



Christ
Church
Orpington

Family News 26th February 2022

“Lemons and Sugar”

As we approach the beginning of Lent, with Shrove Tuesday coming up in a few days' time (have you got your lemons and sugar yet?), we remember why we celebrate this day, and why we celebrate – yes celebrate – Ash Wednesday and Lent.

Shrove Tuesday, Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, or whatever it may be called across the whole world, celebrates when Christ's followers used up all the good things in their homes like fat, flour and eggs, sugar and fruit in order to spend 40 days fasting from all rich foods. We do this to commemorate and be one with Jesus' fasting for 40 days in the wilderness at the outset of His ministry. These fast days don't include the Sabbath, as these are days when we come together to worship and celebrate Jesus, so the beginning of the fast – Ash Wednesday – begins 40 days of fasting, and six Sabbaths of worship in gratitude for all that Jesus went through for us.

In today's church, we often think of giving up something for lent that we like a lot, such as chocolate, tea, or a glass of wine; then giving to charity the money we have saved so that people might benefit from our sacrifice. And this is good! But I would like to suggest that Ash Wednesday and lent is actually a lot deeper than that.

If you come to the Ash Wednesday service this Wednesday, you will receive a cross of ashes on your forehead or hand. This will signify, among other things, that we remember that we are dust. We are made from dust, and will return to dust. Our life, the thing that distinguishes this dust from the dust of the ground, is a gift from God. It is His very breath; and as Jesus gave His life for us, so we give our lives to Him in return. As He gave up Himself as the ultimate sacrifice for us on the cross, so He asks us in turn, to surrender our lives to Him for the sake of His Kingdom.

And in this surrender, we spend the 40 days of fasting turning all those areas of our lives that have become attuned to the world over the last year, back to Him. It is a time for reflection, sorrow for our sins, joy for His forgiveness and grace, and humility and gratitude for His much-needed help and all He has done for us.

And as we do this, we pray. We pray not just for ourselves, but for the whole world around us, to be attuned back to Him.

There is much in our world that we need to pray for, but right now, yet again there is evil and war stalking the earth in a way that we hoped would never happen again. For those in Ukraine whose lives are being torn away, and for those in Russia appalled at what their country is doing, we pray for peace, strength and God's Kingdom to come.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have said in response to this crisis *“As Christians, our response to a crisis must always be rooted in prayer. And so, we invite you to join with us in praying most earnestly for an outpouring of the Spirit of God, that the world may once again choose peace, strengthening those international bodies that enable us to work and live together as one humanity inhabiting one world.”*

Pope Francis has called for Ash Wednesday to be a Global Day of Prayer and fasting for peace, and all church leaders will be calling for prayer at the time.

So can I encourage you to come to our Ash Wednesday service at 8pm this Wednesday (instead of our 10am Wednesday service) and join together in beginning this Lent with praise for our wonderful Saviour and all He has done for us; purpose to turn our hearts and lives back to Him; and prayer for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done, in us and our world.

With much love and every blessing,

Sharon & Andi xx

Starts 10th March

Try **Alpha**



If you are wanting to explore faith, then the Alpha course is an excellent way to start. Over 24 million people have already tried it.

At Christ Church the Alpha course involves food (an evening meal), a short video clip and an opportunity to express your views and listen to what others have to say in a relaxed environment. It could be one of the best resolutions you make, to go on an Alpha course.

There will be an initial taster session 10th March.

To find out more, please contact:

Alpha@ccorpington.org or

call the church office (01689) 871601.

What's on...

All 10.30am services will be both in church and online (if we have the Tech Team to provide this)

Sunday 27th February, Sunday before Lent

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am The Great Invitation with guest speaker J.John

6.30pm Evening Worship - Go Deeper

Shrove Tuesday, 1st March - Community Club

Ash Wednesday, 2nd March

Café Mosaic, open 9.15am to 2pm

8.00pm Ash Wednesday Service

Friday 4th March

Café Mosaic, open 9.15am to 2pm

Sunday 6th March

10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship - Reflect

Sunday 13th March

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

6.30pm Evening Worship - Go Deeper

For online services:

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 morning from 11.45am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5852280960?pwd=b1ByNjdxUzJ4bGY5TEp0YUpheEtZUT09>

Meeting ID: 585 228 0960

Passcode: 8Uwg8H

Dear Christ Church,

We are very excited that J.John will be joining us to speak at our morning service tomorrow (**Sunday 27th February**). There will be home-made cakes and tea/coffee to follow and it would be lovely for you to join us. Please invite family, friends and neighbours.

To find out who J.John is, follow the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=j+john+wheelbarrow

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Sunday 27th February

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship



Welcome & Notices

Opening Prayer

Confession

Worship

Song Bless the Lord O my soul

Song In Christ alone

Sing Glory 207 The Lord's my shepherd

Prayers & Lord's Prayer

Bible Reading

John 3 v 1-16

Talk

Response

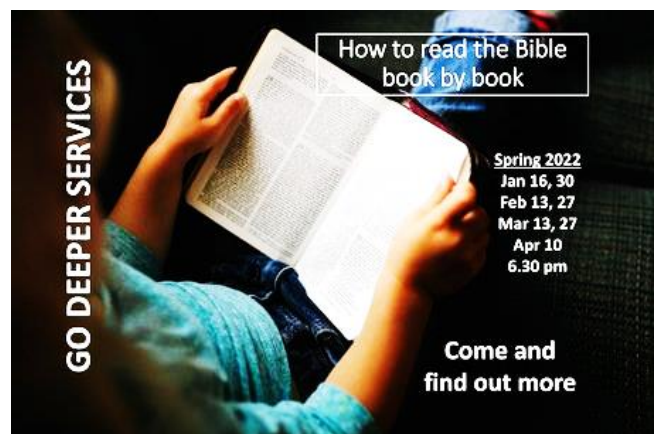
Worship

Sing Glory 26 Amazing grace

Song The Blessing

Final prayer & Blessing

6.30pm Evening Worship - Go Deeper



Andrea Owen

All are welcome to a celebration and thanksgiving service for the life of **Andrea** on **Thursday 17th March 2022 at 1pm**, at Christ Church Orpington, with refreshments afterwards.

Notices for the next issue of CCO Family News

email them to Vernon vandjmapp@gmail.com

by **12noon Saturday 5th March** please

Would you, or one of your family like to be baptised? Or would you like to renew your baptism vows?

On Easter Sunday, April 17th, we will celebrate Jesus' glorious resurrection by holding a service of Baptism in our 10.30am service. So, if you would like to be baptised, or renew your baptism vows, please contact Sharon on sharon@ccorpington.org or phone the office on 01689 871601 and leave a message.

Would you like to be confirmed?

Confirmation is the second part of the Christian journey that began with Baptism where we look more fully at our Christian faith. It is the rite that opens up for us the chance to come to the Lord's Table and receive the Bread and Wine – His Body and His Blood (when Covid-safe to do so).

If you would like to be confirmed, please contact Sharon on sharon@ccorpington.org or phone the office on 01689 871601 and leave a message.



Tech Desk Rota coordinator (volunteer needed)

Every Sunday, our dedicated tech team make sure that the audio and visual elements of the service run smoothly. But this does not just happen, a rota is prepared, and friendly reminders are sent to the teams involved. If you like to organise and are looking for a simple way to get involved, this might be a good place to start. We would love to hear from you. It is a great role that can be done from anywhere and does not require too much time. All you need is to be organised and send out weekly reminders. This can be done from email wherever you are.

Please get in touch if you think this is a role you would like to try.

(Photo by Felicia Buitenwerf on Unsplash)

"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."

Community Club - Tuesday 1st March

11am communion service lead by Rev Sharon.

Our menu will be

Veg soup

Mince cobbler, potatoes and seasonal veg.

Pancakes with lemon and sugar.

Tea or coffee.

Please wear a mask until you are sat at your table and dress appropriately as the windows will be open for ventilation.

Cafe Mosaic

Join us at *Café Mosaic*
for our Cream Tea
on Friday 4th March
from 12pm until 2pm



Cream Tea for two people £18

Enjoy a cake tier with a selection of finger sandwiches, homemade cakes, fruit & plain scones, delicious jam and clotted cream. All served with unlimited tea of your choice or cafetiere coffee.

Cream Tea for one person £5.50

Enjoy a choice of two homemade fruit or plain scones served with delicious jam and clotted cream served with unlimited tea of your choice or cafetiere coffee.

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

Christ Church membership

Do you consider yourself to be a member of the congregation of this church?

Would you like to enter more fully into the life of the church?

If so, then perhaps you would like to take the first step by applying to be put on the Electoral Roll of the church. Application forms are available from the table at the back of church. An explanatory leaflet 'Belonging and the Electoral Roll' is also available.

Please feel free to speak to either myself, one of the churchwardens or Sharon, our Vicar, if you have any queries. You need to be 16 or over to apply.

Roger Wilkinson

P.S. Please note that if you are already on the electoral roll and your details have not changed since last year there is no need to complete another form.



24 February 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.

John 14.27

Many of us will have troubled hearts as we watch with horror the attack by Russia on Ukraine. As we have already said, this attack is an act of evil, imperilling as it does the relative peace and security that Europe has enjoyed for so long. The attack by one nation on a free, democratic country has rightly provoked outrage, sanctions and condemnation.

We lament with the people of Ukraine, and we pray for the innocent, the frightened and those who have lost loved ones, homes, and family.

We continue to call for a ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian forces as well as wide-ranging efforts to ensure peace, stability and security.

These events remind us powerfully that peace is precious and it is fragile. In Chapter 14 of John's Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples at the Last Supper and he leaves them his peace. This is not a mere greeting, but rather something deep and abiding. This peace is something that only Jesus gives; for it is a gratuitous gift, a way of living, something to be received for the gift of peace is the gift of Jesus himself. That is why the Lord is able to offer reassurance to our hearts, why those who receive the gift of the peace of Jesus Christ at the deepest of levels should not be afraid.

Peace, therefore, is so much more than the absence of war. It is a gift, and it is also a decision, a gift that must be received. It is a choice we make that shapes the way we live well alongside each other. It characterises our relationship with God. It comes into being by seeking justice.

In these days of uncertainty and fear, we pray that each of us might again turn to the Lord and receive God's gift of peace, work for God's justice, know God's reconciliation and love, and choose paths not of hatred or destruction, of violence or retribution, but God's way of justice, mercy and peace.

As Christians, our response to a crisis must always be rooted in prayer. And so we invite you to join with us in praying most earnestly for an outpouring of the Spirit of God, that the world may once again choose peace, strengthening those international bodies that enable us to work and live together as one humanity inhabiting one world.

We pray for those in Ukraine who suffer grievously, for all who take decisions around the world, and for the people and leaders of Russia too.

In practical terms we invite you:

- to make this Sunday, 27 February, a day of prayer for peace;
- on Tuesday 1 March at 6pm (GMT) to pray with the Diocese in Europe for the chaplaincy in Kyiv and the churches that serve Ukraine; and
- to participate with the wider church in Pope Francis's call to make Ash Wednesday, 2 March, a day of prayer and fasting for peace.

You can find liturgical resources on the Church of England website at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/praying-peace-world>

However and whenever you pray, pray that the world may choose peace, and be assured of our prayers for you.

With every blessing,



The Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury



The Most Revd & Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell
Archbishop of York