



Family News

18th March 2023

Reflection

Dear Christ Church,

On my morning coffee mug there is a picture of a very pretty blue and yellow butterfly and the words "Be you, be free". I don't think it's from a Christian gift shop, but think it is more an inspirational saying to lift the user's spirits as they sit and enjoy whatever is inside it, and dream of what life would be like if they could be free – free from all the drudgery, free from having to work, free from people telling them what to do, free from financial difficulties, free from difficult people... in fact free from all the difficulties in their lives. And if only they could be free from all these things, then they could truly be "themselves". Or maybe someone might look at it from the other direction that if they could be truly themselves, then they could be free. If they could only do what they wanted to do, with nobody to step in the way and stop them or tell them it was wrong, express whatever they felt without the incumbrance of what other people thought, then they would be truly free...free to say to themselves "If it feels good, do it", and if somebody doesn't like it, then that is their problem.

And at first glance this might look like the way to freedom. But when we read what God has to say about freedom, we find that it is in fact the opposite! If we give in to all these desires, and live a self-centred life around ourselves and what we want to do, we actually end up a slave to it. Some of the richest people in the world who could do and have almost anything they wanted have ended up some of the unhappiest, as they realised that true happiness and freedom doesn't abide in having our own way.

True happiness comes from the freedom to live within the good boundaries that God has set for us. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says that God has set eternity in the human heart – there is a God-shaped whole in all of our hearts and nothing worldly can fill it. Nothing worldly can truly satisfy our deepest longings as we were created by God to live in communion with God and obedience to Him, so we can only find our true selves and true freedom as we turn back to Him and live the way He created us to live.

In living and serving God is true freedom – freedom from what the world says, freedom from what other people say, freedom to trust a God who can answer

all our prayers, freedom from the guilt of our sins and freedom to forgive and let go all those who have hurt us. This is freedom so that we can be ourselves – our true selves - who He created us to be. Amen.

With love and blessings,

Sharon & Andi

Easter Church flowers

First of all, thank you to those who made up the Mother's Day posies.

The flower arranging team would like donations of foliage on **Saturday 8th April**. Please bring foliage to church from 9.30am. We would also welcome volunteers to help with arrangements from 9.30am - no experience needed!

Dear Friends at Christ Church

Thank you so much to all our friends at Christ Church for your cards, kindness, thoughts and prayers at this very sad time.

There will be a Thanksgiving service for Joy at Christ Church on Thursday 23rd March at 1.00pm followed by refreshments in the church hall. It would be lovely if you are able to join us as we give thanks for Joy's life.

Alison Holt & Gillian

Baptism?

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows? Confirmation?

Are you thinking about being baptised? If you would like to be baptised, then no matter what age you are, we would love to talk with you about baptism. Baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime commitment to follow Christ as your Lord and Saviour, and if you would like to know more, then we would love to speak with you.

If you would like to re-affirm your baptismal vows and make a fresh commitment to Christ, then we would love to speak with you.

If you would like to be confirmed, which involves a short course taking you deeper into discipleship of Christ and is the traditional way of being admitted to Holy Communion in the Church of England, then we would love to speak with you.

If you are interested in any of these, then please contact the office on ccorpington@talktalk.net and someone will get in contact with you. Thank you, Sharon

Rev'd Dr Sharon Smith
Vicar of Christ Church Orpington

Sunday 19th March 2023

Mothering Sunday

10.30am Morning Worship – All Age

Welcome, Notices

Opening Prayer, Confession

Worship

Count Your Blessings, Name them one by one
My Lighthouse
Mary, Did You Know

Bible Reading

Ephesians 5 v 8-14

Sermon

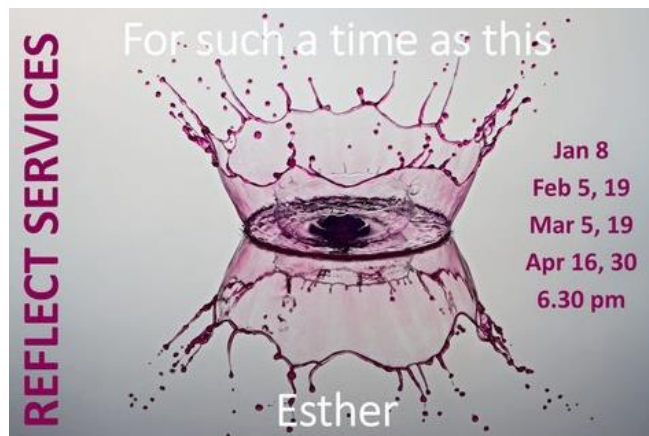
Intercessions

Worship

The Blessing.
Shine, Jesus Shine

Final Prayer & Blessing

6.30pm Holy Communion – Reflect



REFLECT SERVICES

For such a time as this

Jan 8
Feb 5, 19
Mar 5, 19
Apr 16, 30
6.30 pm

Esther

For online zoom coffee after morning church **today**
(Sunday 19th March 2023)

join Heather from 11.45am:



<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/84610974627?pwd=Z1g4TzIvVFVtcEUxeGRWb1FLUDVuZz09>

Meeting ID: 846 1097 4627

Passcode: R4V5My

"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

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 March are:

20th, 27th & 28th March.

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 21st March

Naomi will be leading our worship/study time at 11am. All welcome.

Lunch Menu:

Potato and celeriac soup
Beef and ale pie and vegetable
Rice pudding
Tea or Coffee.

STARFISH MALAWI

The deadline for bibles to be shipped to Malawi by Unity Church is **Sunday 19th March**, so if you have any bibles or scholarly theological books that you would like to donate, then please can you bring them in to church and we will pass them on.

Please note, it is only BIBLES AND THEOLOGICAL WORKS that are being requested this time, NOT CHRISTIAN BOOKS. It may be that "popular" Christian books may be requested another time, but please don't bring them this time.

Thank you for supporting this mission, helping to bring Christ to our world.

Warm Space

volunteers required to help with 'warm space' on a Sunday at Christ Church?

if anyone would like to know more about what is required when helping out, or any other questions, please contact Mandy Callaghan

2023 Services at Christ Church Orpington

Sunday 19th March, Mothering Sunday

10.30am Morning Worship – All Age
6.30pm Holy Communion – Reflect

Sunday 26th March Clocks go forward

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

Sunday 2nd April, Palm Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion – All Age

Sunday 9th April, Easter Day

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 16th April

10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Holy Communion – Reflect

Sunday 23rd April

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

Sunday 30th April

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

Leadership Conference

Alpha (HTB) are running a Leadership Conference in May at the Royal Albert Hall, and here at Christ Church we are going to be showing their streamed conference highlights on **Thursday 25th May at 6.30pm** for refreshments for **7pm start**. All are welcome, and if you would like to have a look before you sign up, you can check it out on:

<https://www.leadershipconference.org.uk/book-now>

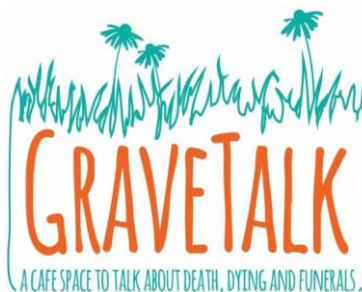
If you are interested, please let Sharon or Anna know. Again, all are welcome to come and hear their insights on leadership.

For next issue of **Family News**

can you please send notices etc to Vernon by

Close of day on Friday 24th March please

Email is vandjmapp@gmail.com



13 May 2023

All Saints Church
Bark Hart Road
Orpington BR6 0QD
2.30pm to 5.00pm
Refreshments provided

Death comes to us all and the thought can be scary. This

free Open Day is for you to explore the various options. It is for everyone regardless of faith tradition or lack of faith. The afternoon consists of a number of speakers, covering subjects such as legal issues, what funeral directors can offer, Palliative Care and Chaplaincy at hospitals as well as Hospice-care.

There is no need to book but if you would like to tell us that you are coming, please contact our Parish Office on 01689 832031

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?
- Why not put your name on the church Electoral Roll as a commitment?

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 Roger Wilkinson

Help!

There's no (few!) children in my church!

Many of our churches face the dilemma of not many children coming along to worship, or no children at all...

Laura Webster, Children and Young People Mission and Ministry Adviser for Bromley & Bexley Archdeaconry will be helping us think through these challenges on **Saturday 1st April** starting with coffee and croissants at **8.30am**, quality input from Laura from **9-11am** then chat over coffee for those who can stay a bit longer. We'll be meeting at the Church Rooms, St Paul's Crofton, Crofton Rd, Orpington BR6 8JE.

Please come along if you a vicar, lay minister, churchwarden, PCC member, part of children's work in your church, prayerfully considering what to do if you have no children's work, or just interested in finding out more.

To help with catering numbers, please let Area Dean John Musson know you are planning to come along – vicar@pcd.org.uk



Loving by Listening

Gail will lead a practical workshop on being a better listener, sharing questions and tools to help our family, friends and colleagues, without feeling we are trying to 'fix' them.



Date: Saturday 25th March 2023

Time: 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Venue: Christ Church

This is a bring-and-share meal event. Please sign up and state what you will bring so we can plan.

CCO Women's Ministry –
God's Diamond, beautiful and unbreakable.

