



Christ  
Church  
Orpington

## Family News

### 21st October 2023

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#### Biblical unity in practice

I read a really good article this week that got me thinking about the intense disunity we are experiencing in almost every sphere of society nowadays. The article was by Marc Randolph, the founder of Netflix.

Before I share the article, please allow me to frame how I read this; through a Biblical lens with God at the helm of the ship.

*"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe." - Psalm 133:1-2 NIV*  
(a favourite verse of one of my best friends)

God smiles when we strive for unity - we know that! So, when I read this article, written in a secular context, it actually gave me such a good framework of how I can make this practical in my own journey.

I hope you find this as useful as I have:

"\_What was true ten years ago—about technology, politics, demographics, how we communicate...you name it—is often not true today. So, shouldn't our opinions change as well?

There's a great quote by the economist Paul Samuelson (or maybe John Maynard Keynes—it's not entirely clear) where he responds to accusations of flip-flopping by saying, "Well, when events change, I change my mind. What do you do?"

Seems obvious when you just spell it out like that.

So, a few years ago, I decided as a New Year's resolution that I'd try to change my mind about something at least once a month. It turned out to be way too easy.

I started with politics: we are a polarized nation and I've got plenty of opinions about why the other side's policies are so awful. But if the US is split close to 50/50 on most of these issues, I

can't possibly believe that 160 million people are all completely wrong. Or stupid. Or misguided.

So, I decided to approach my beliefs the way I did when I was debating in high school. I had to prepare myself to be able to articulate and defend a certain side of an argument, but I had to do so without knowing until right before the debate which side I would need to argue for. The more I did this, the more I realized how shallow many of my opinions were.

I also realized that this debate-style thought process could be applied not just to big topics like educational reform, homelessness, gun control, immigration, environmental policy, criminal justice, and racial equality, but to smaller and equally heated topics like—to name two recent ones—password sharing on Netflix and the recent writers' strike (and boy, I'm not kidding about the password sharing thing being heated: it's gotten so bad I'm scared to wade into my TikTok comments).

But the whole process has been liberating because I no longer spend my time building the case for why I'm right. I now spend most of my cycles trying to figure out why they think they are.

It's changed my perspective on almost every topic I've looked at. But in almost every instance, this hasn't meant flipping my belief from one side to the other.

Instead, to my surprise, I've simply moved closer to the centre. It's made me acknowledge that these are complicated and nuanced problems that often don't have a single right answer. And in many cases, they require partially unsatisfactory outcomes for both sides to agree on, accept, and move on.

Please pray with me: Lord Jesus, I know I won't always see things the way others see them. I commit to bringing difficult decisions and relationships before your feet. Lord, I pray for wisdom when I evaluate times in my life when there's a lack of unity. I will strive to guard my mouth and my actions with the love that comes from a relationship with You!

Lord, I know, even with my very best intentions I will still mess up. Lord, I hereby ask you to focus my mind on You, and You alone. When things happen that hurts me, that offends me or that diminishes me; I ask that you take control of those situations because I cannot! You are in control and I rejoice in that daily. Amen

Pieter

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# Sunday 22nd October 20th Sunday after Trinity

## 9.00am Holy Communion

## 10.30am Morning Worship

Welcome, Notices

Opening Prayer, Confession

Worship

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty  
Oh, the mercy of God  
Goodness of God

Bible Reading

1 Samuel 24 v 1-13

Sermon

Intercessions

Worship

O Lord the clouds are gathering  
One shall tell another

Final Prayer & Blessing

## 6.30pm Evening Worship – Go Deeper

For online zoom coffee after morning church,  
join Heather from 11.45am:



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

Meeting ID: 846 1097 4627

Passcode: R4V5My

**Remembrance/Christmas leaflets** are on the table at the back of the church for distribution together with a list of local roads. Please consider delivering these leaflets if you are able.

## **Remembrance Day Service**

If you would like to come along to our Remembrance Day Thanksgiving service for the life of a loved one on **Sunday 12th November at 4pm**, please add your details to the sign-up sheet at the back of the church so we can get an idea of numbers to cater for.

## **Family News notices**

Next issue will be 28th October with notices please by

**midday, Friday 27th October**

Send to Vernon at: [vandjmapp@gmail.com](mailto:vandjmapp@gmail.com)

Please note that **Café Mosaic** is **closed** this **week** for half-term

There is no **Community Club** this week.

Normal service resumes on Tuesday 31st October



- **Desserts**
- **Tinned cold meats**
- **Milk UHT**
- **Squash**
- **Men's deodorant**
- **Shaving gel**
- **Multi-surface wipes & sprays**
- **Also in gluten-free and reduced-sugar products if possible**

PLEASE **DON'T** GIVE US **FROZEN** OR **CHILLED** ITEMS AS WE DON'T HAVE THE CORRECT STORAGE FOR THEM AND IT SPOILS 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**



## **Northumbria Daily Prayer**

You are invited to come along to Daily Prayer at 9.00-9.20am in the chapel on Mondays & Tuesdays.

There will be readings from Scripture, a short meditative reading, prayer, reflection and silence.

October dates: **23rd & 24th.**

"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

## Operation Christmas Child 2023



Christ Church would like to support Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child again this year.

Operation Christmas child is the world's largest children's Christmas project, run by the Christian relief and development organisation Samaritan's Purse. Their mission is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

If you would like to support this project by filling a shoebox with gifts; please pick up a shoebox and leaflet on your way out from Church and find out how to send a box of gifts to some of the world's most disadvantaged children. Your shoebox could be the first Christmas present they have ever received in their lives. Please bring your filled shoebox back to Christ Church **on Sunday 12th November**.

Alternatively, you may wish to fill an online shoebox using the Christ Church goal page

<https://shoebonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk/goal-pages/e13b0d1c>

More information about Samaritan's Purse and the Operation Christmas Child project can be found on their website: [www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/)

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the packing of shoeboxes at the processing Centre in Tonbridge you are invited to sign in for a session using the attached link. [Volunteer at an Operation Christmas Child Processing Centre](#)

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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:

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

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## Haberdashery appeal

I'm sure many of you will have heard of Tools with a Mission (TWAM) and the amazing work they do sending pre-loved tools to Africa. But did you know they also send sewing machines and haberdashery kits?

TWAM are currently desperately short of the following haberdashery items:

- Bias binding, lace, interfacing, ribbons, elastic, shirring elastic, Velcro, cords, braids and trims, part reels of cottons, pins, safety pins, needles, thimbles, fastenings including hooks and eyes and press-studs, overlocking cottons, buttons, scissors of different sizes-the older ones for sharpening, buttons and toggles, patterns.
- Fabric – all sizes, as any not suitable for sending to Africa can be used for bags and tool rolls for kits. This includes pillow cases, duvet covers and sheets which we cut for bags of different sizes; upholstery materials and tools.
- Containers for pins – TWAM used to use photo film boxes but now need to look for other small containers – TicTac boxes are ideal!
- The wool department also needs crochet hooks, darning needles, row counters, needle gauges, machine and hand-knitting wool.

If you have any of the items above and are able to donate them to this fantastic charity, please could you leave them in the labelled box at the back of Church.

Thank you!

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## 2023 Services at Christ Church Orpington

### Wednesday 25th October

10.00am Prayer Meeting

### Sunday 29th October

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

6.30pm Evening Worship – Reflect

### Wednesday 1st November

10.00am Prayer Meeting

### Sunday 5th November

10.30am Holy Communion/All Age –

Guest Speaker: Bishop Simon

There will not be an evening service on this date

### Wednesday 8th November

10.00am Holy Communion

### Remembrance Sunday, 12th November

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

4.00pm Service of remembrance

for the life of a loved one

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# BECKENHAM CONCERT BAND

Raising Funds for CAP Bromley

An Early Evening Celebration  
Concert

Music from Fame, Fiddler on the Roof, Miss Saigon,  
and featuring pieces by Gershwin & Sibelius

**SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**  
**6PM – 8PM**

**CHRIST CHURCH, CHARTERHOUSE  
ROAD, ORPINGTON, BR6 9EP**

Conductor: Dimitri Chrysostomou

Refreshments will be available to purchase

Tickets: Adults £12, OAPs £8, children free

Tickets available on the door, or book via Eventbrite:

[https://BeckenhamConcertBand-  
CAPBromley.eventbrite.com](https://BeckenhamConcertBand-CAPBromley.eventbrite.com)

