



Christ  
Church  
Orpington

## Family News, 23rd April 2022

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### Bishop's Easter Day sermon

On Easter Sunday - Sunday 17th April - Bishop Simon delivered his Easter Day sermon during the Easter Day service at Rochester Cathedral.

Each year we are primed for Easter Sunday by the events of Holy Week. We know how it starts and how it ends, like a favourite film we watch time and again where we can recite the dialogue as it happens. It enriches our understanding of God's saving work in Jesus every time, but it also makes it hard to stay with and grasp the shocking sense of defeat and bereavement his followers felt in those hours after Jesus expired.

As with all sudden bereavements, there was disbelief, numbness and horror. A profound feeling of being unsafe and in a place where you can't regulate emotion. Where waves sweep over, leaving you gasping for air. There was torpor and despair, and likely that strange jumpiness after someone dies where people can't think straight or conserve energy and end up doing totally unnecessary tasks. And there was also the sabbath, and what more than ever must have felt like a merciless lockdown.

Jesus had promised his friends he would rise from the dead, but there is no sense in the Gospels that they were holding on to this pledge, like people do with crumbs of comfort at the time of death. His words seem to have vanished into thin air, unregistered and unremarked on.

That Sunday morning, they were talking about Jesus in the past tense, when he was about to come at them from the future. Unprepared and unable to make sense of it, the oral traditions of the resurrection couldn't even agree on the sequencing of events. There was no felt need to get the details straight when the headline was as big as this.

Over time, history and those who write it formalise and then interpret events. These histories often become stylised until revisionists come along and have another go at writing the story. But one thing we struggle with is to get inside the minds of people who lived a long time ago. It may be hard, but it's always worth the effort, and none more so than spiritual history, where we share the same Holy Spirit the early followers of Jesus did.

In today's digital culture, there is so much immediate commentary on events that we may miss things that future generations will see more clearly. This will surely be true of the pandemic. Historians will have deep and rich mines of information to access, but they are also

likely to see patterns that we don't because we are the subjects of this history. One such question may be, what did this pandemic do to the nation spiritually? There have been large numbers of excess deaths and therefore bereavements; there has been enduring anxiety and uncertainty. We have spent ages talking about guidance and restrictions over our lives; we have been a bit more willing to talk about end-of-life care than normal. But hardly anyone talks about after life care. True to existing form, we have learned to suppress conversation over what happens next. Children are naturally spiritual, asking questions about God and life after death with no guile or embarrassment. They also learn eventually not to talk this way because grown-ups don't, so that must be how to be a grown up.

For some, of course, there is nothing to talk about because nothing exists after death. But many others have questions and end up suppressing them because they don't want to feel silly or to embarrass themselves. My generation has been highly critical of cancel culture on university campuses, but we have been responsible for our own cancel culture round death. And here's the thing. It matters more deeply than any question we could pose, whether Jesus rose from the dead or not.

St Paul saw this clearly and expressed it in his first letter to the Corinthians. If Christ has not been raised, he said, your faith is futile. End of. But answering this question for ourselves is not something we see clearly today as individuals. Perhaps it all happened too long ago for people to think they need to make a judgment on the issue. Maybe we've blurred fact and fiction, truth and falsehood so much that we're not sure there are meaningful distinctions anymore. Truth becomes my view of an issue, rather than the facts surrounding the issue itself.

But if Jesus rose from the dead, it means he is who he said he was, that what he said matters more than anything you could ever hear, and that we need to make a personal response to Easter Day by giving our lives back to the one who gave his for ours.

And the sure and certain hope of resurrection is not simply personal and private, in the way our individualised society likes things to be. It is embedded in the renewal of creation. Easter tells us a new world is on its way, breaking into the everyday as a taster of what is to come. There is a mystery about the shape of this promised world, which St Paul appreciated. But it is rooted in that very earthy morning in Jerusalem when the risen Christ was mistaken for the gardener. As the late Hans Kung said so pithily: we need to think of heaven as creation healed.

In enabling people to think about this mystery, we help them by speaking clearly of its importance, both for them and for the world. If we collude with the cancel culture round spiritual matters, we deprive people of one of the deepest entitlements of life: to know about God

and his everlasting love for us in Christ. But speaking openly and plainly about this, we should reclaim something of chaos and confusion of that first Easter Day. People do not lead linear and logical lives, with an ordered procession of success and perfection from beginning to end. That's the pressure many feel, but it is crippling and unhealthy. So when we help them to map the Easter story onto theirs, we should make despair and bewilderment, failure and shame a feature of it, because those feelings were still present among the friends of Jesus even after he rose from the dead and had appeared to them.

The fear, anxiety and loss of that early Easter Day is the matrix in which Jesus meets with us and speaks his first and lasting words: 'peace be with you'. The sentence that closes the books on an old world and whispers for us to join Jesus at the threshold of the new.

Simon Burton-Jones  
Bishop of Tonbridge

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

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

by **12noon Saturday 30th April** please

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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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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

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### Dear Friends,

We would be delighted to have you celebrate the 30th anniversary of the LBC's ministry. We will have the opportunity to praise God for His faithfulness throughout all these years and rejoice in His goodness!

**Please confirm your (non) attendance till the 1st of May.**

In Christ, Victor & Ester Petrenko  
on behalf of LBC staff and students

LATVIAN BIBLICAL CENTRE

CELEBRATING  
**30**  
ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATE WITH US!

**JUNE 18, 2022**

Kraslavas Str. 27, Riga, Latvia

GRADUATION  
11:00 (EEST)

MEAL  
13:30 (EEST)

THANKSGIVING  
14:30 (EEST)

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### Church Work Mornings

**Saturday 21st May, 9am till midday**

We would love you to come and join us on this work day. 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

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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)

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.

### Sunday 24th April

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

6.30pm **evening service has been cancelled**

### Monday 25th April

Gospel Choir, 7.45pm until 9.30pm in the Church

### Tuesday 26th April

Community Club

### Wednesday 27th April

Morning Prayer Meeting, 10am in the Chapel

*Café Mosaic*, open 9.15am to 2pm

Tea and Toys, 1pm to 3pm

### Friday 29th April

*Café Mosaic*, open 9.15am to 2pm

### Sunday 1st May

10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

### Sunday 8th May

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

APCM is immediately after the service

6.30pm Evening Worship

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>

## Sunday 24th April

### 9.00am Holy Communion

### 10.30am Morning Worship

Welcome, Notices

Opening Prayer, Confession

#### Worship

Song In the name of the Father

Song Open the eyes of my heart Lord

Song Come people of the risen king

#### Bible Reading

John 20 v 19-31

#### Sermon

#### Intercessions

#### Worship

Song By faith we see the hand of God

Sing Glory 321 Crown him with many crowns

#### Final Prayer & Blessing

**The 6.30pm Go Deeper service  
has been cancelled**

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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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### Community Club, Tuesday 26th April

Our menu is

Pumpkins soup

Roast pork, roast potatoes, apple sauce and seasonal vegetables.

Trifle.

Tea and coffee.

We will be having a short talk from a representative from TWAM (Tools with a mission), a Christian charity who send refurbished equipment to countries in need of them.

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

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81213554546?pwd=cS9xWWhtYWpMRFIQSk45U04zZWREQT09>

Meeting ID: 812 1355 4546

Passcode: mF4mN3

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# WANTED

OUR MOST NEEDED ITEMS ARE:

19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022

• Fruit Juice – Long life	• Tinned Carrots
• Milk – Long Life	• Tinned Sweetcorn
• Instant Whip	• Tinned Mushrooms
• Sponge Pudding	
• Tinned Cold meat	• Men's Deodorant
• Tinned Tomatoes	

PLEASE DON'T GIVE US **FROZEN** OR **CHILLED** ITEMS AS WE DON'T HAVE THE CORRECT STORAGE FOR IT AND IT SPOILS BEFORE WE CAN DISTRIBUTE IT

WE'VE GOT 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**

## 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.

## Children's Ministry – Help Needed

### Holiday Club Helpers

This year we are hoping to run our Holiday Club on **26th, 27th & 28th July**, we cannot do this without the wonderful help of our volunteers. It is great fun and a fantastic way to share God's love with the children. We are hoping to join forces again with KICK who provide excellent games and activities and the children to have a great experience learning about Jesus and gaining new skills. If you are free and would like to help, please contact Jo Gavin [jo@ccorpington.org](mailto:jo@ccorpington.org) for more information.

### Messy Church

Messy Church has been a really fantastic opportunity to reach out to new families in our community, in the past we have had to restrict numbers this has been due to COVID and number of volunteers. Our tickets are sold out as soon as they are released and we have lots of people on our waiting list. With restrictions lifted and infection levels reducing we would love to open up and increase our numbers but cannot do that without more volunteers. Messy Church is once a month normally 2nd Saturday (**next sessions 14May & 11Jun**), can you commit to helping for 2-3 hours. If so, Jo would really love to hear from you. Please email her on [jo@ccorpington.com](mailto:jo@ccorpington.com)

### Creche

Creche runs every week (except for Christmas & New Year Day) we have a fantastic facility with soft play and toys for our youngest members. Creche is run by a small dedicated group of volunteers, following COVID due to volunteer numbers parents have to remain with their children. It would be wonderful if we could bless parents and allow them to be in the service whilst their children are in Creche but to do this we need more volunteers. If this is something you could help with once a month, please let either Jo or Veronica know or email

[jo@ccorpington.org](mailto:jo@ccorpington.org)

## 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.

## 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

## Orpington Deanery Synod

25 May 2022

7.30 pm for 8.00 pm start

Guest Speaker: Lord Deben  
Climate Control



St Barnabas Church, Rushet Road, BR5 2PU



Lord Deben

Lord Deben was the UK's longest-serving Secretary of State for the Environment (1993 to 1997). He has held several other high-level ministerial posts, including Secretary of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1989 to 1993).