



Christ
Church
Orpington

Family News, 8th April 2022

I would like to bring you J. John's teaching on the seven last words of Jesus on the cross. Here is the first of those seven, and we will send out one a day until next Saturday as we journey through Holy Week. We pray you are blessed by them.

With much love and every blessing,
Sharon & Andi xx

7 Last Words of Jesus – Part One

Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing (Luke 23:34)

There are many ways of thinking about Easter. One with a long tradition is to consider what Jesus said while he was on the cross. The four Gospel writers record seven sayings (traditionally called the 'Seven Last Words') spoken by Jesus on the cross, which overflow with meaning. Taken together they sum up what Easter – and Christianity – means.

The background is that some time in the morning of the first Good Friday, immediately after the evening that saw the start of the feast of the Passover, Jesus was nailed to the cross. The Gospel writers record that, as Jesus hung on the cross, from noon to three in the afternoon an unexplained darkness fell upon the earth. It is a darkness that echoes what Christ experienced: a death somehow worse than death.

Here, in the first of the seven sayings, Jesus offers up a prayer for his persecutors: 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' In view of what Jesus says later on, it is important to notice that here he refers to God as 'Father' or, in the original Aramaic, 'Abba'. This was the normal way that Jesus prayed to God, showing how he knew God in a personal way.

The really important thing here is the way that Jesus prays for others. It is a remarkable prayer. Most of us have problems praying for good people at good times. What is remarkable here is that Jesus is able

to pray for bad people at a bad time. Here, in this desperate situation and in appalling pain, Jesus' concern remains for others. In praying like this, he is living out his own teaching: 'But to you who are listening I say: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who ill-treat you' (Luke 6:27–28). Jesus is that extraordinary rarity in human history: a moral teacher who lives out what he says. Notice, too, the content of the prayer; Jesus pleads, 'Forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' Jesus puts forward what we might call in legal language 'extenuating circumstances' – the fact that his persecutors didn't fully realise that they were mocking and torturing the Messiah, the Son of God.

In his first letter, the apostle John writes, 'My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One' (1 John 2:1). St John uses a legal term (παράκλητον) to describe the role of Jesus, a word we might translate as 'defence lawyer'. What this word actually means in practice is shown perfectly on the cross.

Jesus asks his heavenly Father to forgive people and offers every possible excuse for them. That's what we all need, even the best of us: a God who, in Jesus, is on our side and who speaks on our behalf.

J. John, Reverend Canon
www.canonjohn.com

Notices for the next issue of CCO Family News

email them to Vernon vandjmapp@gmail.com

by **12noon Saturday 16th April** please

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@ccorporpington.org or 07942 357029, phoning the office 01689 871601 or by signing the list at the back of church.

What's on...

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

Closed for Easter - Community Club
Café Mosaic
Tea and Toys

Palm Sunday, 10th April

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am All Age Service
6.30pm Evening Worship - Go Deeper

Monday 11th April

Gospel Choir, 7.45pm until 9.30pm in the Church

Wednesday 13th April

Morning Prayer Meeting, 10am in the Chapel

Maundy Thursday, 14th April

8.00pm Seder Meal & Holy Communion

Good Friday, 15th April

11.00am Churches Together Service,
Orpington Market Square
2.00pm Reflective Mediation in the church

Saturday 16th April

4.00pm Messy Easter Church
(please see CCO website for booking details)

Easter Sunday, 17th April

10.30am Holy Communion & Baptism Service
6.00pm Freedom to Praise – Orpington Gospel Choir

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/88450386635?pwd=eUJXUittTnB3SXNSVUxTbHVOTEJNZz09>

Meeting ID: 884 5038 6635

Passcode: pF8Vc6

Palm Sunday, 10th April



9.00am Holy Communion

Our 10.30am service is being streamed live to our public Facebook page. The camera focuses on the clergy and other contributors only for most of the service. If you wish to avoid being on camera, please do not sit in the front 6 rows.

10.30am All Age Worship – Palm Sunday

Welcome, Notices

Opening Prayer, Confession

Worship

Song Hosanna, Hosanna
Song I see the King of glory
Song Sound the trumpet

Bible Reading

Luke 19 v 28-40

Sermon

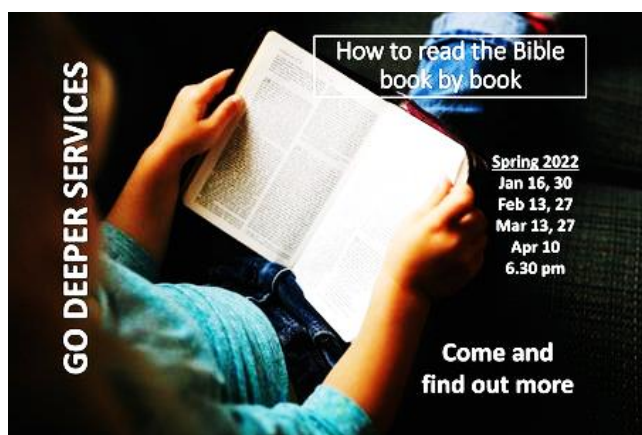
Intercessions

Worship

Song Humble King
Song Over all the earth

Final Prayer & Blessing

6.30pm Evening Worship – Go Deeper



Revival Prayer Meeting

All are warmly invited to our next Revival Prayer Meeting this **Saturday, 9th April**, from 9am to 10am here at Christ Church. We meet with friends from other churches to bring ourselves, our churches, our town and the world before God, trusting in his transformative power.

We long to see revival in our own lives and in our community, and believe that the Holy Spirit will come in power as we humble ourselves. If you have a heart for prayer and long for revival, please do join us.

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! Please come along from 9.30am

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

"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."



Photo by Sebastian Connan Photographs on Unsplash

Cafe Mosaic EASTER MEAL

Come and join us for our 3-course Buffet Style Easter Meal on **Wednesday 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

Vegetarian option available.

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.

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

OPEN KITCHEN FUNDING BID



OPEN KITCHEN is bidding for a cash boost from the Tesco Community Grants initiative. Tesco works with community charity Groundwork to run its community funding scheme, which sees grants of up to £1,500, £1,000 and £500 awarded to local community projects.

We are one of three groups in Bromley shortlisted to receive the cash award. **Please go to one of these Tesco stores to vote for us!** Voting is open until the end of June. You can cast your vote using a token given to you at the check-out each time you shop (there is no minimum spend). Please note that Tesco Sidcup (on Edgington Way) is not included in this list. Thanks for your help.

Orpington Extra, BR6 0NH
St Paul's Cray Express, BR5 3AQ
Bromley, BR1 2UE
Bromley High Street Express, BR1 1LF
Bromley Express, BR2 0UJ
Bromley Plaistow Lane Express, BR1 4DS
Elmers End, BR3 4AA
Penge, Royston Road Express, SE20 7QB
Beckenham Chinese Garage Express, BR3 6RH
Anerley Road, Crystal Palace Express, SE19 2AH
Croydon Road, Penge Express, SE20 7TY
Biggin Hill Express, TN16 3BB
Beckenham Express, BR3 4EP
Penge High St Express, SE20 7EX

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.

OPEN KITCHEN began in May 2020. We had collected food from supermarkets for some time, through the FareShare charity, with the aim of preventing food waste. From this food, we made meals for our Community Club, and then local hospitals. Later we delivered food to local residents living in food poverty or going through difficult times. However, in May 2020 we were offered FareShare slots with other supermarkets and so Open Kitchen was born, as we invited recipients to collect from us if they could.

We receive donations from supermarkets and other food outlets several times a week, there are twenty team members and we have our own dedicated fridge and freezer. We offer fresh, chilled and frozen food to about 90 households per week and are still looking to expand. No vouchers are required. Some recipients are in need of food, others hate to see food waste. Anything that can no longer be offered through Open Kitchen is donated to Foal Farm for animal feed. Come and see what we do on Tuesday and Friday mornings or Sunday afternoons. We'd love to see you so we can make even more of a difference!

Opening Times: Tuesdays and Fridays, 10am - 11am
Sundays, 4.30pm - 5pm

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: gdp@ccorpington.org

CRUCIFIXION

Who is this man upon the cross? Some say he is *the* King
I heard he did some "miracles", healed the sick, that sort of thing.

You'd think if he's as great as that he'd get down from that tree.
Perform one of his "miracles"--now *that* I'd like to see!!

Oh look! They've given him a crown, thorns digging in his head.
You can see the flies upon his face, stuck to where he's bled.

They're buzzing round that awful wound, for that there was no need.
To spear him in the side like that, it really made him bleed.

There's water too, I think he's dead. The crowd begins to move.
There's Joseph speaking to the Guards and Nicodemus too.

They're lifting down his body and taking him away.
I heard they have a tomb for him, a place where he might lay.

I don't know why, but I feel strange. Anticipation? Awe?
I've never had these feelings when I've watched these deaths before.

What's happened on this day was told by prophets and by seers.
Their words have truly come to pass after all these years.

Perhaps there was more to this man, Jesus was his name.
Since he arrived I have to say things haven't been the same.

I'm going home, it's getting dark. I must be on my way.
I wish I'd met this Jesus man before this awful day...

Christine Amos 19/03/2022

Orpington Gospel Choir invites you to:

Freedom to Praise!

Easter Sunday 17th April 2022

6pm to 7.30pm

Christ Church Orpington, Charterhouse Road BR6 9EP

Come join and sing along to gospel favorites like 'Oh Happy Day' and some well known hymns too.

With some spoken word and time for reflection.



Let's celebrate Easter evening with singing.

