



Christ
Church
Orpington

Family News 5th March 2022

1st Sunday of Lent

As we began Lent with that wonderful talk from J. John still resounding in our hearts, I thought I would share with you his Lenten thoughts this for week. It is called... **Time for Lent**

Preoccupied as we have been with strange and terrible events in the world about us, we may be surprised to find that Lent is upon us. Last Wednesday was Ash Wednesday, the start of the forty-day period of preparation for Easter. Lent shows the Christian faith at its most gloriously varied. Some Christians keep Lent, some don't. Those who keep Lent do so in different ways but often choose to give up something they value, such as chocolate, meat or even social media.

Thinking about Lent I am struck by the fact that, uniquely amongst Christian events, it lasts for a long time – well over five weeks. In fact, let me suggest that time is an important element in Lent and I find it raises three aspects of time.

First, Lent points to the time of Easter. Lent is above all the period of waiting before the great event of the Christian year: the remembrance of the death and resurrection of Christ that gives all who trust in him forgiveness and eternal life. The importance of Easter mustn't be underrated. The most detailed account of anything in the Bible is that of the three days of the first Easter, covered as it is in four parallel Gospel accounts. Similarly, with its forty days of anticipation, Lent focuses us on Easter. We have got used to the idea of Advent calendars with their daily open-door path to Christmas. Lent is, if you like, an invisible Easter calendar of forty days leading to the cross and resurrection. (It's worth noting that one is often

marked with the daily presence of chocolate and the other – at least for some Christians – marked by chocolate's absence.) This lengthy build up is important. Even in our world where we like everything to be instant, we recognise that there are many things in life which shouldn't just happen immediately. So, for example, most of us would be very unhappy if we went to some expensive restaurant only to find each course served seconds after the previous one was finished. There needs to be time for anticipation. It's the same elsewhere: we love that moment in the cinema when the lights dim and a hush descends; those precious instants of twilight just before the sun rises; the final seconds of a countdown to a rocket launch. Easter, with its triumphant announcement of Christ destroying sin and death, is the grandest and the most dramatic moment of the church's year. In order to do it justice, we need to prepare ourselves, and that is precisely what Lent does. The best way to appreciate the dazzling brilliance of Easter is to come to it through the long darkness of Lent.

Secondly, Lent points us to the time of eternity. If you take Lent seriously, then these forty days can seem to be a long and often wearying season in which you never get your own way. Here, pleasures are postponed until Lent's solemn shadows are banished by the joyful dawn of Easter. In a way, the forty days of Lent echo the forty tiresome and frustrating years that God's ancient people spent in the wilderness before they finally made it to the Jordan River and crossed into the promised land. We who are Christians can see a parallel here with our lives. We are currently living lives in what you might call 'Lent mode' where things do not go as planned, where hopes are frustrated and where joys are short-lived or even absent. Yet for the believer, Lent looks beyond this life to that day when we go to be with Christ for eternity and where all our pains and losses are replaced by an indestructible and enduring joy. If you know Christ you can whisper to yourself: I may live in Lent but Easter is coming.

Finally, Lent points us to the time of our existence. The forty days of Lent remind us of who we are and how we spend our lives. By giving up things of whatever kind for Lent we are setting limits on ourselves. We are saying no to our appetites and desires and, by doing so,

reminding ourselves of the easily overlooked truth that we are not masters of our own existence. Indeed, there is a curiosity in the English language in that the word lent has a double meaning. Lent may mean the Christian season, but it is more commonly used in the sense of us being lent something: given or loaned a thing on a temporary basis. There is a truth here of which we need to remind ourselves. Our days and years are not something that we can control or extend at will, but are a gift of unknown length that God gives us, that he may withdraw without notice and for which he will hold us responsible. There is a profound exchange in The Lord of the Rings between Frodo and Gandalf. Frodo laments the way he has been caught up in the looming war in Middle Earth. 'I wish it need not have happened in my time,' he says. Gandalf responds, 'So do I, and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.' That's a striking phrase: 'the time that is given us'. Lent is a reminder that all of us live in days we have been lent. We are all on 'borrowed time' and we must live in the light of this.

Lent, then, reminds us of the coming Easter, the coming eternity and that, in the meantime, we must live our lives on the basis that we will be held to account for them. And that thought of responsibility and accountability should turn us back again to Easter and the One who bore our sins and failings on the cross. In Psalm 90:12 we read, 'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom' (NIV). In

Lent's forty days may we all learn the wisdom of knowing and living for Christ in the time lent to us.



J. John
Reverend Canon
www.canonjohn.com

Retiring Collection for Ukraine this Sunday

We will be taking up a collection at the end of the service for Ukraine. Victor and Ester Petrenko are on the ground in Latvia helping the flood of refugees coming out of Ukraine, and anything you can give will be appreciated. Here is the message from them:

"Dear friends, prayer partners, brothers and sisters!
Testing time has arrived for each one of us. It is time for all of us to stay focused and fix our eyes firmly on Jesus and His word.

I am writing now to ask you for help. Please help us to help refugees - they are already arriving to Latvia and already @ LBC.

We need some financial help. Please help with whatever you can. When donating - please always specify "For refugees from Ukraine".

Thank you.

Any questions please write, I will answer whenever I can...

Drs. Vitali & Ester Petrenko
LBC
Kraslavas iela 27
Riga, LV-1003
Latvia
00 371 27036638 (mob) &
00 371 27014111(mob)
skype: ribivictor & esterriga
www.bible.lv

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 12th March** please

What's on...

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

Sunday 6th March, First Sunday of Lent

10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship - Reflect

Tuesday 8th March - Community Club

Wednesday 9th March

Café Mosaic, open 9.15am to 2pm

Friday 11th March

Café Mosaic, open 9.15am to 2pm

Sunday 13th March

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

6.30pm Evening Worship - Go Deeper

Sunday 20th March

10.30am Morning Worship

6.30pm Holy Communion - Reflect

Mothering Sunday, 27th March

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship - Mothering Sunday

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

"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."

Sunday 6th March

10.30am Holy Communion

Welcome, Notices

Opening Prayer

Confession

Worship

Song Blessed be Your Name

Song Even though I walk

Bible Reading

Luke 4 v 1-13

Sermon

Intercessions

Peace

Worship

Song My song is love unknown

Holy Communion

Worship

Song Water you turned into wine

Final Prayer & Blessing

"Retiring collection for refugees in Ukraine"

6.30pm – Reflect



Mother's Day – Sunday 27th March

The flower arranging team are meeting in the church at about 10am on **Saturday 26th March** to make posies for Mother's Day – if you would like to help, please do come along and join them. This year they have **NO NEED** of small leaved and ferny type foliage to go in the posies.

**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

Afternoon Alpha

session with coffee and cake also starts 10th March.

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

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.

Community Club - Tuesday 8th March

Andy will be leading our worship/study time from 11am.

Those wanting to just arrive for lunch are asked to arrive early this week and to be sat ready for 12.15pm

Our menu will be

Vegetable soup

Beef casserole, potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

Éclair with creme patisserie.

Tea or coffee.

This Tuesday we'll be celebrating our Nellie's 100th birthday with a bit of fun we hope she'll enjoy.

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



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)

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.

HE IS THERE

In the eyes of a child, you can see Him.
In the whisper of wind in the trees.
He is there in the birds at your feeder,
and in the rain that dampens your hair.

He is there in the sun that warms us,
in the sky, moon and stars up above.
In the rivers and seas that surround us,
as vast as His boundless love.

In the touch of a hand you can feel Him.
In the kind words of one who cares.
He is there if you wish to find Him.
Look around you and listen and stare.

He is patient- for you He is waiting.
He knows who you are, knows your name.
Be still, breathe Him in, let Him fill you.
You will never again be the same!

He will open your heart, give you reasons,
to live, know His love and to dream
To share everything that He gives us.
To be part of His wonderful scheme.

So take time to look and to wonder at the
marvellous things He has done.
And give thanks for the life that He gives us,
through the death of His only son.

Who else could love us so dearly
and take all our sins away?
Who else could give us a new life,
living water - fresh every day?

Who else is so awesome, so mighty –
that His hand is upon all that we know
He gives us His Holy Spirit to guide us
and help us to grow.

Alleluia!! Give praise to the Father.
Alleluia!! Give praise to the Son.
Alleluia!! Give praise to the Spirit,
Our Saviour, Three in one!

Christine Amos 25/02/2022



WANTED

OUR MOST NEEDED ITEMS ARE:

28th February 2022

Small Washing up liquid
Toilet rolls
Small tubs of non – bio washing tabs
Tinned Potatoes
Mens shaving foam
Long life Fruit Juice
Tinned Fruit ✓

Please, NO ✕
Baby formula
Out of date or fresh items
We have plenty of
Pasta, Cereal, Tea and Biscuits
Thank you!

**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**

WE ARE LOOKING
FOR SOMEONE

RELIABLE

WELL ORGANISED

A TEAM PLAYER

to run our warehouse
operation that stores donated
food and delivers it to our
centres across the borough.

WE ARE HIRING!

IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE OF

CUSTOMER SERVICE

STOCK MANAGEMENT

TEAM LEADERSHIP

and you want to help local people in
crisis, might this be for you?

THE ROLE IS

FULL TIME SALARIED

BASED IN DOWNHAM WAREHOUSE

We can discuss flexible options (e.g. job share)
if you are interested.



SCAN THE CODE FOR MORE
DETAILS ON THE JOB
AND HOW TO APPLY →



**All Saints'
Coffee Recitals
Bark Hart Rd**

**featuring
The
Marigold
Ensemble**

**Saturday
19 March 2022**

**Coffee & Tea served from
11.00 am**

**Recital starts
12 noon**

**Free Entry
(Retiring Collection)**



Formed in 2020, the Marigold Ensemble are all current or former students of the Guildhall School of Music. They were the winners of the St James's Chamber Music Prize 2020, resulting in performances at St James Piccadilly and Milton Court Hall. They have played in masterclasses with members of the Heath and Endellion Quartets, whilst also receiving coaching from Carole Presland, Richard Lester and Adrian Brendel. Across the group they have performed at many of Europe's major concert halls including Wigmore Hall, Barbican Centre, Royal Festival Hall, Royal Concertgebouw and Berlin Philharmonie.

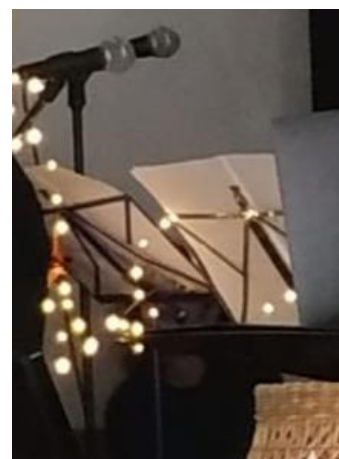


Jack, Sarah and Ben, preparing for mission in Tours, France from King's Church Durham.

Dear friends and family, as always we are thankful for all your support and prayers. I pray that God will encourage you as you hear our news and pray for us.

How was your Christmas?

In the Church building the atelier creatif was enjoyable though not very well attended. The Christmas service on the 19th was joyful. It was a challenge for me to prepare the music, not knowing which carols were known in the church (different people told me different things) but there seemed to be a general consensus that O Holy Night was the best one (and I learned that it was based on a French language poem, minuit Chretien). The main worship leader in church got stuck visiting family, and so two weeks of covering the worship leading turned into six... but now praise the lord, both he (and the rota) are back.



The atelier creatif (left) and christmas service (right)

Covid border closures meant that we didn't have family over for Christmas. However, we did have a housewarming with people in our flats which went well, had a couple of Jack's course-mates round for Christmas eve dinner, and a couple of people from church over on Christmas day. We also went round to some people from church's house on New Year's Day and tried oysters for the first time. It was an experience. We've since had two visits from family members - first my dad, then Jack's mum.

How is the church?

We've recently lost a friend and church member very suddenly in a car accident, so there is a lot of grief and shock. We are touched by the deep love of the church members for Jesus and for one another which is all the more evident now.

As with many churches, covid-related isolating has meant that some weeks have felt quite empty and others fuller. Teams like children's work have been significantly stretched and sometime unable to run.

As covid is easing, people have been enjoying fellowship more after the services.

The building work is progressing, although neither of us have the skills to help much.

We've been encouraged by various people coming to church who are not yet believers.

We've been studying the book of Daniel together on a Sunday, and celebrating Jesus the king of all the nations.



The community centre where we have begun to volunteer

How are you?

I (Sarah) have enjoyed being part of the worship team at church. I feel like God has used me in the song choosing process in particular. I've begun to get a network of people I can spend time with Ben. I like having people over to our home and also the hospitality we have been shown by others. I've started helping at the welcome desk at the community centre.

Jack's language learning is progressing well, and has moved up to the C1 group, as well as volunteering with the charity shop part of the community centre.

Ben started at a childminder 2 weeks ago, and now we need to start looking for a school for September. He has made some friends with other children his age at church.



What are your hopes and plans for the next few months?

I'm signed up to be part of the Sunday school team, and will start with the 'collegians' group (11-14s). At present there isn't a group for the 15-18s, but there used to be a monthly gathering to watch a Christian film and discuss (pre-pandemic), which might get revived. I'd like to get involved with this, perhaps with another (perhaps who is more fluent in French than me).

I'm also considering setting up a group for parents and toddlers in the church building, which should be renovated by Easter or a little afterwards. There are no regular groups in our half of the city.

We are looking forward to (God willing) welcoming a team from King's Church in Durham around Easter!

Prayer points:

1. Pray for God to comfort the church and family as we grieve.
2. Praise God for the provision of a nounou for Ben, and continue to pray that he settles in well, especially as her children go back to school after half term.
3. Pray for wisdom about starting new things. We want to serve God and follow His lead, Yet we don't want to get lost in the business of "doing things for God" and end up burning out or not spending time in His presence. Please pray specifically for the idea of a toddler group - and that if it's God's will that He would send someone else to work alongside me in it to make it a reality. Also for the youth of the church, that if it is a good idea to start this monthly meeting again, that the right people would step up to run it.
4. Please pray for patience from the Holy Spirit as we come up against cultural differences or challenges in working out the 'way things are done' here.
5. Please pray for success in our various attempts to get to know people outside the church.
6. Pray for the upcoming trip from the team from King's Church Durham (9-20th April), for successful logistics and an encouraging and useful time together with the church here.
7. Please pray for the church to grow here, through people coming to faith in Jesus.

Thanks so much for praying. We'd love to hear from you too! Do get in touch.

Our mailing address is: winterburns@kcd.org.uk

We're trusting God to continue providing the finances we need. To join the financial support team, just get in touch and we can give you the details.