

Family News

20th May 2023

Reflection

In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, Paul seems to be replying to a challenge from the Corinthian church that he is only bold when he writes to them, but when he is actually face-to-face with them, he is timid, saying that "*His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing.*" If only they could have seen beyond their own lack of Christlikeness, to Paul's beautiful Christlikeness that would earn him a powerful place in God's Holy Word! Sadly, humility and love seemed very far from them.

Paul's reply to them includes

"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

Hmmm...taking thoughts captive to demolish mental arguments and pretensions that are against what God says to us or about us ... for myself, that has been a long journey. I know God loves me "unconditionally, wholeheartedly and continually" – to quote Alex Buchanon, because that is what the bible says. But that knowledge, as for many, took me a very long time to travel from my head to my heart, as my thoughts would try to dismiss it saying that God only loved me because He couldn't help Himself – a bit like a programmed robot – He couldn't possibly love me for "me". As for trying to take thoughts captive – I knew I should, and that it would set me free, but I didn't know *how* to. And there are many, many thoughts that set themselves up against the knowledge of God, that many people struggle with, some leading to unhealthy or destructive thought patterns or actions.

This is one of the things that the Freedom in Christ course addresses, and Craig Groeschel addresses in his book "Winning the War in our Minds", which Pieter has beautifully summarized, and introduced to Men's Ministry last night and our Day of Prayer this morning. You might like to go through his summary and meditate on whether anything resonates with you. I particularly love the Tractor vs Shovel power!

Winning the War in our Minds' by Craig Groeschel

Focus Points:

- i. Control your thoughts because your thoughts will control you!
- ii. The enemy's major weapon against us are lies... what lies do I believe?
 - o *Genesis 3:1-5, 2 Corinthians 11:3 and Matthew 4:1-10*
- iii. Where you are today is a result of your thoughts yesterday and years before
- iv. If you truly want to change your life you cannot just change your behaviour (you will eventually default); you need to change your THINKING e.g. New Year's resolution

Chris✧nity is not about behaviour modifica✧on; it's about the transforma✧on of the mind.

- **A rela✧onship with Jesus!**

- The power you need is the power you don't possess.
 - o We need a higher power – not self-help. "I need power I don't possess."
 - o Tractor vs Shovel power

Ques✧on: What lie is holding you hostage, preven✧ng you from flourishing as God wants?

Try using Gods word, the Bible, to fight against lies....

❖ ***Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. – Romans 12:2***

Let's focus on the passive voice.

It is not what we do - it's done to us!

Three step process if we don't know the lie:

1. Iden✧fy the problem
2. Ask probing ques✧ons
3. Pinpoint the lie

Sharon & Pieter

Sunday 21st May 2023 7th Sunday of Easter

10.30am Morning Worship

Welcome, Notices

Wedding Banns

Opening Prayer, Confession

Worship

Let our praise be your welcome
Purify my heart
Father we love you

Bible Reading

John 17 v 1-11

Sermon

Intercessions

Worship

What a beautiful name
Rejoice, rejoice

Final Prayer & Blessing

6.30pm Holy Communion – Go Deeper

For online zoom coffee after morning church **today**
(Sunday 21st May 2023)
join Heather from 11.45am:



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

Meeting ID: 846 1097 4627

Passcode: R4V5My

Notices for next issue of Family News

can you please send to Vernon by

Midday, Friday 26th May please

Email is vandjmapp@gmail.com

ROCK CHOIR AND KENTONES CONCERT
In aid of **BROMLEY BOROUGH FOODBANK**
Saturday 10th June, 7.00-9.30pm
At Christ Church Chislehurst
40 Lubbock Road Chislehurst BR7 5JJ
Interval refreshments included in ticket price (£12)

Community Club, Tuesday 23rd May

On the Menu:

Broccoli and stilton soup
Sausages, dauphinoise potatoes and
seasonal vegetables.
Rhubarb crumble
Tea or Coffee.

Café Mosaic

Friday 26th May is having a
Cream Tea/Afternoon Tea, 12pm till 1.30pm

Then the café will be closed Wednesday 31st May
and Friday 2nd June for half term, re-opening
Wednesday 7th June



WANTED

OUR MOST NEEDED ITEMS ARE:

- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Cold Meat
- Desserts
- Jam
- Fruit
- Coffee
- UHT Milk

We would also like to start receiving **GLUTEN-FREE** and **REDUCED SUGAR** products if possible.

Please **DON'T** give us **FROZEN** or **CHILLED** items as we don't have refrigerated storage for them and they spoil before we can distribute them.

We've got plenty of:
PASTA, CEREAL & 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**

"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



Hey everyone!

In association with Churches Together in Orpington, Youth Together in Orpington are running a brand-new youth service called 'Summit' This is going to be an amazing event with special guests, and filled with worship, relevant talks and prayer ministry. We want to equip young people, helping them reach new heights in faith and meet the love of God.

Summit will be on **Saturday 20th May**, 19:00-20:30 at Orpington Baptist Church, with snacks, treats and refreshments before and after the service. We are really looking forward to this event and what God has instore for the young people of Orpington!

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

Holiday Home near Aberystwyth

Margaret Ball owns a 3-bed house in Llannon about 12-miles south of Aberystwyth, Wales, which she is willing to make available to people from Christ Church who wish to holiday there. The house was built by her great grandfather in the 1800s, as was the Methodist Chapel just round the corner. There is a double bedroom, a twin-bedded room and a single room, a large upstairs bathroom, a modern kitchen, a couple of reception rooms and a good-sized garden. There is free parking in the road and in a car park opposite.

It is situated next door to a pub which serves delicious meals and is about 100 yards from a general store. It is about a 10-min walk to the beach and the Llanon Coastal Walk.

Anyone wishing to take up the offer should speak to Margaret or make contact through the Church Office on 01689 871601 or ccorpington@talktalk.net. You are invited to make a contribution to Church funds.

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.

2023 Services at Christ Church Orpington

Sunday 21st May

10.30am Morning Worship

6.30pm Holy Communion – Go Deeper

Wednesday 24th May

10.00am Prayer Meeting

Sunday 28th May – Pentecost

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

6.30pm Evening Worship – Reflect

It was meant to be forever!!!



All relationships can be difficult at times. Sometimes, with that one special person that we have committed ourselves to for a lifetime, we can find it is not always the eternal happily ever after we dreamt of. How do we relate and continue to enjoy the wonderful life that God has planned for us when relationships change direction?

Come listen to Rev (Dr) Sharon Smith who has walked this walk and found God in the midst of the pain. Hear what our Father God's heart for a time like this is. You may be able to bless someone, even if you are not personally affected by difficult relationships.

There will be opportunity to ask questions and for those who may feel concerned, we will offer a secret/anonymous question box, but it will have to be handed in beforehand. PS, depending on volume and context, not all questions may be appropriate to address in public

Date: Saturday 27th May 2023
Time: 6.30pm – 9.30pm
Venue: Christ Church



- £5 donation suggested for cost of Pizza and drinks.
- Please sign up so we have a rough idea for catering purposes

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

Dear Christ Church,

In case anyone did not hear Pip Allen's notice after the APCM or see the posters at the back...

Just a reminder of the **urgent**
"no strings attached" meeting tomorrow

What:

"Whatever you wanted to know about Holiday Club/Messy Church/children's work but were afraid to ask" information/exploration workshop meeting!

When:

- this **Sunday, 21st May 2023, 12pm till 1pm**
– i.e. grab a coffee/tea and join in!

Where:

- in the **Large Hall** at church

Who:

- **Everyone! Any age!! ALL ages!!**
(secondary school to 120!)
- "Just curious" and/or experienced
- ALL ex and current & potential volunteers,
i.e. help pass around the baton!
- Anyone/everyone who has ever used any skills*
anywhere which might help our kids' work, and/or
might want to, perhaps, at some point?!?

(See Skills LIST below, on posters and
to be discussed ! *)

How:

- Tea/coffee/biscuits-fuelled Q&A/sharing in casual chat small groups about skills needed!
- plus Top Tips Summary from Pip Allen (Children's Minister for Holiday Club/Messy Church)

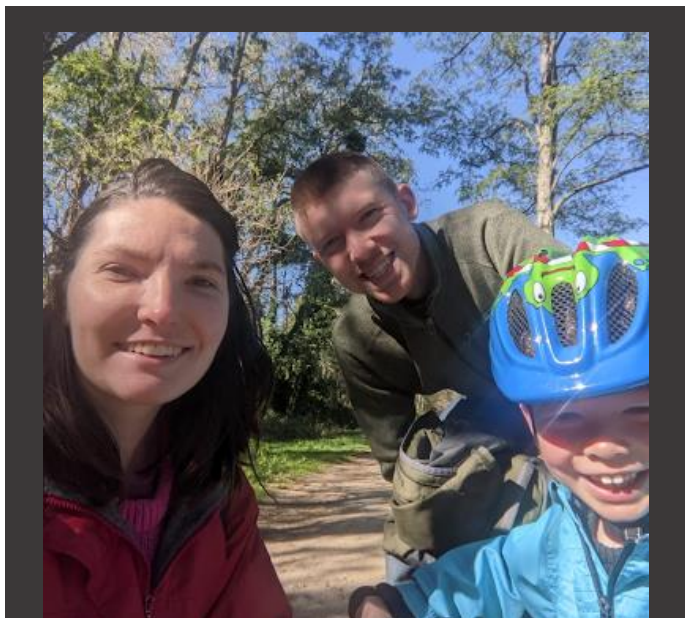
Why:

- Do we want to encourage new & current younger Christians and help God to grow our church??
- If so, we very urgently need to encourage and develop occasional/emergency/regular volunteers of all ages, who might share out the tasks, take turns to develop and share these*

* Just Some Examples! BEFORE/AFTER
i.e. BEHIND the Scenes AND/OR on the Day!

- Praying?!!
- Cleaning, washing-up; ideas; craft prep; admin; creative posters/scenery/props;
- Security; Register; Drinks; Tech Crew; Teachers; Leaders & Helpers for Kids' Groups,
- Craft, Games/activities/dance/sports; Puppets/Drama/Dance/Music 'performers'

Winterburn's May update



Jack, Sarah and Ben, serving in Tours, France from King's Church in Durham

Dear friends, thanks for reading our news and praying for us. As you'll see below April was a crazy time for us! We're thankful for these different opportunities, and also thankful to get back to a slower pace now.

Jack will be in the UK at the end of June for a study week and will pass through Croydon the weekend of the 25th of June. We plan to be in Durham at the end of July/start of August. In both cases we'd love to see you! Do get in touch.



The ECM biennial conference group photo.
A great encouragement to hear about God's work across Europe

Conference, conference

As a family we attended ECM's (European Christian Mission) biennial conference at the end of March, which gathered missionaries from across Europe. I went expecting to meet people and hear interesting and helpful seminars, which did happen, but unexpectedly God took the opportunity to do work in my heart while I was out of my everyday routine.

More recently I attended a conference with *Perspectives* (Jack was at the last one so this was my turn) which is the church denomination we are serving in (used to be known as France Mission). It was interesting to meet people, hear about what is happening across the country and get a flavour for the organisation, which has around 80 churches and a drive to plant more.



The team from King's one on of many times worshipping on the streets (in French as well as English). Two people started attending the local evangelical church after this one.

Mission week - an encouragement all round

One of the things that has stood out for me recently has been a 10-day visit from 7 young adults from our sending church in Durham. They were an encouragement in so many ways, such as:

- Attending the local Christian union at the university, where they joined in with a social and a Bible study, at a time of year when the group were low in numbers due to exam season
- Going to a worship night with an ecumenical community called Chemin Neuf
- Getting to the community centre at 7am to help Jack move tables and prepare for the Braderie (jumble sale) at the community centre.
- Offering 1-1 English conversation with the class I teach at the community centre
- Helping paint the outside of the church building and clear the church yard of weeds and rubbish
- Joining in with a bowling youth social, with one of the team sharing their testimony
- Helping move picnic tables at the Orangerie de Beauregard campsite to prepare for a youth weekend away and worshipping with Tim and Jane from the Bless community.
- Participating in the Sunday morning service in the worship band, giving a testimony and preaching
- ...and more!



The site of the youth weekend away.

Thank God for the number, the engagement and the response of the youth. A great first time, to be repeated!

Giving the youth a <<Boost>> in their spiritual lives

The Weekend Boost was a weekend for 12-18 year olds in the region. There were games, camping, meals together, themed workshops (e.g. Jack ran one on science and faith), worship times (I was leading the band), testimonies from young adults, and teaching altogether on the theme of 'what is the hope for young people in 2023?'. We had over 50 young people come, which for a first time was super encouraging. A Christian couple hosted at their wonderful campsite which had great facilities enabling us to run things both in and outside. I was touched by how engaged the youth were in worship.

Prayer points

- Give thanks for the youth weekend away, and pray for long term fruit in their lives.
- Give thanks for the team from the UK and the encouragement they were.
- Give thanks for the time away at the conference with ECM.
- For us to continue to build friendships in church and with neighbours.
- For the centre region of France where there are many fewer pastors than churches, for encouragement and God's provision of people to lead and serve.
- Ben's frequent ear infections.

Thanks so much for praying. We'd love to hear from you too! Do get in touch. You can also sign up to receive future updates here: <https://kcd.us20.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=9a7fc40583aec2019a2e31b6e&id=ff5b0dbfe7>

Our mailing address is: winterburns@kcd.org.uk.

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
