



Christ  
Church  
Orpington

## Family News

### 25th November 2023

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### Sunday 26th November Christ the King

#### 9.00am Holy Communion

#### 10.30am Morning Worship

##### Welcome, Notices

Nick and Linda's celebration

##### Opening Prayer, Confession

##### Worship

King of love and grace  
The lion and the lamb  
King of kings, majesty

##### Bible Reading

John 12 v 1-7

##### Sermon

##### Intercessions

##### Worship

All I am  
King forevermore

##### Final Prayer & Blessing

#### 6.30pm Evening Worship – Reflect

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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

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#### Family News notices

Next issue will be 2nd December with notices please by **midday, Friday 1st December**

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

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#### Give thanks!

As some of you may know, a few of months ago, Tracy and I did a cycle ride for a charity that raises money for children with severe learning disabilities or terminal illness. We had a great time and cycled some challenging and beautiful roads to and around Brugge for three days. One of the highlights for us was, on the last day of the event, we got to ride with a young lad called Dylan. He was such an inspiration, and it was brilliant to join him on the specially modified 2-person trike he was riding (which the charity bought for his school the year before).

Dylan is now 20 and his story is so incredibly heart wrenching. Dylan was diagnosed as a one-year-old with right sided hemiplegia and diagnosed with epilepsy when he was 4 years old. His parents were informed he may never walk or talk, oh how wrong they were! Dylan's seizures got progressively worse and complex; eventually coming to a head in 2012 when he was diagnosed with Constant Spike Wave Syndrome, where the brain doesn't get a chance to shut down due to seizure activity and Dylan's brain was regressing. Great Ormond Street offered Dylan life changing surgery, resulting in them disconnecting the whole left-hand side from the right side of his brain and removed half of it!

Dylan survived and is now an awesome young man with THE best sense of humour!!

We became friends during that period and have stayed in touch since. We then had the joy of seeing him again at the annual charity ball last Saturday evening. What struck both Tracy and I was the constant joy Dylan exuded; to the point when we asked him how he was, he could not stop telling us how happy he is and how well things are going for him... let me tell you, every day is a struggle for this young man, from the minute he wakes up to the point when he falls asleep at night! But he is thankful & focuses on the good things in his life.

Please join me as we read through the Psalms 107 together. In verse one it starts with:

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his love endures forever."*

I truly believe a thankful attitude enhances our happiness and makes the challenges we face, so much more tolerable.

Now what I noticed whilst reading these Psalms is the repetitive nature of the following verse:

*"Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind,"*

This verse repeats no less than four times, in verses 8,15, 21 & 31; and then chapter 107 finishes with the following in verse 42:

*"Let the one who is wise heed these things and ponder the loving deeds of the Lord."*

As we pray together this day let us list the things, we are thankful for. Take it slowly and name them before God and thank Him for every detail - Amen.

Pieter

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**Community Club**  
**Tuesday 28th November**

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## Community Club Outing

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### 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.

November dates: **27th & 28th**

December dates: 4th & 5th, 11th & 12th.

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**Christmas Choir** rehearsals on **FRIDAY** evenings from **8.00pm to 9.30pm**, in preparation for the Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 17th December at 6.30pm.

All are welcome to join us whether you read music or not. We'll sing traditional favourites and some new music too, so there's something for everyone. If you would like any more information, please get in touch with me.

Liesel 07511 876928 [Liesel@ccorpington.org](mailto:Liesel@ccorpington.org)

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## Mosaic Coffee and Cake Co-ordinator

Are you looking for an opportunity to serve and meet people?

Café Mosaic is changing in 2024. Our Café Manager is going to focus on our normal fayre on Fridays. Instead of the normal Café on Wednesdays we are hoping to have coffee and cakes available from about 10am to 2pm run by a volunteer team. The proposal is that people will make home-made cakes and a small volunteer team will serve coffee and cakes and receive payment on a donation basis.

In order to launch this initiative, we are looking for a volunteer who could organise the running of the Wednesday session including rotas for staffing by volunteers, organising a rota for cake-making and ensuring that the session runs smoothly. Jeanette our Café Manager will be able to give advice but will not be able to manage these sessions.

If you think you might be interested, then please contact the Church Office on 01689 871601 or Alan Goddard on 07985 974048 for an initial informal chat. Closing date to express an interest is 17th December.

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## Café Mosaic is back open !

**Open Wednesdays and Fridays**

**9.15am to 2.00pm** (term time only)

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## Christmas church flowers

The flower arranging team would like donations of foliage on **Saturday 16th December**. Please bring to church from **9.45am**. We would also welcome volunteers to help with arrangements as we have fewer helpers than previously.

No experience needed!

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## Christmas Craft Fair

**Saturday 2nd December**

**10am to 3pm in the halls**

Please invite your friends and family. We would be grateful for offers of help serving refreshments and donations of cakes. Please contact Judith Motto or Mel Bailey

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## Gift Day

Can you please note that **Gift Day** is **Sunday 3rd December** this year **not** Sunday 26th November as stated in last week's Family News

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## Winter Ice!

The facilities team has come into possession of a large quantity of Rock Salt, suitable for de-icing driveways, paths, car parks etc. Buying in bulk has significantly lowered the cost. We are offering 25kg bags for a minimum donation of £12 each to anyone who wants it, just contact Mike or Jim.

A £12 donation will mean the church coffers will get a few quid, and you still get a bargain!  
email: [facilities@ccorpington.org](mailto:facilities@ccorpington.org), or see you around!

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# WANTED

OUR MOST NEEDED ITEMS ARE:

- long life milk
- desserts/puddings/jelly/angel delight
- cold tinned meats
- fruit juice
- Also in gluten-free and reduced-sugar products if possible
  - washing up liquid
  - children's toothbrushes
  - shaving gel
  - men/women deodorant

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

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**TAKE A PHOTO OF THIS LIST  
WITH YOUR PHONE TO  
REFER TO WHILE YOU SHOP!**

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**IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF FOOD SUPPORT  
PLEASE CONTACT US ON 0800 9 20 23 24**

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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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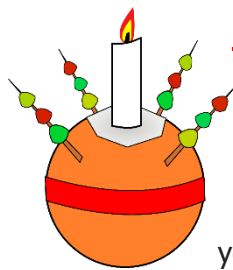
The Data Protection Act 2018 is the **UK's implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**.

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)

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## Christingle news!

If you love thinking about the meaning of Christmas during Advent, please feel welcome to come to our Christingle service this year!

On the afternoon of **Saturday 9th December**, we are combining it with our all-age Messy Church and thinking about the **shepherds' story**, but if you would like to come just for the Christingle as usual, rather than the craft activities and meal, please do! The final timing and arrangements for the Christingle part will be confirmed next weekend, so watch this space!

## Christingle prep Help request!

If you enjoy practical craft things, there are **three Christingle prep jobs beforehand** which we would love to have whatever help you can give this month with these items!

- a) cutting squares of tin foil, and wrapping them round small candles
  - b) counting soft sweets & raisins, and putting them on cocktail sticks
  - c) cutting a cross shape into oranges, and cutting & sticking red tape around each orange.
- If you would like to help with the oranges or tape, Nelson and Ruth will be working in the halls from lunchtime on Saturday 9th December – details to follow!
  - If you would like to help with either of the first two, please join me in our prep workshop session during the morning of **Friday 8th December** in Café Mosaic, **or before this!** – details to follow!

If you have any questions, please contact **Pip** via the church office, or [messychurch@ccorpington.org](mailto:messychurch@ccorpington.org), or **07989 389469**.

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# CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 2nd December, 10.00-15.00

Christmas Decorations

Greeting cards

Crochet, Knitted and Macrame gifts

Jewellery

Prints and Paintings

Pokémon cards and stands

Upcycled Fabric gifts

Fairtrade Bags

Refreshments



**Christ Church**  
**Charterhouse Road**  
**Orpington, BR6 9EP**

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## what's on at Christ Church Orpington

### **Sunday 26th November**

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

6.30pm Evening Worship

### **Wednesday 29th November**

10.00am Prayer Meeting

### **Saturday 2nd December**

Christmas Craft Fair, 10am - 3pm

### **Sunday 3rd December, Gift Day**

10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

### **Wednesday 6th December**

10.00am Holy Communion

### **Saturday 9th December**

Messy Christmas & Christingle Service, 4pm - 6pm

### **Sunday 10th December**

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

6.30pm Evening Worship

### **Sunday 17th December**

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am All Age Crib Service

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

### **Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December**

10.30am Morning Worship

11.15pm Holy Communion

### **Christmas Day, Monday 25th December**

10.30am All Age Service

### **Sunday 31st December**

10.30am Holy Communion

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# Gift Day – Sunday 3rd December 2023

## Dear Friends

As we approach our annual Gift Day, I thought it would be a good time to let you know the present position of the church finances. As you may well be aware we now have been living off our reserves for some years. Our reserves are now quite low and will be unable to cover significant losses going forward.

I reported at last year's AGM that during the previous 4 years we had sustained a total loss of £102,000. Last year, thanks to some very generous legacies of £47,000 we were able to show a surplus for that year of £20,000, reducing the 4-year loss to £82,000.

Sadly, showing that despite every effort to contain our overheads we are looking at a loss of a further £37,000 this year and we have produced a budget that projects a loss of £54,000. next year. Clearly these losses cannot continue and a detailed discussion will be held at our next PCC meeting on 27th November.

So why are we making such large losses? Set out below are some, but not all of the reasons:

1. We have reduced numbers in our congregation.
2. We have sadly lost some very generous givers.
3. Inflation has hit many people's pockets, so donations have not kept up with our rising costs. (Despite this so many of you still give generously and sacrificially)
4. Electricity and Gas costs have doubled.
5. Our Parish share has increased from £78,000 last year to £89,000 next year.
6. We have had to make repairs that we have been holding off for a few years now.
7. Inflation has hit the church in the same way as it has for many of you.

I am detailing below some suggestions as to ways we can increase income and reduce expenditure which will be a basis of discussion at the PCC meeting.

Please pray for our situation which in many ways is better than what is faced by a number of churches.

## **INCREASE INCOME:**

1. Attract more people to join our congregation.
2. Ask people to give a little more each week. If 100 people gave an extra £2.50 a week (less than the price of a cup of coffee) this would increase our income by over £12,000.
3. Encourage people to volunteer to run fundraising events, quizzes, socials etc.

## **REDUCE EXPENDITURE:**

1. Write asking for a reduction in our Parish Share as it is at a level that is hard to sustain.
2. Look at where/if reductions can be made to our mission partners.
3. From next year we are reducing the full cafe to just Friday's with the hope that we can have the Wednesday cafe run by volunteers serving home-made cake and drinks. This will reduce the loss the café makes by at least 60%.
4. We have replaced our Church examiner for someone who will do an equally good job saving us two thousand pounds.

Please feel free to speak to me or any member of the finance team and discuss any worries or concerns you may have and equally any ideas that can be put forward to reduce our loss.

May God bless your continued support.

Derek Foxen  
Treasurer.

PS on a related note our finance committee is now very small and we would welcome new members to share the workload. Ideally new people should have a background in finance or at least be numerate and able to give a 2 or 3 hours each month to help with the finances of the Church.

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*Christ Church - are you on your  
own for Christmas Day?*

*Come and have Christmas lunch at  
the Vicarage...*

*...after the Christmas Morning service*



*11.45am - 3pm*

*For more details and to book your place,  
please contact the church office on  
[ccorpington@talktalk.net](mailto:ccorpington@talktalk.net) or 01689 871601*



SCAN Me to Book!



Church. But not as you know it ...

ALL AGES VERY WELCOME!

Join us for **Messy Fun** once a month

**4-6pm** on a **Saturday** afternoon!

Enjoy creative activities, Bible shepherds' tale, puppets, carols, games & party picnic together

**NEXT**: Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December ~

What's the Shepherds' story?!  
If you like, do come as one of these Nativity people – Marys, angels, Josephs, innkeepers, sheep, shepherds!! Use whatever you already have – prop, hat, whole costume, OR borrow ours!

**"Messy CHRISTINGLE!"**

Christ Church, Charterhouse Road, Orpington, BR6 9EP

**Children must bring their grown-ups!**

Please book via our website, or the QR code to the Eventbrite link

<https://www.ccorpington.org/messy-church>

£1.50 per adult & £1 per child (or £5 per family)

Donations would be very gratefully received!

**Next Date - 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024 ~ the Wise Men!**



Any questions? Contact **Pip Allen** [messychurch@ccorpington.org](mailto:messychurch@ccorpington.org)

Christ-centred all age creativity hospitality celebration