



Christ
Church
Orpington

Family News 4th December 2021

2nd week of Advent

Tomorrow, is the 2nd Sunday of Advent, when we light the 2nd candle of our Advent wreath to remember the prophets.

The prophets foretold the coming of Jesus the Saviour, and of how He would reign in righteousness, justice, and Peace. God sent quite a few prophets to tell people about Jesus' coming so that they could prepare for this momentous event, and Isaiah was one of the major prophets in this.

In the parable of the 10 virgins or bridesmaids, they were told to be ready to welcome the bridegroom when He came. The bridegroom represented Jesus, and all the way through the Bible, the prophets tell people to get ready for Jesus, because He is coming – there is no doubt about this!

In Isaiah chapter 40 verses 1-5 and 9-11, Isaiah tells the people that comfort is coming - their Messiah! They have been through difficult times. But they have also sinned, and they have suffered because of their sins. But now God is speaking comfort to them, and with this comfort comes peace. So, as we remember the prophets with this 2nd Advent candle, we also think about 'peace'.

Everything seems to be very busy – both as we deal with Covid at this time, and also in usual life. There is always so much to do, and so much to think about, and we seem to become human 'doings' rather than human 'beings'.

What do you think of when you hear the word peace? Do you think of lack of conflict? Do you think of quiet things? Do you think of sleeping in your bed? What places do you find peacefulness? Do we take enough time in our busy days to have "peaceful" times?

Is there anything we can do this week to find a time of peace, a place of peace, or a time of quiet where we're not running around? Because it is there that we can prepare our hearts for Jesus. Just as the prophets told people about Jesus' coming; and that they needed to make the way clear for Him to come to them, we need to prepare ourselves too; say sorry for the things

we have done wrong, and make ourselves quiet so that we can hear Him too.

Yes, one of the things we need to do is say sorry to God for bad things we've done. That was a big message of the prophets, John the Baptist, and Jesus, and this helps us prepare ourselves for Jesus to come to us. Whether it's a small thing or a big thing, we still need to tell God and say sorry for it.

We don't need to be scared or worried about it though. He already knows and He will always forgive us. We are always forgiven by God if we say sorry and mean it.

So this advent, let's prepare ourselves, as the prophets told people to prepare for Jesus's coming:

Lord, from where we are
to where You have for us;
Jesus, help us.

From the security of what we know
to the adventure of what You reveal;
Jesus, help us.

To make this world
look more like Your kingdom;
Jesus, help us.

In Your mighty name, we pray, Amen.

Take care and speak soon! God bless you,
Andi.

Notices for the next issue of Family News

email them to Vernon vandjmapp@gmail.com

by **12noon, Friday 10th December** please

"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."

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 5th December

10.30 am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship - Go Deeper

Tuesday 7th December

Community Club

Wednesday 8th December

Café Mosaic, open 9.15am to 2pm

Friday 10th December

Café Mosaic, open 9.15am to 2pm

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

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

Join **Heather Kroiter** for zoom coffee after church on Sunday (5th December) from 11.45am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84728530279?pwd=VkVrMFVyWGxWb2g3K2ZKQ0VIL3NpQT09>

Meeting ID: 847 2853 0279

Passcode: ySn6vE

Sunday 5th December

10.30am Holy Communion

Welcome, Notices, Wedding Banns,

Opening Prayer

Song O come, O come Emmanuel

Song I see the king of glory

Song O God you search me

Confession, Forgiveness

Bible Reading Luke 3 v 1-6

Sermon

Creed

Intercessions

Peace

Song On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Holy Communion

Song Days of Elijah

Final Prayer & Blessing

6.30pm Evening Worship - Go Deeper

A BIG THANK YOU

Due to your exceptional generosity this year's Gift Day has raised staggering £30,220 including Gift Aid to be claimed. This figure is to Friday 3rd December. As in previous years this figure will rise as further donations find their way into our account.

The last 20 months have been challenging, but with your help of time and money we have met that challenge.

Whilst we are grateful and value every penny given, we do not want anyone to suffer hardship as a result. So when you review your giving for 2022 if this is becoming a burden because your circumstances have changed it is fine to adjust your giving accordingly.

Any member of the finance team are happy to discuss anything relating to the church accounts or your giving.

Thank you for the way you have prayerfully responded to reduce this year's deficit.

Derek Foxen, Treasurer
Reverend Sharon Smith
Christ Church Orpington

Community Club, Tuesday 7th December

Sharon will be leading our Communion service at 11.00am. Refreshments served from 10.30am

On the Lunch Menu:

Pumpkins and Bell pepper soup

Sausages in onion gravy, mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

Fruit crumble and custard.

Tea or coffee.

Christmas church flowers

The flower arranging team would like donations of foliage on **Saturday 18th December**. Please bring to church from **9.30am**. We would also welcome volunteers to help with arrangements as we have fewer helpers than previously.

No experience needed!

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

More Ideal Presents

Also on Friday 10th December on the Christmas stall and on Sunday 12th December (after the service), Karen will be selling necklaces and earrings she has made from semi-precious beads. All proceeds will be given to church funds.

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 the 8th, 15th and 22nd December. If you would like more info, contact me on melanie@zarttell.uk.

Melanie

Open Kitchen – Please vote for us!

We have been nominated by Asda Swanley to be part of their Green Token Giving scheme during December and January. This gives us the opportunity to be awarded **£500** from the Asda Foundation, but we need your support. Only the charity with the largest number of votes will be awarded this grant.

Please vote for us **EVERY WEEK** during this month and January 2022. Go to www.asda.com/green-tokens, select Swanley from the dropdown menu, and then vote for Open Kitchen at Christ Church Orpington. Please share this with your family and friends, encouraging them to vote each week. This money will make such a difference to local families who are in need, all with the click of a button.

Thank you so much for your support!

Liesel Stanbridge
Open Kitchen foodbank

ASDA foundation
Green Token Giving
Please vote for us!
1st Place = £500
2nd & 3rd Place = £200 each
Visit Asda.com/green-tokens for more info
#AsdaFoundation #GreenTokenGiving
Terms and conditions apply.

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

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**

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.

Dates we are meeting in December are:
6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th & 21st.

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.

Carol Singing



Led by our CTO Worship Team

To be part of the choir please email

Cliff (cliffelms@gmail.com) or

Holly (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!



On your own for Christmas?
Come have Christmas lunch with us!
At the Vicarage...
...after the Christmas Morning service



11.45am – 3pm

Buffet Lunch

Christmas pudding & cream to follow

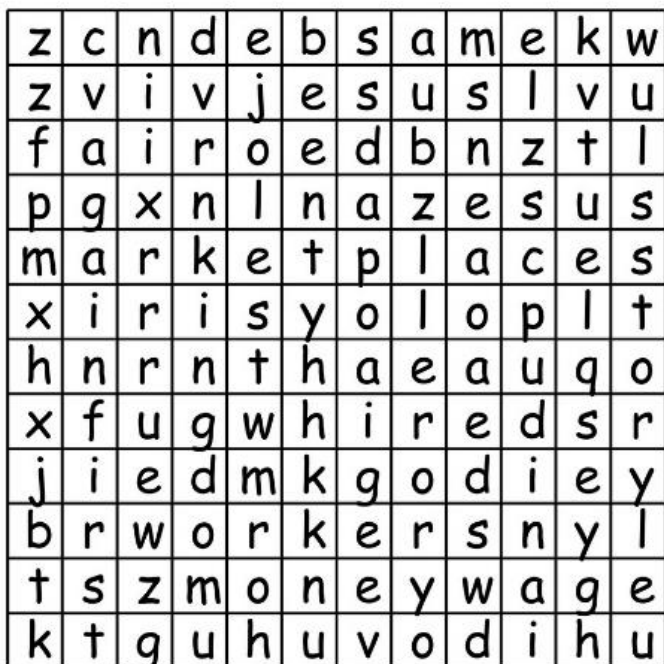
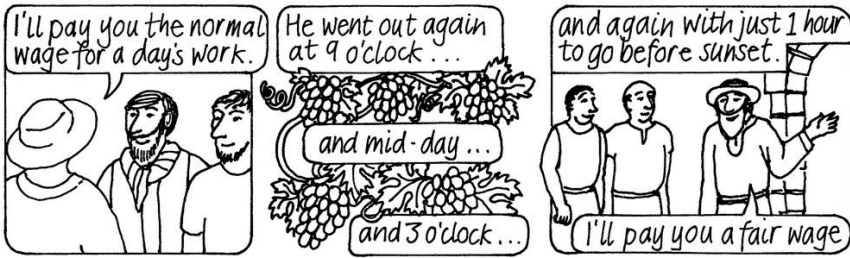
Please RSVP to Sharon or Andi

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Matthew chapter 20 verses 1-15

Jesus told a story to describe God's kingdom. A vineyard owner went to the marketplace at dawn to hire workers to pick his grapes.

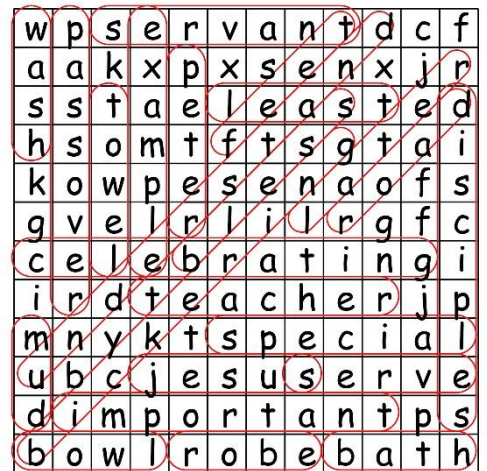


GDPR

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@ccorpton.org

Solution to last week's Wordsearch



Wordsearch

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| story | fair |
| God | sunset |
| friend | vineyard |
| same | again |
| marketplace | whole |
| money | first |
| give | paid |
| grapes | workers |
| Jesus | jealous |
| kingdom | last |
| day | owner |
| wage | hired |