



Christ
Church
Orpington

Family News

27th May 2023

Do you have a story of how you came to faith?

I was regularly taken to church as a child, and I remember quite strongly the day I decided on my faith. I was seven.

I remember thinking – “If God was real and was a God of love, then people would be singing the hymns to Him with happy faces, not the dead-pan faces they seemed to have to my eyes. If God was real, then He was God 24 hours a day 7 days a week, and wouldn’t be fooled by people’s “Sunday Best” faces and clothes. And if God was real, all-powerful and heard prayers, then everyone would surely be asking Him about how to make every decision of every day, not just make their own decisions. And so, with all the childish wisdom of a 7-year-old, I decided that God wasn’t real, He was made up by clever people to make foolish people and children behave. And I wasn’t to be fooled! My disbelief in God was sealed.

Oh dear! In my childhood “wisdom” I had judged whether God was real or not by His people.

It was a bit like choosing your spouse by the way their work colleagues acted. Or judging a book by the colour of its cover.

I’m forever grateful that many years later God revealed Himself to me for the wonderful, kind, gentle, loving, holy, forgiving, generous, all-powerful, healing, and life-giving God He is.

The church is in the news a lot at the moment, showing a very painful picture of what can happen when leaders (especially) appear to abuse their position and leave their flocks with feelings of pain and devastation instead of life and healing.

Can I encourage all who have been hurt by “the church” not to judge whether God is real or not by His followers, but instead go to His bible, speak to Him, and ask Him to reveal Himself to you, and show you who He really is. Please don’t judge God by His people as I had.

If you have been hurt or have a concern about anyone in the church, leader or otherwise, recent or non-recent, please can I encourage you to reach out for help. Here are some of the ways you can get support

Your church’s Safeguarding Officer for our church is Keith Miller on safeguarding@ccorpington.org

The Safeguarding Lead for your Diocese, for Diocese of Rochester is Greg Barry on 07585 952174

The National Safeguarding Team via safeguarding@churchofengland.org

Thirtyone:eight Safeguarding Helpline on 0303 003 1111 is staffed by trained professionals who provide safeguarding advice and guidance and operate an out of hours service for urgent calls, or email on info@thirtyoneeight.org

Or Safe Spaces, a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England, the Catholic Church of England and Wales or the Church in Wales available on 0300 303 1056 or info@safespaces.co.uk

In an emergency, especially if someone is in immediate danger of harm, you should always call 999 straight away and ask for the police.

Holding in my prayers all those who have been hurt by the Church and commending them for their bravery in speaking out.

Sharon x

Sunday 28th May 2023 **Pentecost**

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

Welcome, Notices

Wedding Banns

Opening Prayer, Confession

Worship

Holy Spirit you are welcome here
Magnificent Trinity
Holy Spirit Living breath of God

Bible Reading

Acts 2 v 1-21

Sermon

Intercessions

Worship
Consuming Fire
Build your Kingdom here

Final Prayer & Blessing

6.30pm Evening Worship – Reflect

For online zoom coffee after morning church **today**
(Sunday 28th May 2023)
join Heather from 11.45am:



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

Meeting ID: 846 1097 4627

Passcode: R4V5My

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)

"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

Notices for next issue of **Family News**

please send to Vernon by

Midday, Friday 2nd June please

Email is vandjmapp@gmail.com

Community Club is

taking a break for half-term this Tuesday (30th May) and will be back on Tuesday 6th June.



WANTED

OUR MOST NEEDED ITEMS ARE:

- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Cold Meat
- Desserts
- Jam
- Fruit
- Coffee
- Adult Toothpaste

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**

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



I Am Mark

A fantastic event at **Rochester Cathedral on Friday 2nd June at 7pm**. It's a dramatic presentation of St Mark's gospel, and as part of our shared mission and ministry throughout the diocese, we are hosting it and making it available free to anyone who wishes to come, either independently, or perhaps with a parish or other group. As an event it seems eminently suited for those who are exploring their faith, or indeed as a dramatic act of witness to the gospel, not only of Mark, but of the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rave reviews have praised the show, so I do encourage you to spread the news, invite folk and come along. The Black Oak Table will also be on show and will perhaps even be a sort of prop for the evening.

Use the link below to learn more and book free tickets on Eventbrite...

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/i-am-mark-tickets-630704101947>

You can simply turn up, but we cannot guarantee that we will not be fully booked or at capacity.

Again, the show is free, and refreshments will be available in the interval.

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.

2023 Services at Christ Church Orpington

Sunday 28th May – Pentecost

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

Wednesday 31st May

10.00am Prayer Meeting

Sunday 4th June

10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship – Go Deeper

Sunday 11th June

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

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

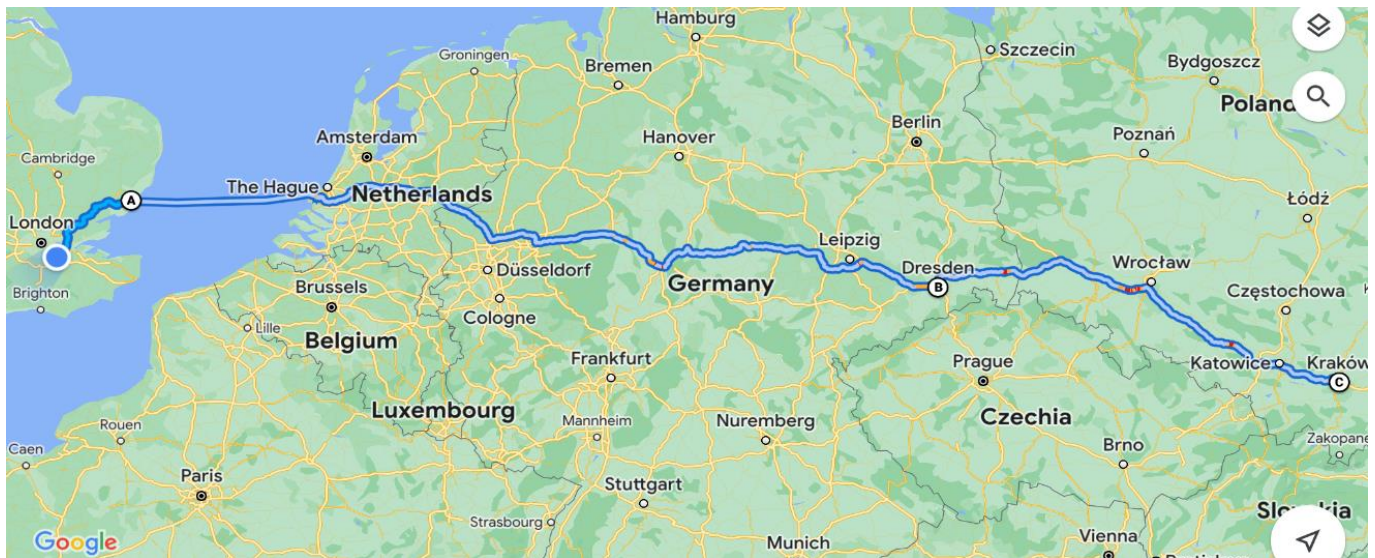
Support and Supplies for Ukraine

As many of you will know; Will Bisley & I are doing another trip to Poland to support Ukrainian refugees. The war is far from over and the circumstances of those displaced by the war are incredibly tough.

We have been absolutely blown away by the generosity of the Mens Ministry group. We put an appeal out for financial support to buy a solar powered battery pack, and within a fortnight we had all the funds. We subsequently bought it and it was dispatched in a previous van with Hope Church, so that they had more use during the sunny months. Kudos to the guys who responded so quickly.

So, we are taking further supplies as we did in December 2022, and we will be leaving Orpington on Saturday the 24th of June and arrive in Krakow late on Monday the 26th. We aim to be back in the UK on Wednesday the 28th of June.

We are planning the same route as before:



Things we really need are clothes, blankets & sleeping bags; as well as the items listed below 😊

If you can assist, please call/WhatsApp Pieter on 07949 031183.



I have left a box for **Paracetamol & Ibuprofen** at the back of the church so please let's see if we can fill that.

With gratitude and thanks, Pieter