



Christ
Church
Orpington

Family News

16th December 2023

Sunday 17th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Crib Service

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Notices

Advent Wreath

Confession

Absolution

Worship

O little town of Bethlehem
While Shepherd Watched

Bible Reading

Luke 2 v 1-20

Sermon Part 1

Bible Reading

Matthew 2 v 1-12

Sermon Part 2

Worship

Away in a Manger

Intercessions

Worship

The Calypso Carol
Angels from the Realms of Glory

Final Prayer & Blessing

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

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

Reflection

As we continue during this period of advent, preparing our hearts and minds for the celebration of our Saviour's birth, it is so easy to get distracted by the word around us. Be it preparing for family holiday time together, which can be joyful and stressful in equal measure; going to work or other Christmas parties; there is so much that is contending for our time or attention during this period.

Whilst many of these contenders for our 'bandwidth' *are* wholesome and sometimes necessary in themselves, it is worthwhile pausing and intentionally making time for Jesus. Unsurprisingly the very best example we have for this is our Lord Jesus himself:

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." - Mark 1:35 NIV

If that's what it took for Jesus to have some time with his Father; then I want to do the same.

It may not be practical to mirror exactly how Jesus did it but I believe God wants us to remove ourselves from any distractions, whatever they may be (including the wholesome ones) to just be quiet with Him.

Lord God, we pray that you show us where and how we can access our 'solitary place' and that we 'go there' in obedience.

Lord, we ask that you put on our hearts to pray for others, whilst thanking you for what you have done in our lives.

Lord, please reveal to us what you want to say to us by the people you have placed in our lives and the circumstances we find ourselves in.

Let this time of advent be a time of rejuvenation and encouragement - Amen

Pieter

"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

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

Dear Christ Church,



We have our Carols by Candlelight service Sunday evening (17th) and will be serving mince pies and cakes after the service.

If you would like to make a donation of mince pies/cakes for this service, please bring them along Sunday morning/evening ready for the evening service

All donations will be very much appreciated!

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

Family News notices

Next issue will be 23rd December with notices please by **midday, Friday 22nd December**

Send to Vernon at: vandjmapp@gmail.com

Advent 2023

Dwell
Restore
Light Up



You are invited to join me for a quiet time of prayer and reflection during this busy season. We will pause together with the help of scripture, poetry, music and images to remember why we celebrate.

Thursday 21 December, 8-9pm

Melanie Queries: melanie@zarttell.uk

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, or see you around!

what's on at Christ Church Orpington

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

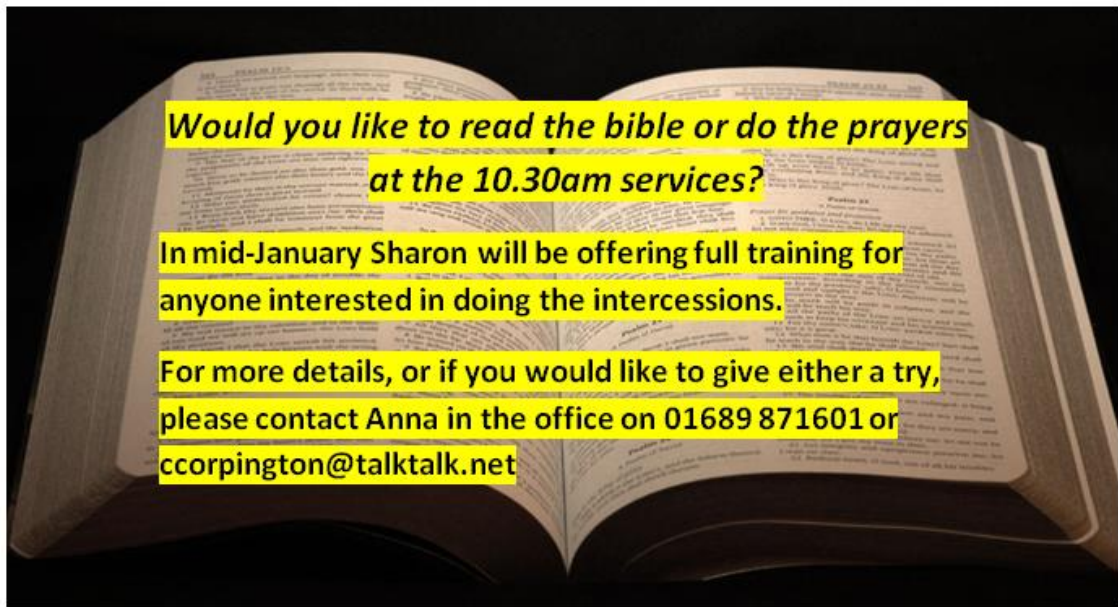
10.30am Holy Communion

~ ~ 2024 ~ ~

Sunday 7th January

10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship - Reflect



**Would you like to read the bible or do the prayers
at the 10.30am services?**

**In mid-January Sharon will be offering full training for
anyone interested in doing the intercessions.**

**For more details, or if you would like to give either a try,
please contact Anna in the office on 01689 871601 or
ccorpington@talktalk.net**



WANTED
OUR MOST NEEDED ITEMS ARE:

- fruit juice
- desserts/puddings/jelly/angel delight
- cooking sauces

Also in gluten-free and reduced-sugar products if possible

- razors
- washing-up liquid
- toilet rolls
- men and 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

**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**

A colorful illustration of a nativity scene. The Virgin Mary is seated on the left, holding the infant Jesus. The baby Jesus is wrapped in a blue cloth. The scene is set in a stable with a wooden manger. The background is dark with a full moon and several yellow stars. The illustration is framed by a white border.

**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
or 01689 871601*

Dear friends & prayer partners of LBC

Please find below the latest newsletter from LBC. We thank the Lord and each one of you for your continuous support and partnership in the ministry of LBC. God is good in the midst and despite what is happening around us. We are called to carry His mission in our generation where the Lord placed us! He is coming soon!

With our best wishes for the coming Christmas and the New Year 2024.

On behalf of LBC staff, students, and teachers,
Victor Petrenko

LBC News Flash



Dear friends, greetings from Latvia!!!

The Advent season is upon us and that means that the most exciting festival of Christmas is coming! At times we don't feel joyful looking at the news and what's happening in the Ukraine and in the land where our Saviour was born. Yet, this period is a time for reflection and anticipation. "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). Matthew 1:23 NIV These words were reassuring then and now.

As we reported in our previous newsletter we had 60 new students on 4 different programs, and they joined us from different countries.

We wanted to give you a 'taste' of what's happening at LBC this academic term.

School of Preaching



I am Aivars Treimanis and I study in the 'School of Preaching'. In my 'daily life' I work as a heating and plumbing engineer and in the 'Church life' I work as a youth leader and also involved in the Church Multiplication Mission as Latvian coordinator. The study

at LBC is very interesting - it is the place where I meet students from different churches and denominations. As a part of learning process we go to preach to different churches and the amazing thing is that it doesn't matter whether I am in a church of my own denomination or another - we have one Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The acquired knowledge of the specific topic of homiletics gives the knowledge of how to correctly compose sermons in different ways and for different target audiences. I have realized that there is not only one way to make sermons, but there are many different ways to present the message of the Bible to different groups and different ages. Further, as the coordinator of the ministry of the Church Multiplication Mission in Latvia, this is a good opportunity to get to know and make contacts with representatives from different denominations and congregations. It gives us a possibility of establishing a new church or a small group in every populated place in Latvia, which proclaims the Gospel message and the testimony of Jesus.

Christianity, Work & Society



My name is Linda. I started my studies at LBC as a young Christian, housewife, wife and mother of a 3-year-old son. My husband is the unbeliever. I know that God called me to LBC. I started with program 'Theology and Ministry' and I

really fell in love with the Scripture. I continue my studies this year in the program - 'Christianity,

Work, Society'. During my studies, God has led me to work as a caregiver for children with special needs - three orphans in Riga State Social care center.

Studying at LBC has given me many blessings. I really enjoy both studies and meetings with sisters and brothers. It was also a great blessing to meet a mentor during my studies who helped me to see how God works through me in serving others, in different places where God puts me. I am especially excited that God has answered my prayers and has led me to LBC. I have gained a lot during my study. I feel prepared and armed for the future to serve God for the rest of my life!

Counselling program



We also had a wonderful time with Steve Spires, from Overseas Instruction in Counselling. This is a Level 2 program in counselling that we hope to develop in the next academic year. The need in churches is great and we already can see that the counselling program is bearing good fruits.

LBC needs

We live in the shadow of the ongoing war in Ukraine, which affects all of us. LBC is not an exception, and the rising costs of utilities and food puts considerable pressure on the finances of LBC. We realize that we need to find some additional sources of income for LBC as a ministry to maintain the same level of staff and to afford the ongoing 'operations of LBC' like paying salaries, etc. If anyone of you know of any foundations which provide grants for institutions like LBC, we would be most grateful for any advice/help.

Prayer needs

Praise

- We praise the Lord for every new student who came for this academic year.
- For Crisis centre and for all healing and transformation which takes place through its work and for the new group of students on "Counselling program".
- **Pray for:** the recruitment of a new director to succeed Victor.
- **Pray for:** - The financial needs of LBC and Lord's faithful provision for us to meet the rising costs.

Thank you, dear friends, for all your prayers, support, and love for LBC's ministry. God bless, Victor Petrenko, (*On behalf of LBC staff, students, and teachers*)

www.bible.lv, <https://www.facebook.com/LBC.RIBI>

Instagram: latvijasbibelescentrs
