



Christ
Church
Orpington

Family News, 16th April 2022



What Does Easter Mean?

What does Easter mean? Let me suggest three things that we all need to know and need to remember.

First, Easter is about God's *involvement* with us. Some people believe in a God who is like some orbiting satellite, floating high above the earth and viewing us all with curiosity but no concern. The God of the Bible is not like that. At Christmas we see how God's love for the human race compelled him to become one of us in Jesus, but at Easter we see how deep that love made him go. Here Jesus descends to the worst depths of human experience; he is betrayed, abandoned by friends, given a sham trial, tortured and then brutally executed. He is not like some celebrity who, in the face of a tragedy, turns up for two minutes, poses for a brief video clip and is then helicoptered away. Jesus is described as 'Emmanuel: God with us' (Matthew 1:23) and Easter reminds us that he didn't opt out from being 'with us' when things got tough. In these days it's thought-provoking that in his crucifixion Jesus would have experienced painful isolation – 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Matthew 27:46) – that he died in agony and was buried in haste. It is a reminder that we have a God who, in Jesus, became totally involved in our world, from accepting a birth in poverty to enduring a death in cruelty. If you are not yet a believer in Jesus, then this is the God who invites you to know him. If you are a believer, then be comforted: in whatever situation you find yourself, Jesus remains close to you. He is involved in all we are and all we suffer.

Second, Easter is about God's *intervention* for us. The good news of Christianity is that God did more than just come alongside us in the darkness of life; he did

something about it. Easter is all about how God intervened in the brokenness of our lives in this world in order to redeem and restore it. At the heart of that intervention for humanity is Jesus' death. On the cross, he grappled with all that is evil and absorbed it into himself. It is as if, in dying, Jesus created a spiritual black hole that drew in and neutralised all those 'viruses' that wreck lives: sin, guilt, evil and even death itself. The Easter story comes in two parts and we cannot linger on Good Friday. Part One ends with a hurried burial that appears to be, most definitely, the end. But there is Part Two: on the Sunday we see Jesus risen from the dead – not just alive but as *life* itself. It is the proof that Jesus didn't just grapple with evil but triumphed over it. In his death, death died. If you are not yet a believer in Jesus, then this is the heart of the matter: an intervening God who takes the sin, guilt and pain that you cannot bear and bears it himself at the cross. And if you are a believer, then be comforted: in whatever situation you find yourself, Jesus is victorious over the worst this world can throw at you.

Finally, the real Easter is about God's *invitation* to us. Wonderfully, God became involved in the human race and intervened for all of us. Yet the important and unmissable part of the Easter story is that it is not merely about humanity in general; it is about you in particular. Jesus offers each one of us an invitation. It is an offer to let him intervene on our behalf, to take our sin and guilt. It is an offer to know the power, love, joy, peace and hope of the resurrection that we all need at this time. It is an invitation that demands a response from you and me. This Easter, why not accept it? And if you have already accepted it, can I just encourage you to trust in it. Let the Easter message that Jesus has died and risen from the dead be with you in all you do. Can I encourage you to receive Jesus Christ or reaffirm your faith by praying this prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross for me. I believe you are alive today and you are Lord and God.

Please forgive all my sins and guilt and cleanse me from all the wrong I have ever done.

Set me free from the past. I invite you into my life by your Holy Spirit. Fill me with your power, presence and peace.

Help me from this day on to follow you.

I pray this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

If you prayed this prayer, Jesus has not only heard it but answered it. I encourage you to read my booklet *Making the Connection* which will reinforce what I have explained here and give you some advice for the future.

Grace and Peace

J. John, Reverend Canon
www.canonjohn.com

What's on...

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

Our 10.30am services are 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.

Easter Sunday, 17th April

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

Monday 18th April

Gospel Choir, 7.45pm until 9.30pm in the Church

Tuesday 19th April

Community Club

Wednesday 20th April

Morning Prayer Meeting, 10am in the Chapel
Café Mosaic, open 9.15am to 2pm
Tea and Toys, 1pm to 3pm

Friday 22nd April

Café Mosaic, open 9.15am to 2pm

Saturday 23rd April

Church Work Morning. See separate notice overleaf

Sunday 24th April

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Evening Worship – Reflect

Sunday 1st May

10.30am Holy Communion
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/88450386635?pwd=eUJXUittTnB3SXNSVUxTbHVOTEJNZz09>

Meeting ID: 884 5038 6635

Passcode: pF8Vc6

Palm Sunday, 10th April

10.30am Service of Baptism & Holy Communion

Welcome

Opening Prayer, Confession

Worship

Song The greatest day

Song See His love

BAPTISMS & RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Bible Reading

Luke 24 v 1-12

Sermon

Intercessions

Peace

Worship

Song See what a morning

Holy Communion

Worship

Song Thine be the glory

Final Prayer & Blessing

6.00pm Orpington Gospel Choir invites you to:

Freedom to Praise!



Come join and along to gospel favourites 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.

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

Community Club, Tuesday 19th April

Our menu is

- Vegetable soup
- Beef casserole new potatoes and seasonal vegetable.
- Bread and butter pudding (hopefully with hot cross buns)
- 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.

Dear all, this is just a quick request to lift up LBC in your prayer.

We have yet another LBC staff worker whose father is dying and expected to pass away in the coming days/hours. Andrejs Prieditis, his father is in a critical condition and isn't expected to survive. This will be the 4th death in the midst of LBC staff since late November. This is a very special period for us with all bereavements and pressures associated with refugees and war. We, especially Ester and I feel very much in the pressure cooker environment, pressed from all sides. Remember us in your prayers. Thank you.

In Christ,
Victor & Ester
on behalf of LBC staff

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."

Cafe Mosaic

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

- Fish & Chips served with mushy peas and tartare sauce

Dessert special:

- Homemade Coffee Buttercream Cake.

THE FRIENDS OF ORPINGTON HOSPITAL

THE FRIENDS OF ORPINGTON HOSPITAL SEEK VOLUNTEERS

The Friends' Shop and Tea bar have been serving the patients, staff and visitors of Orpington Hospital since 1951, over 70 years. If you have been a patient or a visitor during that time, I am sure you will have welcomed the chance to have a cup of tea or coffee and a cake.

During the Covid pandemic, we were not able to open the Tea Bar but managed to open the Shop whenever permitted by the regulations. The Tea Bar was taken over by the Hospital and turned into a Staff Hub where staff could get drinks supplied by the Hospital but more importantly, could find a quiet place for respite and a chance to recharge their batteries.

A new space is being made available for the Staff Hub so that the Friends will now be reopening the Tea Bar. This is excellent news, something we have been waiting and hoping for since March 2020.

We are now looking to rebuild our force of volunteers. Since lockdown a few volunteers have felt unable to continue. We are therefore looking for some new members to help serve drinks and sandwiches/cakes in the Tea Bar and also to serve in the Shop. We work morning and afternoon shifts. Volunteers usually do one shift either weekly or fortnightly.

This is a marvellous opportunity to play a valuable part in the community and also to support the patients, staff and visitors to our Hospital.

If you would like further information or would like a representative of the Friends to come to talk then please call Mrs Jean Mander on 01689 835490.

Answers to **Chain Letters** in last week's service

LOVE	CHEER	WAVE	JOY	PALM	KING
COVE	CHEEP	RAVE	TOY	PALE	PING
CAVE	CHEAP	RACE	TOE	HALE	PINT
HAVE	CHEAT	RACK	WOE	HARE	TINT
HATE	CHEST	ROCK		HARM	TILT
	CREST	MOCK			KILT
	CRESS				KILL
	CROSS				

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

Notices for the next issue of CCO Family News

email them to Vernon vandjmapp@gmail.com

by **12noon Saturday 23rd April** please



Photo by [Pisit Heng](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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.



HOSANNA!!

HOSANNA! Let your praises ring,
The Lord, He lives. Hosannas sing.

Lift up your voice, sing loud, sing clear.
Raise up your hands, the Lord is here.
From wretched cross, from cruel grave
The Lord, He lives. Our lives to save.

He lives! He lives! The Fathers' Son.
Our risen Lord, three in one.

Loud Alleluias, joyful sound,
In Him new life for all is found.
Oh praise Him always, let praise grow
As living waters rise and flow.
And bubbling up, burst forth anew
At what the Lord has done for you.
Share the news that Jesus lives
If you believe, NEW life He gives

HOSANNA! Let your praises ring!
The Lord, He Lives! Hosannas sing!

Christine Amos
02/04/2022