



Family News

8th April 2023



Bishop Jonathan's Easter Message

One of the most encouraging things about the Bible is that it is full of stories of failure. Stories of people who have made a real mess of things, but whom God has turned around and given a fresh start. People like Jacob and Joseph, like David and Peter and Paul, and many more besides.

I find that encouraging because it offers hope for me and for our world. We mess things up and get ourselves in a right pickle, but God can still intervene and create something wonderful, far beyond anything we could have imagined.

And that is the heart of the meaning of the Cross and Resurrection, of the events of Holy Week and Easter. Jesus enters Jerusalem triumphantly on Palm Sunday, but by Good Friday morning he has been arrested and the crowds that had welcomed him are now baying for his blood. He is crucified, deserted even by his friends, and finally laid to rest in a tomb hewn from the rock.

Dead. Buried. End of the story. Except of course that it wasn't.

Three days later, Jesus was raised from the dead and the news of his victory over death began to turn the despair of his friends into joy and delight. And so was born the community of disciples who went on to share the story of what God had done right across the ancient world, until the Roman empire itself bowed its knee to the very one it had crucified.

As things stand in this country, it can feel as though faith is on the retreat, that the message of the crucified and risen Jesus is somehow irrelevant to the world of today, with its complex challenges, and its slick, hi-tech answers to its problems.

But when we stop to think, we begin to realise that we human beings have not got things

quite as sussed as we thought, with climate change and war and the refugee crisis and so many more issues besides. Perhaps after all we are not as clever and as capable as we like to think.

T S Eliot once said that humankind cannot bear very much reality. We try to hide from the mess we have made of our lives and of our world, filling our time and attention with things that amuse and distract us.

But that can only work for so long – and I think we are perhaps approaching a tipping point beyond which we will no longer be able to hide from the truth of what we have done to ourselves and the world in which we live.

Just now when it may seem that the Christian faith is in danger of being forgotten in our society, perhaps this is the time when the message of Jesus' death and resurrection, of failure and new beginnings, has the chance to be heard once more.

Quite plainly, we human beings do not have the capacity to sort things out for ourselves. We need someone to come alongside us and save us from ourselves, someone who can offer us a new beginning and a better way.

Our world needs a saviour – and we as Christians need to let them know just who that is.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Rt Rev Dr Jonathan Gibbs
Bishop of Rochester

Easter 2023

2023 Services at Christ Church Orpington

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

Sunday 9th April 2023

Easter Day

10.30am Holy Communion

Welcome, Notices

Opening Prayer, Confession

Worship

Christ the Lord is risen today
This is amazing grace
Thine be the glory

Bible Readings

Acts 10 v 34-43
John 20 v 1-18

Sermon

Intercessions

Peace

Worship

King of kings (Hillsong)

Holy Communion

Worship

Greatest day in history

Final Prayer & Blessing

No evening service

For online zoom coffee after morning church **today**
(Sunday 9th April 2023)
join Heather from 11.45am:



<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/84610974627?pwd=Z1g4TzIvVFVtcEUxeGRWbFlUDVUzZ09>

Meeting ID: 846 1097 4627

Passcode: R4V5My

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.

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

Closing date for applications is 23rd April 2023

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

"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

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

Mary's "Good" Friday

No! No! That is my son!
Only last week they cried "He is the one!"
Strew palms on the ground as He went on His way.
Oh - I was so happy on that great day.

I thought that just maybe His work was done.
That everyone knew that He was God's son.
Now mine - to keep - as I'd hoped and prayed.
As in that manger a baby - He laid.

But now I see it has come to pass
My son - my Jesus - must breathe His last
The agony that He must bear
As His mother - only I can share

Oh God, my Father, how can this be?
Why, oh why did You choose me?
To bear your son, to suffer this loss?
As I watch my child die on a cross?

Oh God, please make this quick, I pray
Just make this all go away.
The sky is dark - and He has gone
His work on Earth now is done

I'm empty - cannot see to tread
The path back home in fear and dread
Tears blur my eyes - I must leave
To mourn my son - in sorrow, grieve.

By Christine Amos



**With you on your
jobseeking journey**

Join a friendly community and
gain skills to step confidently
into employment.

christians
against
poverty

CAP

Starting Wednesday 3 May 10:30-13:00
Book your free place, contact:
Graham - 07341 369 943
Rye Crescent, Orpington, BR5 4NH
Hosted by Unity Church - includes free lunch
Find your nearest course at capjobclubs.org

Easter Flowers

Thank you to the Flower Arranging team for taking on the challenge of oasis free arrangements this Easter. We are trying to be more sustainable!

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

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

Midday on Friday 14th April please

Email is vandjmapp@gmail.com

Dear friends,

it is time for the LBC newsletter again!

This newsletter comes with a lot of gratitude to the Lord and to each one of you – for your love and support of the LBC ministry. It is our joy to report that the ministry of LBC continues and goes from strength to strength. We consider this as a sign of the Lord's love and care for us as a ministry.

We want to wish you a peaceful and blessed Easter!

With love and gratitude on behalf of LBC staff, students, and teachers, Victor Petrenko

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Dear friends, we are again approaching one of the joyous dates in our annual calendar – the celebration of Easter. The resurrection of our Savior is the foundation of our life, faith and hope here and now and in the life to come! What a glorious perspective!!!

LBC life

Since our last letter many things have happened at LBC during this winter.

- Our students continue to receive training and teaching in different fields.

**Mission studies.** In partnership with the Church of Salvation in Jelgava we had a weekend of training Sunday school teachers. This was a wonderful opportunity for Sunday school teachers to become aware of Missional thinking and approach in their Sunday school activities. The Mission and missional thinking start right from the early age!



**LBC certificate.** Our students had an opportunity to learn about Church history and Church dogmatics. There is a possibility to learn from history in order not to repeat them in the 21st century! We need also to be rooted in faith and Dogmatics course enables students to get deeper in their understanding of Christian faith. As Victor's principal Dr Peter Cotterell in London Bible College once said: "We teach students to understand deeply, so that they in turn, would be able to explain simply".



**School of Preaching.** School of Preaching continues its task of training in the art of preaching. The newly acquired knowledge is combined with the examples of practicing sermons from the students of SOP who went through training previously. It's great to see how knowledge go hand in hand with practical application.



## Counselling training & Bereavement training seminar

Our Counselling training program and the work of the Crisis center powers ahead. This work is two-dimensional. One group of students is being trained in cooperation with Peace & Reconciliation Network @ European Evangelical Alliance and currently we have around 24 students on this level. The other dimension of this training and work happens in and through LBC Crisis center which is led by Anastasija Gaidabrus, herself a refugee from Ukraine, a trained Christian psychologist and counsellor. The work which is led by Anastasija has many levels and dimensions – working with Ukrainian refugees in Latvia, practically training our former students from Level 1 and helping different churches to develop Church-based counselling. As the next step in the development of this important ministry we are currently in negotiations with a Counselling Institute to give our students a Degree in Counselling. Additionally, we had a joy of welcoming a Counsellor Knut Andersen from Norway, who led a seminar on bereavement.

Центр пасторальних служб «СВІТА» і духовно-образовне МІСЦЕ ДУШЕПОПЕЧЕННЯ В ЦЕРКВІ

17. Феврала 2023  
18:00-21:00  
Rīga, Krāslavas iela 27

- Душепопечення, як одної із церковних служб
- основні підходи і принципи практичного душепопечення
- як допомогти людям на основі писання
- хто може бути душепопечителем
- чому душепопечення не є свяченням
- об'єкти душепопечення
- запити і стелти

Буде обговорено: перекази, листівки

Регистрація: <https://www.facebook.com/seraslatvia>

Анастасія Гайдабрус  
Кризовий психолог і консультант з духовної освіти



ВХОД ЗА ПОВЕРЖЕНОМ

**SĒRAS SKOPĒS** SEMINĀRS

Latvijas Bībeles Centrs  
Latvian Bible Center

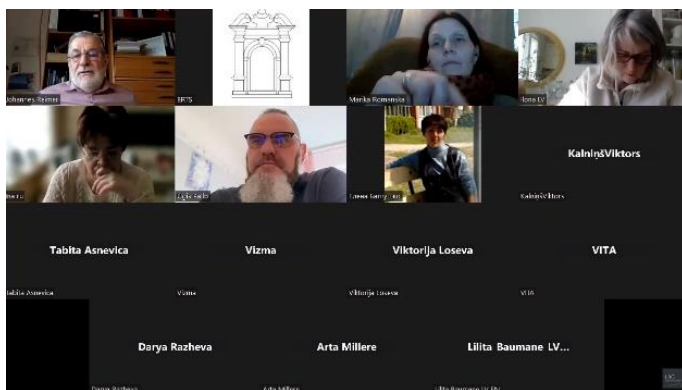
Rīga, Krāslavas ielā 27

3-4/03  
Piektdiena | Pr 18:00 - 21:00  
Sestdiena | Sv 10:00 - 17:00

- Atbilstošā grupa nodarbojas ar garīgajiem (2-3 st)
- Kā iesaistīt cilvēkus, kuri ļaunā veidā un bez cieņām (1-2 st)
- Izmantojot ar cilvēkiem saistītās stāstus (1-2 st)
- Iegādāties labākus līdzekļus bibliotēkai (1-2 st)
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REGISTRĒŠIES  
LBC (MARTI) 1201 MAPTA

<https://ej.us/SERAS-SEMINARS>



**Christianity, Work & Society.** This group of students just finished their program and already going and applying the knowledge, which they received at LBC in their workplaces. This program is designed in such a way as to help our students to realise their missional calling in their workplace.

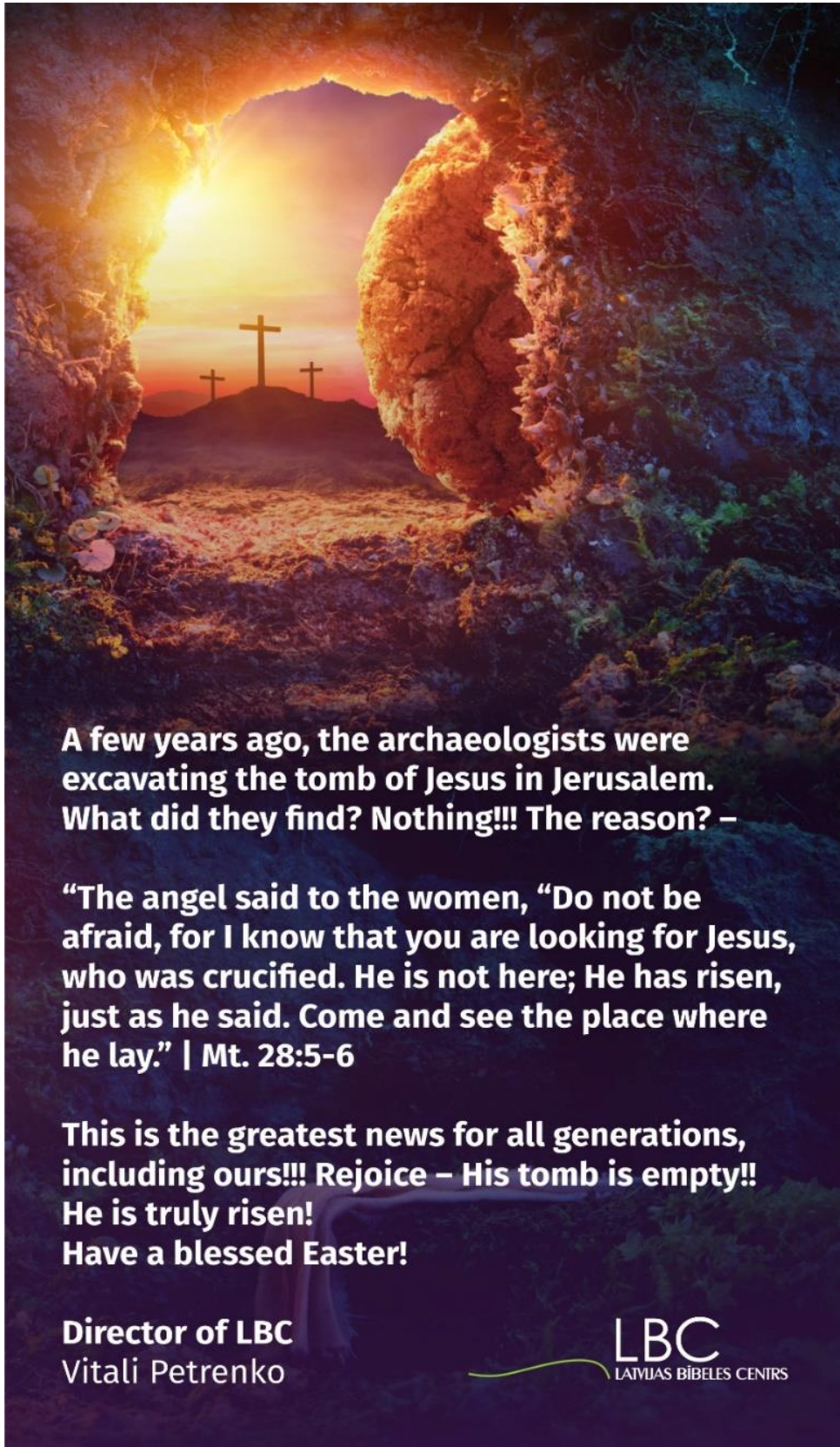
Among those, who studied at this program were social worker, shop assistant, business owners and chaplain. Please pray for them to be a witness for the Lord wherever they are.



**LBC recording studio.** We had the joy of receiving a New Year surprise when we were told by one supporting organization that they will fund a recording studio for LBC. We received the funding already and started working on making all the necessary repair works/adjustments in one of the rooms of Salvation Temple where our studio will be located. Ephraim Shmits, our SOP coordinator is leading this strategic development. This will enable LBC to produce a good quality video and to record the lectures as well as promotional material. This studio will enhance the work and effectiveness of LBC even further! We are really excited about this opportunity.







**A few years ago, the archaeologists were excavating the tomb of Jesus in Jerusalem. What did they find? Nothing!!! The reason? –**

**“The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.” | Mt. 28:5-6**

**This is the greatest news for all generations, including ours!!! Rejoice – His tomb is empty!! He is truly risen! Have a blessed Easter!**

**Director of LBC  
Vitali Petrenko**

**LBC**  
LATVIJAS BĪBELES CENTRS