



Christ  
Church  
Orpington

## Family News

### 1st April 2023

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#### Dear Christ Church

As this week I begin to walk the journey of Jesus' last week on earth, I think of how quickly the crowd who were cheering on Palm Sunday would be jeering less than a week later. I wonder if this was a difficult time for Jesus, accepting praise from those whom He would know would turn and cry out for His death so quickly...and all because He wasn't about to become the Messiah they wanted Him to be. It's heart-breaking and I wonder how they can be so fickle, and then I think of the time before I became a Christian – when I would have been one of those jeering - and I am so grateful for His mercy and grace.

I wonder if it was also difficult for Him looking at His disciples, whom He knew were all going to desert Him as the prophet Zechariah [13:7] had prophesied "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered" which He Himself had quoted to them on the night of His betrayal in Matthew [26:31].

I think this must have been a sad and lonely time for Jesus, as He knew what was in people's hearts – the fickleness of our human nature and how we can get carried along with the cheers when things are going our way, but all too quickly can fall into jeers when it doesn't fit our plans or desires.

As we start with Palm Sunday tomorrow, we walk with Him to His glorious resurrection, by way of His ignominious and agonizing death on Good Friday.

So why do we call it "Good Friday"?

It is because on that day Jesus died in our place for our sins, winning for us total forgiveness, restored relationship with God, and ultimately resurrection to glorious eternal life with Him. That is why it is GOOD!

So please come and celebrate that good day with others in His church.

- 1) We are meeting together with all the churches in Orpington in the town centre at 11:30am for a service to sow seeds among those who have no idea what Jesus has done for them, and give out Gospels of Mark and chocolate Easter eggs.

Please, if you are able, either bring some small chocolate eggs (crème egg size or smaller) when you come to church tomorrow, or bring them to the town centre before the service. If you would prefer to donate some money towards eggs instead – there will be a collection box by the Welcome Desk and we'll buy the eggs for you.

If you would like to help and be one of the Welcomers giving out the eggs and Gospels of Mark, please let me know so I can pass your name onto the team leader. Thank you.

- 2) Later on Good Friday we have our own time of reflection and meditation at 2:30pm in the church, when we gather together for a service to reflect on the Stations of the Cross and prepare our hearts for the wonder and awe of the resurrection on that first Easter Day.

Looking forward to seeing you there, and you are welcome to bring whoever you would like.

Every blessing for a wonder-full and meaning-full Easter.

Sharon & Andi xx

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### 2023 Services at Christ Church Orpington

**Sunday 2nd April, Palm Sunday**  
10.30am Holy Communion – All Age

**Thursday 6th April, Maundy Thursday**  
8.00pm Service

**Friday 7th April, Good Friday**  
11.30am Churches Together Service, Market Square  
2.30pm Reflective Meditation in the church

**Sunday 9th April, Easter Day**  
10.30am Holy Communion

**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

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# Sunday 2nd April 2023

## Palm Sunday

### 10.30am Holy Communion – All Age

#### Welcome, Notices

#### Opening Prayer, Confession

Worship

#### Bible Reading

Matthew 21 v 1-11

#### Sermon

#### Intercessions

#### Peace

Worship

#### Holy Communion

Worship

#### Final Prayer & Blessing

### No evening service

For online zoom coffee after morning church **today**  
(Sunday 2nd April 2023)  
join Heather from 11.45am:



<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/84610974627?pwd=Z1g4TzIvWFVtcEUxeGRWb1FLUDVuZz09>

Meeting ID: 846 1097 4627

Passcode: R4V5My

#### Easter Church flowers

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!

#### 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.

### evangelistic concert

St Mary's are putting on an evangelistic concert on the Green near Green Street Green High Street on **Saturday 17th June 2023**, and are appealing for volunteers and help to run this event. There will be a covered stage for the performers and will run from 12noon until 6pm. GSGBC choir will lead the start and there will also be Andy Mayo and his band supplied by Ministry for Music.

There will be a marquee for messy church, food, and prayer and healing lead by Mike Ruffhead from GSGBC. There will be a preacher, not sure who at the moment.

It is a free event and everyone is welcome. If you would like to help or get involved please let St Mary's know through [arjcservicesltd@gmail.com](mailto:arjcservicesltd@gmail.com). It should be a good day, and it needs a good number of volunteers to make it safe and enjoyable

### Community Club, Tuesday 4th April

This is our last lunch before our easter break.  
We return on 25th April

#### Lunch Menu:

Lentil and tomato soup

Roast lamb with mint jelly, roast potatoes and vegetables

Chocolate sponge and chocolate custard.

### 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 for April and May are:

**24th and 25th April**; 9th, 15th and 16th May.

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)

### For next issue of **Family News**

can you please send notices etc to Vernon by

**Midday** on **Saturday 8th April please**

Email is [vandjmapp@gmail.com](mailto:vandjmapp@gmail.com)

## Spinnaker Easter newsletter



Katie, Barbara, Jo and I have had another busy term visiting schools and sharing our 'It's Jesus' collective worships. We're very thankful that so many local primary schools continue to invite us, and that we have been asked to visit a few new schools next term.

We've continued sharing events from Jesus' life and his teachings. Most importantly, in the last few weeks of term, we have been sharing the events of Holy Week, using our collective worships of 'Passion Party' about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the Last Supper, 'Passion Pain' about Good Friday and 'Passion Praise' about Easter Sunday. All three are accompanied with wonderful and thought-provoking illustrations from Sarah Horne, which I would thoroughly recommend you viewing on the [Spinnaker website](http://www.spinnaker.org.uk/pages/4-resources) ([www.spinnaker.org.uk/pages/4-resources](http://www.spinnaker.org.uk/pages/4-resources)), or the [Facebook page](#). The children have listened intently to the retellings of the events and engaged with the reflections.

We've also been invited into two schools to give lessons on different aspects of Easter, sharing why it is so important to Christians and answering the children's questions (as best as we can!)

Please pray for all the children (and teachers) that we have met and shared the Easter message of God's love and forgiveness.

Jo left the team at the end of February, due to change of job, but is still in touch. We thank her for all her fantastic work over the years, especially with The Highway school.

Would you like to sponsor one of our wonderful 'It's Jesus' assemblies? Some are already sponsored by Orpington churches and individuals. You receive a certificate, the accompanying illustration and updates on the assembly.

See [Sponsor a Spinnaker Assembly](http://www.spinnaker.org.uk/pages/sponsor-a-spinnaker-assembly) ([www.spinnaker.org.uk/pages/sponsor-a-spinnaker-assembly](http://www.spinnaker.org.uk/pages/sponsor-a-spinnaker-assembly)) for more information.

We now have a [Spinnaker Orpington Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/spinnakerorpington) ([www.facebook.com/spinnakerorpington](https://www.facebook.com/spinnakerorpington)) where you'll be able to follow our adventures!

Please follow us for updates as I'll be sharing our activities in local schools.

Thank you for your support!

Caroline Rous  
Orpington Hub Leader

## Good Friday Event

It is wonderful to be able to join together as Churches across Orpington on Good Friday, reaching out to our town with the Good News of Jesus. Please do come down to the town centre for the 11:30am service. We would also love it if you can help in one or more of the below ways:

1. Join the Welcome Engagement team on the periphery of the event encouraging people to listen to what is going on
2. Bring your curious but not yet Christian friends to the event
3. Bring small Easter Eggs (Cadbury's creme egg size or smaller) on the morning that the Welcome/Engagement team can give out



Please let Sharon know if you are willing to help with #1 so she can let the organising team know. Thank you

A poster for the Good Friday event. The background is a light yellow circle. At the top, the text 'GOOD FRIDAY' is written in large, bold, black letters. Below it, '7 APRIL: 11:30AM' is written in smaller black letters, followed by 'Orpington Market Square'. In the center, there is a silhouette of three crosses on a hill. To the right, there is a logo for 'Churches Together in Orpington' which consists of a red cross and the letters 'C', 'T', 'O' in a stylized font. At the bottom, there is a dark grey banner with white text that reads: 'Join with churches across Orpington to worship, celebrate Good Friday and share the good news with our town. Everyone is welcome!'.

## 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

# Café Mosaic

**\*\*Closed for Easter\*\***

**Last day Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March.**

**Re-opens Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April.**



*We will have a St George's Day Special on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April complete with a decorated cafe and folk music!*

**ST GEORGE'S DAY SPECIAL TO INCLUDE:**

**TRADITIONAL TOAD IN THE HOLE**

**&**

**HOMEMADE STRAWBERRY CHEESECAKE**

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

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## 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](mailto:ccorpington@talktalk.net) and someone will get in contact with you. Thank you, Sharon

Rev'd Dr Sharon Smith  
Vicar of Christ Church Orpington

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🎉 "Save the date?!" 📅 🖋️

🙌🙌 Yaaaaay!! 🙌🙌

It's that time of year again already!!

I am **Philippa Allen**, one half of your new Children's Ministers at Christ Church Orpington, and I am so excited to start planning our **annual Holiday Club** this summer!

I would love all you possible volunteers of all ages to double-check your calendars at the usual "first week after Summer Term school breakup".

**Please can you let me know as soon as possible if, hypothetically, you might be free, willing and able to join me in some way on the Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday mornings, 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023?**

I want to send out a similar "Save the Date" message to our potential families and children as soon as I can this week, when I have a rough feel of how many lovely helpers we might have for those 3 days, and for the planning or prep beforehand!

**We LITERALLY cannot do this without you**, so please do check, pray, and ask our wonderful Father God how He might use you this year?!

Also, I would love to meet as many of you new/old helpers as possible at a church meeting in April, just after Easter. Come and meet the team, and share your thoughts and ideas about all the roles and the fun we can share with the kids and Jesus –

so **watch this space!**👁️👁️

I look forward to hearing from you all - you can email, text, ring or WhatsApp me, catch me after a service or leave me a little note with Anna in the Church Office, whatever you like!

Thanks so much for everything you do, keep praying, and **RSVP about 25-27th July**?!

God bless, **Philippa/Pip Allen**

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

07989 389 469

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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

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A photograph of a person sitting on a brick wall, leaning against it. They are wearing a grey t-shirt and blue jeans. They are holding a black Bible with 'HOLY BIBLE' written on the cover. They are also wearing a white wristband with 'LIFE ADVENTURE' written on it.

# The Big Picture

## 12 Week Discipleship Course

Wednesdays  
7pm coffee  
7.30pm start

19th April to  
12th July

(excluding half-term  
31st May)

Please sign up on Welcome Desk. Course book will cost £10.70 –  
speak to David Kirby Smith or Sharon

## Good Friday

**A reflective service of  
Stations of the Cross**

**2.30pm Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

**Christ Church Orpington**

