

Family News

7th January 2023

Archbishop Justin's New Year message 2022-2023

"This past year, we came together to mourn and celebrate, Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

I met many people from all over the world who queued to pay their respects. People looked out for each other day and night.

It's one thing to do that for a few hours, another when we need to give or receive care day after day. Then we all need help.

Like many I rejoice that elderly relatives like my mother are still around. Their memories, their presence, their independence, are precious. Caring for them, loving them, is a privilege after what we have received from them.

Whitstable, in the Diocese of Canterbury which I serve, is a wonderful town. Like many coastal areas it has a high proportion of elderly people. People here – like everywhere– are dealing with rising costs.

Care homes are struggling too. Bills have risen; hiring and keeping staff is a challenge.

Why work as a carer when you might get paid more in less demanding jobs?

Caring's not easy. Good carers are wonderful people to be valued.

Like Anne: who has worked as a carer at this care home for over 42 years.

We know our care system is broken: but it doesn't have to be. We can rise to the challenge of fixing it. That means action from all of us; you, me, families, communities and government.

In a few weeks' time, the Archbishop of York and I will publish a significant report on social care. It will offer a hopeful vision of our society. One where no one is held back, over-looked or treated as a burden – where families and unpaid carers get support too.

Caring goes to the heart of what it means to be human. It's hard, but it can also be the most life-giving thing we ever do. It comes back to that essential lesson: we need each other.

Jesus reminds us of the value of every single person, young or old. He challenges me to love everyone as I know he loves me.

For love alone, Jesus came into our difficult world. I pray that in the hard times and the good, you find yourself loved and cared for.

And I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBc13O8oPFc>



This year in my New Year message, I had the privilege of visiting a Care Home, Bradbury Grange in Whitstable where I met residents and carers. Caring's not easy, and care homes are struggling. Caring goes to the heart of what it means to be human. It's hard, but it can also be the most life-giving thing we ever do. It comes back to that ...

Sunday 8th January 2023 Epiphany Sunday

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

Welcome, Notices

Opening Prayer, Confession

Worship

Bible Reading

Matthew 2 v 1-12

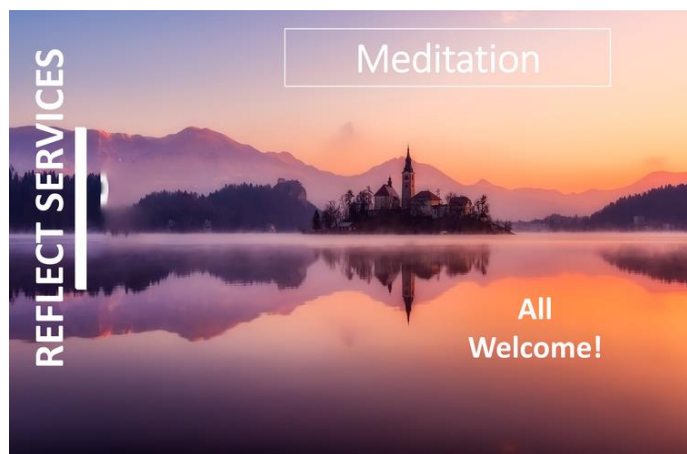
Sermon

Intercessions

Worship

Final Prayer & Blessing

6.30am Evening Worship – Reflect



For online zoom coffee after morning church **today**
(Sunday 8th January 2023)

join **Heather Kroiter** from 11.45am:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/84610974627?pwd=Z1g4TzIvVFVtcEUxeGRWb1FLUDVvZz09>

Meeting ID: 846 1097 4627

Passcode: R4V5My



Next issue of **Family News** is

Saturday 14th January 2023

Can you please send notices etc to

Vernon by **12noon** that day **please**

for inclusion in Family News

Email is **vandjmapp@gmail.com**

Children's Minister

Available until 26th January 2023

Key Features

- **£16,700 to £19,800 (£23,000 to £26,000 annually full-time equivalent) subject to demonstrated skills and experience**
- **School term time only, plus an annual "Holiday Club" in late July.**
- **The number of paid hours is 25 hours per week all worked in term time and later in July, plus a further 5-weeks paid annual leave.**
- **A job share possibility is available.**
- **Interviews are anticipated to be in February 2023.**



Christ Church Orpington is a medium-sized, evangelical church which is looking to appoint an experienced and talented Christian to lead our Children's Ministry.

Do you love growing relationships with children and encouraging them to develop their awareness of God in their lives? When you pray, is God calling you to do so at Christ Church Orpington, either for the full role or even in some part? If so, please read on!

Various Children's Ministry groups for children aged from 0-11 years old meet on Sundays and some other days of the week. A significant part of the role is working with, leading and motivating a fairly large team of adult volunteers. Effective inter-personal skills to work with children and adults alike will be necessary to fulfil this role.

The contract is for three years initially and is subject to a six months' probationary period.

It is a genuine occupational requirement that the person will be a practicing Christian and we are looking for someone who will embrace our Christian ethos and values. This post will require the successful applicant to undergo an enhanced DBS check and to complete the required safeguarding training.

If you are feeling drawn to this post and wish to receive an information pack and an application form, please contact Anna Carey via email at ccorpington@talktalk.net Completed application forms should be back with Anna

by **26th January 2023.**

Café Mosaic

Specials this week are

Steak slice served with Chips and Beans

Dessert

New York Cheesecake

Dear Family at Christ Church,

Happy New Year!

We want to thank you for your generous gift of £759. We thank the Lord for your support throughout all these years.

Many blessings to you and Christ Church.

Victor, Ester & Lukass

2023 Services at Christ Church Orpington

Sunday 8th January

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

Sunday 15th January

10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Holy Communion - Go Deeper

Sunday 22nd January

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

Sunday 29th January

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

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

Northumbria Daily Prayer

You are invited to come along to Daily Prayer at 9.00-9.20am in the chapel on Mondays and Tuesdays.



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

Dates we are meeting in January are:
9th and 10th, 16th and 17th, 23rd and 30th January.

Community Club resumes on Tuesday 10th January 2023

Andy will be leading our morning reflection at 11am.

Our Lunch Menu is

Carrot and coriander soup
Cottage pie and vegetables
Birthday cake and fruit.

We will be celebrating Margaret Ball's 90th birthday.
Happy birthday Margaret.



WANTED

OUR MOST NEEDED ITEMS ARE:

Tinned Potatoes

Sponge Puddings UHT

Jelly

Angel Delight

Men's Disposable Razors

Baby Shampoo

Long Life Carrier Bags

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 & BISCUITS

**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**

CAP
LIFE
SKILLS



With you on
your journey to
a brighter future

Charity Registered No. 1097237 (England & Wales), SC038778 (Scotland) CAP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Product code: 205238v4

Join our friendly group and
gain skills to lift the pressure
of low income life

Wednesdays 10:30 – 12:30
Unity Church, Rye Crescent,
Orpington,
BR5 4NH

Starting 18th January

For more details and to book
a free place contact
Alison
07843 194981

Electoral Roll

- 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?
- Have you formulated your New Year resolution yet?

If not why not make 2023 the year you put your name on the church Electoral Roll as a commitment?

There are also advantages in doing so. One is the fact that you can hire the church hall for that upcoming family celebration at a reduced rate.

Application forms can be found at the back of church together with an explanatory leaflet 'Belonging and the Electoral Roll'. Complete the form and return it via a church officer or myself.

Roger Wilkinson

"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

Cafe Mosaic

Cafe Mosaic is in need of more volunteers to keep providing a good service to our customers. Can you help between 9.00am – 2.30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays during term time.

If you can't do an entire shift an hour or two would be great or even be on a reserve list to cover illness or holidays. Our team has got smaller and we will lose another person if not more in 2023

For more information, contact Jeanette on
07445477710, email jeanettexox@hotmail.com

Archbishop Justin's sermon from the Christmas day Eucharist at Canterbury Cathedral:

Come Holy Spirit and light our hearts with the fire and the joy of your love. Amen.

I join the Dean in wishing you a very, very joyful and wonderful Christmas. It's so amazing to be together again after three years of considerable disruption and it's wonderful to see so many in the Cathedral this morning.

Yet today on this day of joy and celebration all around the world we are conscious of darkness. At the beginning of Advent, with a small group of colleagues, we stood in a churchyard in Bucha, in Ukraine, by a mass grave found after Bucha's liberation in the spring. On the way we'd paused at a ruined bridge, the only route out of the town for residents seeking to escape the occupation, lined with crosses, tied roughly to the wire that marked the planks you should tread on, lined with the crosses each showing someone who had died trying to escape through the broken spans of the bridge. Where then is the great light? Where is the triumph and the truth of the words from John's gospel, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

When we're honest, it seems to many of us that the darkness this year has often seemed to overcome. What of the evils that are being inflicted to this day on the suffering yet courageous people of Ukraine, as they continue to endure and resist Russia's unjust and brutal invasion of their country?

What of those in this country who will be cold and hungry today, as the cost of living crisis continues to cause such immense anxiety and hardship? I met many the day before yesterday in a food bank at All Saints Church, around the corner.

What of the women in Afghanistan, deprived of education and all human decency?

And even yesterday, Christmas Eve, a call came concerning South Sudan, threats of fresh instability, even war launched by some of its leaders, where millions already face famine. Where is their light?

The message of course in this world to those who have chosen to invade Ukraine, to those who rule South Sudan and other such suffering countries is first that the world does watch, does care and will hold rulers responsible for justice.

But astonishingly our commitment to justice springs from God's light in the darkness. This baby? Given in mercy-inspired-by-love, who is the true God who empties himself to become fully human.

Compare such a love to those rulers who grasp at power. Contrast the behaviour of her late Majesty, who in obedience to the Christ Child lived a life of service and put her interests after those of the people she served.

Whose name will be remembered? Who will be welcomed by God in heaven? In South Sudan let them make peace, as Pope Francis implored the rulers in 2018, kneeling at their feet during our joint retreat in the Vatican. In Ukraine let Russia withdraw. Let there be a ceasefire, as the whole world longs for.

But even where the world forgetfully turns a blind eye to injustice and suffering, pays no attention to a war, God is present through Jesus in the world. God does not give up on a darkness-loving world.

The song we sing, Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel - the title Emmanuel, God with us - tells us that God sees and acts. Though rulers may, just possibly, escape human justice, they will never escape the judgement of God who especially loves the poor and afflicted. Let that be remembered by those in Russia and South Sudan and in the 50 other wars around the world that the UN records, (how many can we name in our own minds) who pursue war those rulers and loose all the forces of hell.

In this child Jesus, God Himself, God shows that he does not give up on us.

And that is truly why we are here. I hope and trust at the depths of our being. Yes, the music is wonderful, the choirs outstanding, the building is beautiful beyond description, the service is inspiring, the sermon. ... well, let's pass over that! Yet none of those are an end in themselves.

For we are here to meet Jesus. He is God's gift of life and light. And when lives and hearts are open to him, as the Carol "Oh Little Town" says,

Where misery cries out to Thee,
Son of the Mother mild;
Where Charity stands watching
And Faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.

It's verse four in the traditional version.

In Jesus Christ, God reaches out to each one of us here; to you and to me. Reaches out those small hands of a little baby. God reaches out to those whose family have no resources around us in this country today, into the dark cells of prisons, into the struggles of hospital wards, to those on small boats, to the despairing, and even to the condemned and

wicked, and God says, "Take me into your heart and life, let me set you free from the darkness that surrounds and fills you, for I too have been there. And God says, 'In me there is forgiveness, hope, life and joy, whoever and wherever you are, whatever you have done.'"

And that is why, even in Bucha, among all the horror, the darkness does not overcome the light. There we met the local priest, who told me how they had disinterred the dead from the mass grave and buried them with dignity amidst the war. There in South Sudan are the church leaders who build communities of peace as they are harried, hunted and chased from one place to the other, as refugees.

The Bishop who is Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, Bishop Anthony Poggo, has in his life been a refugee three times, and yet the light of Christ shines from him.

And there are all those in this country who open their hearts and homes to those seeking asylum, love their neighbours far and wide, serve their communities. They serve in food banks. The youngest volunteer I met on Friday, just down the road at All Saints, was 10 years old. They crew lifeboats and Border Force patrols. They serve in hospital wards and hospices like The Pilgrims Hospice, where I saw them yesterday. In daily life the love of God pours from them.

All over this country, all over the world, there is a rebellion. There are echoes of the defiant joy-filled refrain of the angels, who sang and danced before the shepherds. Before the shepherds: people that society thought mattered the least. Acts of service in love are the weapons of this rebellion by those who have not given up on others - imitating the love of God who gives up on no one. They are rebels who choose light in the darkness and life in the face of death, and love amongst the indifferent, and in so doing, know it or not, dance and echo the voice of the angels.

Love is the opposite of turning away and giving up on each other. This is how God responds to the darkness. Through Jesus something new – unprecedented - is at work in creation. The unconquerable light shines in the darkness, the angels sing, the Magi travel and even Herod cannot defeat a small child.

And through Jesus, God calls every person – all of us, all of you, and me - to be the bearer of an alternative possibility to the darkness. For Jesus Christ is the remedy for the sadness and suffering of the world.

We must not give up on each other, for God does not give up on us. God frees and forgives through this child. Forgiveness is difficult, it was made possible by God emptying himself, hanging on a cross. Forgiveness feels impossible but forgiveness is the indispensable foundation for a world that seeks hope and loves the light and desires kindness and mercy, and forgiveness is the testimony of the Christ Child.

Like the shepherds, we are invited to welcome Christ into our lives. The question to each of us, to every person here, is will you open your hearts and future to Him, consciously, deliberately, explicitly? For in doing so we each and all will find that His presence brings light and life and freedom to all our relationships. And we become the source of that light and life and freedom in the world. So let us go out from here, wherever we are, online or physically here, let us go out as those inspired like the shepherds, to 'glorify and praise God for all we have heard and seen.' Not just in silence of our inward living and our hearts but in the cries and shouts and dancing and songs of those who are transformed by the Christ Child.

Amen.
