



Christ
Church
Orpington

Family News, 26th March 2022

**Don't forget the clocks
go forward one hour tonight**

Lent 4 from J. John



Mothers in Tough Times

Mother's Day is when, amid flowers, cards and perhaps a meal out, we remember happy memories of our mothers. It's a day rich in sentiment, yet there's more to mothers than the cosiness of this celebration allows for. You see, thinking about something to say this year on Mother's Day, I found myself struggling as images of soldiers, weapons and shelled buildings kept edging into my mind. I realised that what had a particular impact on me were images of women. Yes, there were female soldiers and surgeons, but what struck me hard were the pictures of women with children. You saw them: carrying babies over broken bridges as snow fell, putting tearful toddlers on trains to an unknown future, comforting infants in freezing basements, and weeping over sons and daughters 'missing in action' or dead. In short: *mothers*.

Tempting as it is to think that these women are some special race, hardened by centuries of life out on the harsh edges of Europe, in reality what we have seen are ordinary mothers, simply doing what they have to do. Were you to ask them why they are queuing in icy winds for food, struggling to protect their children from flying shrapnel or acting as a human shield for their children, their answer would be simple: 'It's what mothers do.' *It is*.

Without rejecting those flowers, the cards and the happy memories of tradition, I think it will do us no harm to celebrate those tough qualities of motherhood.

First, mothers face *tough challenges*. Any woman taking on children has my respect and admiration. We celebrate

people who climb Everest, get a degree or are given a knighthood, but these are insignificant compared to child rearing. I know that in an ideal world mothers work with fathers, but this world is far from ideal. Even today, fathers are often absent: away on business, called up to fight or simply gone missing – either temporarily down the pub or at the match or, sadly, on a permanent basis. All too frequently it is mothers who hold a family together and lead the children along the hard road of life. And children are very challenging. You don't know what you are going to have to do or suffer for them. That tough challenge is there with the most famous of births. When Joseph and Mary took the infant Jesus to the temple shortly after he was born, the aged Simeon prophesied that the infant would affect the world and then warned Mary, 'And a sword will pierce your very soul' (Luke 2:35 NLT). Oh, it may be as routine as keeping clothes on the kids and food on the table, or it may be as spectacular as dodging sniper fire to get food, but motherhood can be tough and let's honour the fact.

Second, mothers everywhere need *tough courage*. One of the most ancient pieces of advice is not to come between a mother bear and her cub. In fact, it's wise to never come between any mother – animal or human – and her offspring. Mothers show courage at every level: catching a spider in the child's bedroom or tiptoeing around unexploded artillery shells to a safer place.

Third, mothers show *tough commitment*. Mothers and children are the gold standard for enduring and unbreakable commitment. In Isaiah 49, God reassures his people by saying, 'Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for the child she has borne? But even if that were possible, I would not forget you!' (v.15 NLT). Mothers demonstrate commitment, come what may.

Finally, mothers show *tough care*. Mothers are tough but, at their best, they somehow manage to hide it behind love. Indeed, their toughness arises from their love. It's striking that Jesus uses a maternal image of himself. As he grieved over rebellious and doomed Jerusalem, he said, 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing' (Matthew 23:37 NIV). Tough love is not a cliché, it's a reality.

God made mothers and equipped them not just for the best of times but also the worst. This Mother's Day let's honour that tough side of motherhood. When there is victory and peace for Ukraine, statues will doubtless be erected to the brave men and women who fought for it. But I hope there will also be a statue of the mothers: they deserve to be honoured. And not just there, but everywhere.

J. John

Reverend Canon

www.canonjohn.com

What's on...

Did you remember to put the clocks forward one hour?

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

Mothering Sunday, 27th March

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship - Mothering Sunday
6.30pm Evening Worship - Go Deeper

Monday 28th March

Gospel Choir, 7.45pm until 9.30pm in the Church

Tuesday 29th March

Community Club

Wednesday 30th March

Morning Prayer Meeting
Café Mosaic, open 9.15am to 2pm
Tea and Toys, 1pm to 3pm

Friday 1st April

Café Mosaic, open 9.15am to 2pm

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

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/83647192653?pwd=VVQzSVZqb25kUHZLTE1SZy8yOSStQz09>

Meeting ID: 836 4719 2653, Passcode: 1SXhK5

Notices for the next issue of CCO Family News

email them to Vernon vandjmapp@gmail.com

by **12noon Friday 1st April** please

Mothering Sunday, 27th March

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am All Age Worship

Welcome, Notices,

Opening Prayer, Confession

Worship

Song Strength will rise
Song King of love praise you
Song There is a Redeemer

Bible Reading

Luke 1 verses 26-38

Sermon

Intercessions

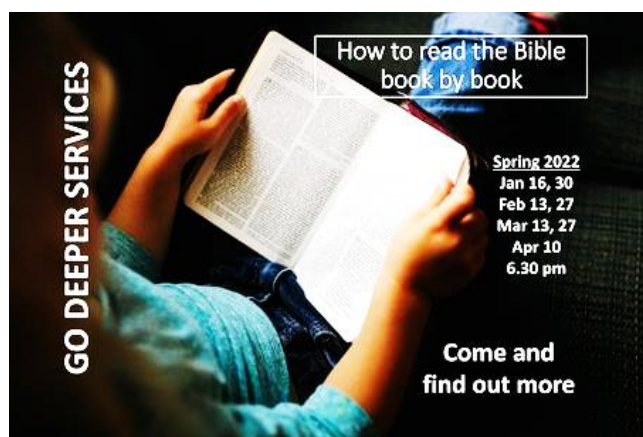
Worship

Song Everyone needs compassion
Song Love divine

Final Prayer & Blessing

Mother's Day flower distribution

6.30pm Evening Worship – Go Deeper



Easter church flowers

The flower arranging team would like donations of foliage on **Saturday 16th April**. Please bring foliage to church from 9.30am.

We would also welcome volunteers to help with arrangements as we have fewer helpers than previously. No experience needed! Also from 9.30am

Community Club, Tuesday 29th March

Sharon will be leading the session at 11am.
All welcome.

Our menu is

Vegetable soup
Roast Gammon new potatoes and vegetables
Cherry and almond Easter cupcakes or yoghurts.
Tea or coffee

This is our last Lunch before Easter and we'll gather again on Tuesday 19th April.

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

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.

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?
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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.

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:
28th and 29th March; 4th and 5th April.

Church Work Mornings

Saturday 23 April & 21 May, 9am till midday

We would love you to come and join us on one or both of these work days. You truly only need **enthusiasm** and do not need any special skills.

Jobs on the day will include indoor and outdoor tasks and any time you can give to maintain and care for the church building and grounds will make such a big difference. Even if you cannot stay for the whole morning, just **an hour** is great!

Come pick a task, have some fun, meet new people and enjoy a **bacon sandwich** and coffee for your efforts.

Please put your name on the signup sheet at the back of the church. Thanks, Pieter

Cafe Mosaic

The café will break up for Easter on Friday 1st April (so no cream teas) and will be returning on Wednesday 20th April, however we do have a help yourself Easter meal on Wednesday 13th April. See separate notice

Our special menu this week are

- ▶ Homemade Sausage and Onion Plait served with Dauphinoise Potatoes and garden peas
- or
- ▶ Homemade Chicken Casserole and dumplings

Dessert specials are

- ▶ Homemade Chocolate Victoria
 - or
 - ▶ Homemade Mandarin Cheesecake.
-

Maundy Thursday

You're invited to a Maundy Thursday Passover Seder in church on **Thursday 14th April at 8pm.**

The Seder tells the story of the Exodus - God saving his people from slavery in Egypt. We will share in symbolic food and drink as we journey through the story. The Seder will lead into a celebration of Holy Communion.

If you would like to come along, please book by contacting Helen on helen@ccorpington.org or 07942 357029, phoning the office 01689 871601 or by signing the list at the back of church.

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.

"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."

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.

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



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.

Dates for your Diary

On **Tuesday 10th May**, we look forward to welcoming Pat Blanchard, who is going to come to spend an evening with us updating us on her situation and her ministry in Peru, as well as coming to thank us for our support over the years.

You are most welcome to arrive at 7.30pm for refreshments, ready for an 8pm start.

And then on **Tuesday 17th May**, we look forward to meeting Robert de Berry and Release International, as they invite us to an evening of prayer with them as they embark on a sponsored bike ride in stages from Kent to Land's End. We will begin at 7.30pm and finish at 9.00pm.

If anyone would like to join them on the first stage, getting sponsorship and heading off after breakfast to Sevenoaks or Tunbridge Wells, you would be very welcome to do so. Please speak to me if you would like to so I can pass your details on to Robert.

Hope to see you there,

Sharon



Photo by Sebastian Connan Photographs 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.

Dear friends, prayer partners, brothers and sisters

24th of February changed everything - for Ukraine, for me personally and for the whole world. Our/my priorities shifted tremendously. Nowadays our minds over here, in addition to LBC's issues, are preoccupied with the war effort back in Ukraine. The lack of sleep and tiredness settles in, but the spirit is strong. We are trying to buy medicine, some food, clothes, generators, clothes for wounded in hospitals, etc., etc. We are working directly with pastors who gather all the urgent needs from different places and we send some supplies) especially medical ones from here, Poland is emptied of essential medicines), buying food supplies in Poland (cheaper than in Latvia) and send it over the border, where Christian volunteers, our brothers and sisters take it further to "hot spots", even to Donbas area.

In addition, there is a personal dimension for me - my relatives in Kharkiv (escaped to a safer part in Ukraine), Mariupol (escaped to Germany, wives, but husbands are in Ukraine), other relatives in Chernihiv's area - one cousin under occupation, other relatives the fight for the city is going on right now (close to Chernobyl station).

Please forgive me for the fact that I wasn't able to thank every one of you who donated the money towards refugees and aid for Ukraine - we raised more than 20,000 Euros and the money are still being donated. You don't know what that means for us - your support, prayer, and financial giving. It means a lot to us in this time of trial...I believe that this is a test and we will overcome it - together!!! The Lord is still on the throne!!! Thank you. Djakuju (Ukrainian)

With much gratitude and love,
Victor, Ester & Lukas

For those who want to contribute:

Personal: SEB banka

Swift: UNLALV2X,
LV45UNLA0050006564807
VITALIJS PETRENKO
"DONATION FOR REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE"

LBC account:

"Swedbank, AS"
SWIFT: HABALV22,
Konts: LV48HABA0551042576915
"DONATION FOR REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE"

PayPal: veriga28@gmail.com

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

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.

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.