



Christ  
Church  
Orpington

## Family News 19th March 2022

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Lent 3 from J.John

### De-cluttering

Every year Killy and I think about de-cluttering. This year we tackled our kitchen, bedrooms, garage and my study. It was a revelation. These are some of the things that we found:

- A huge quantity of business cards from people, many of whom I had no recollection of meeting.
- Several boxes of mysterious adapters and cables that fitted no known phones or computers.
- Lots of empty boxes. Why did we store empty boxes for years?
- A pile of cassette tapes, some marked 'Keep!' Not very useful for a household that no longer has the means to play cassettes.
- A huge pile of books that we are never likely to read.
- A handful of coins from several countries, some of which I have never visited.
- A box full of keys – *keys to what?* I asked myself.

In the garage, we found numerous half-burned candles, several tins of paint, each with enough paint to cover a postage stamp, and a good number of chipped and broken vases – why did we keep them?

As for the wardrobes: there were jumpers, jackets and suits I wore in the 1980s and which I hadn't worn for several decades. I still tried them on – although quite why, I don't know!

And in the kitchen – why keep an inherited old tea set last used in our previous home 25 years ago? We couldn't stand it then and certainly would never use it now.

Clutter seems to be a disease of our time and culture. It used to be that when the kids left home you could consider 'downsizing' but instead it seems that clutter expands to fill the space made available. Although it is tempting to speculate about why we all accumulate so much, the issue with clutter is how we deal with it. Because successful de-cluttering is hard; we really need to have the right attitude and recognise that clutter is a real problem.

The word 'clutter' is apparently related to 'clot'. And as clots block up arteries and impede blood flow with disastrous results, so clutter does the same to our lives.

Think about how it leads to wasted time, for example. Consider a no-doubt all-too-familiar scenario: you are working on a project and you realise that you need item A (a document, tool or kitchen utensil), but because there is so much clutter you have to search for it. Now note what invariably happens. In the process of trying to find A, you successively uncover items B, C and D, each of which is far more interesting and each of which engages your attention. The result is that when you finally do discover item A, you have either run out of time to use it or you cannot remember what you wanted it for in the first place.

So, we must de-clutter. But the practicalities of dealing with clutter are far from easy. We have to engage in a process of filtering. So, in my study, I end up asking about everything: should I give it away, keep it, give it to a charity shop or simply consign it to the bin? If you are like me, your clutter is probably virtually worthless in financial terms, but you do need to remember that money is not the only measure of worth. The past has value, and memories of events – and particularly of individuals – should matter to us. It is worth remembering how, in the Old Testament, Samuel put up a large memorial stone and 'named it Ebenezer (which means "the stone of help")', for he said, "Up to this point the Lord has helped us!" (1 Samuel 7:12, NLT). There are some things you may wish to keep as 'Ebenezers' – honoured reminders of long-ago friends, mementos of times rich in blessing and testimonies of difficulties overcome.

Yet although we may save some precious reminders, the reality is that much must be disposed of, so how do we decide what must go? As I leaf through old files, letters and books I find myself repeatedly thinking of words such as 'essential' and 'priority'. Anyone who has ever tried de-cluttering a study or garage will be aware of the danger that, after a few hours' labour, you will actually manage to justify keeping almost everything. We need to ask some very hard questions. Do I need this? Am I *ever* going to need it? One of the reasons I think many people today find it hard to deal with clutter is they prefer to think that they will be here for ever. They imagine that sooner or later they really are going to read those unread books, do that unopened jigsaw or experiment with those French recipes. Here, as in so many other areas, I am helped by knowing that the Christian life is like a journey. As I look at all I have before me, I repeatedly ask myself a simple question: 'Is it needed on the voyage?' If you are looking forward to the next world, there's a lot to be said for travelling light through this one.

**J.John**

Reverend Canon

[www.canonjjohn.com](http://www.canonjjohn.com)

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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)

### Sunday 20th March, 3rd Sunday of Lent

10.30am Morning Worship

6.30pm Holy Communion - Reflect

### Monday 21st March

Gospel Choir, 7.45pm until 9.30pm in the Church

### Tuesday 22nd March

Community Club

### Wednesday 23rd March

*Café Mosaic*, open 9.15am to 2pm

Tea and Toys, 1pm to 3pm

### Friday 25th March

*Café Mosaic*, open 9.15am to 2pm

### Mothering Sunday, 27th March

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship - Mothering Sunday

6.30pm Evening Worship - Go Deeper

### Sunday 3rd April

10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship – Reflect

### Sunday 10th April

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship (Palm Sunday - All Age)

6.30pm Evening Worship - Go Deeper

For online services:

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>



Join **Heather Kroiter** for zoom coffee after church on Sunday morning from 11.45am

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5852280960?pwd=\\_b1ByNjdxUzJ4bGY5TEp0YUpheEtZUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5852280960?pwd=_b1ByNjdxUzJ4bGY5TEp0YUpheEtZUT09)

Meeting ID: 585 228 0960

Passcode: 8Uwg8H

### Notices for the next issue of CCO Family News

email them to Vernon [vandjmapp@gmail.com](mailto:vandjmapp@gmail.com)

by **12noon Saturday 26th March** please

## Sunday 20th March

### 10.30am Morning Worship

Welcome, Notices

Opening Prayer, Confession

Worship

Song No Longer Slaves

Song There's nothing worth more

Song Fly

Bible Reading

Luke 13 v 1-9

Sermon

Intercessions

Worship

Song Turn your eyes

Song Great is Your faithfulness

Final Prayer & Blessing

### 6.30pm Holy Communion – Reflect



### Community Club, Tuesday 22nd March

Our menu is

Vegetable soup

Chicken casserole Potatoes Seasonal vegetables

Chocolate sponge and chocolate custard.

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.

### 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.



Paul, Andrew and Jennie would like to thank everyone for their kind words, messages of sympathy and cards following the death of Andrea.

Thank you too to all those who made her Thanksgiving service so memorable on Thursday.

We rejoice that she is now safe in the arms of our Lord

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**MAF:** Joan Remnant has 3 spare copies of the Mission Aviation Fellowship magazine "FLYING FOR LIFE" which you can find in the Magazine Rack in the Welcome Area (they are in envelopes marked MAF). If you don't already receive this direct, and would like a copy, do take one from the rack.

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## 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.

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## Northumbria Daily Prayer



You are invited to come along to Daily Prayer at 9.00am to 9.20am in the chapel on Mondays and Tuesdays led by Helen Musson

There will be readings from Scripture, a short meditative reading, prayer, reflection and silence.

Dates we are meeting until Easter are:  
21st and 22nd March, 4th and 5th April.

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## Admission of Baptised Children to Holy Communion

The PCC have unanimously agreed to support an application to the Bishop, after consultation with the congregation, to allow baptised children to be admitted to Holy Communion before being confirmed. An explanation of the change is further on in CCO Family News.

Please send any comments to Sharon or the PCC Secretary, Don Bower, by 31st March.

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## Cafe Mosaic

For this week's special at *Cafe Mosaic* we will be serving:

- ▶ Homemade Creamy Chicken Tarragon served with baby potatoes with herbs and butter, green beans and carrots
- or
- ▶ Homemade Tender slow cooked beef and Onion Pie in a red wine sauce served with creamy buttery mash, green beans, carrots and gravy.

Special desserts are

- ▶ Homemade French Almond Sponge with custard
  - or
  - ▶ Homemade Traditional Lemon Drizzle Cake
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"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."

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## 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](mailto:sharon@ccorpington.org) or phone the office on 01689 871601 and leave a message.

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## 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](mailto:sharon@ccorpington.org) or phone the office on 01689 871601 and leave a message.

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Photo by Sebastian Coman Photography on Unsplash

## *Cafe Mosaic EASTER MEAL*

*Come and join us for our 3 course Buffet Style Easter Meal on Wed 13th April 2022 starting from 12.30pm for £15-00*

*Creamy Carrot soup with served with a fresh roll and butter*

*Roast Lamb served with Roast potatoes, Roasted Carrots, Baked Onions Green beans and garden Peas along with Yorkshire pudding, gravy and mint sauce*

*Warmed Hot Cross Buns and Butter*

*A deposit is not needed but if you think you may come along, please may you let us know. Meal is buffet style but we have helpers on standby if you require assistance.*

*Vegetarian option available.*

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### **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.

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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)

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### **Tea and Toys**

This is a term time 'drop-in' for parents/carers and their children 0-4 years. It is held on Wednesdays, 1pm to 3pm in the large hall and includes toys, refreshments, songs and a story time.

Children are the responsibility of their parent/carer.

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### **Admission of Baptised Children to Holy Communion Regulations 2006**

The Church of England has a procedure under which children who have been baptised but who have not yet been confirmed and who are not ready and wanting to be confirmed may be admitted to Holy Communion. A main purpose of this procedure is to treat children as part of the people of Christ and to help them feel they belong there.

Before the procedure is introduced in Christ Church Orpington, the Vicar must apply to the Bishop with the support of the PCC. At its meeting on 7 February, the PCC unanimously agreed to support an application but asked that the congregation should have an opportunity to comment.

The Regulations include a number of safeguards to ensure that the procedure is carried out in an orderly fashion:

1. The Bishop must satisfy himself that the parish has made adequate provision for preparation and continuing nurture in the Christian life and that it will encourage any child admitted to Holy Communion under these Regulations to be confirmed at the appropriate time;
2. The Vicar must be satisfied that the child has been baptised and that a person having parental responsibility for the child is content that the child should be so admitted. The Vicar has discretion to decide when a child should be first admitted to Holy Communion; in Christ Church, it is intended that only children from Year 7 upwards would normally be considered;
3. The Vicar will maintain a register of all children admitted to Holy Communion under these Regulations, and will record on the child's baptismal certificate or else on a separate certificate the date and place of the child's first admission. A child who presents this evidence shall be eligible to be admitted to Holy Communion in other churches.

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If any member of the congregation wishes to comment on this proposal, would they please contact Sharon or the PCC Secretary, Don Bower, by 31 March 2022.

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