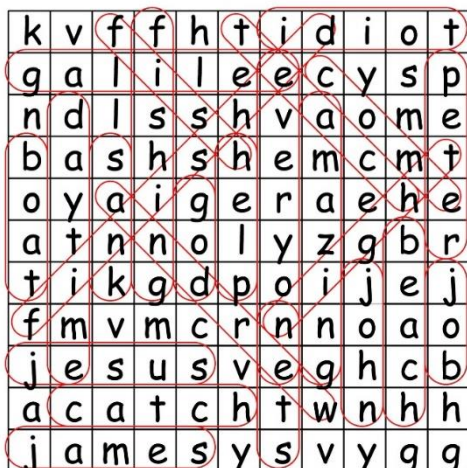
We are planning our Messy Christmas on  
**Saturday 11th December**

This will be two sessions running between 4-6pm, the first part (4-5pm) will be held in the hall with craft, puppets and food followed by a Messy Christingle service (5-6pm) to include a Messy Nativity, Christmas carols & Christingle making followed by refreshments. This is a wonderful way we can reach out to our community at such a special time and it would be wonderful if you could help with this. There are many ways you can do this:

- Join the Messy Team - help with craft, food prep, singing, activities, refreshments
- Donate Nativity costumes or material - striped tea towels, blue sheets
- Sew - if you can sew costumes your skills would be greatly appreciated!
- Donate Mince & Cakes pies - please bring in on Sunday 5th December
- Help with preparation of the Christingle bags (11th December 3-4pm)
- Pray for the smooth running and the families that come

Please contact Jo Gavin for further information  
[jo@ccorpington.org](mailto:jo@ccorpington.org)

**Solution** to last week's Wordsearch



# Carol Singing



Led by our CTO Worship Team

To be part of the choir please email

Cliff ([cliffelms@gmail.com](mailto:cliffelms@gmail.com)) or

Holly ([hollywood.all@virginmedia.com](mailto:hollywood.all@virginmedia.com))



**Thursday 16 December 6.00-7.30pm**

**outside Walnuts Leisure Centre**

**(by the temporary Ice Rink)**

**We need you all to come and sing to  
 shine the light of Jesus to remind**

**Orpington of the reason for the season**

**- bring a lantern - ALL WELCOME!**



## Advent Prayer Space

Poet-priest Malcolm Guite writes: "Advent is a season for stillness, for quiet, for discernment. It is a season of active waiting, straining forward, listening, attentive and finely tuned. It's good to keep a quiet space, a sacred time, an untrammelled sanctuary away from the pressures, to be still and hear again one's deepest yearnings for a saviour."

To help us focus on God in this season which can be so busy, I am going to lead a time of prayer and reflection in church at 8pm each Wednesday evening during Advent. There will be words and music to listen to, pictures and silence for reflection and prayer.

Please come and join me at 8pm on 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd December. If you would like more info contact me on

[melanie@zarttell.uk](mailto:melanie@zarttell.uk)

Melanie

# Bible Bite

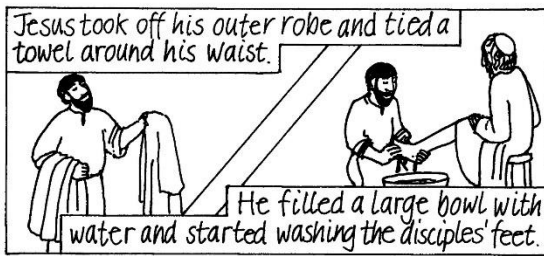
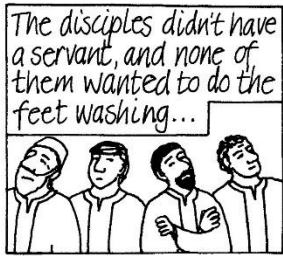
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

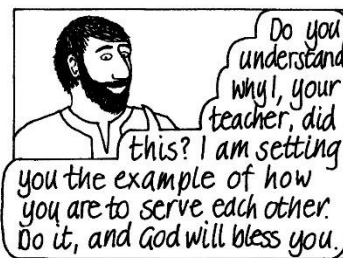
Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover with the special meal. The disciples were bickering again.



There was a reason why no-one wanted to be the least important - the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.



He filled a large bowl with water and started washing the disciples' feet.



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

## 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](mailto:gdpr@ccorpington.org)

"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 PCC Orpington to 165 Charterhouse Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9EP. Thank you so much for your wonderful generosity."

## Wordsearch

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| special     | Jesus      |
| mud         | important  |
| example     | least      |
| teacher     | bowl       |
| Passover    | Peter      |
| bless       | later      |
| bickering   | robe       |
| road        | disciples  |
| celebrating | bath       |
| feet        | wash       |
| servant     | towel      |
| serve       | understand |