



Christ  
Church  
Orpington

## Family News

### 10th February 2024

---

Dear Church,

Below is an excellent article from J. John about Lent. Can I encourage you, that if you enjoy it, to sign up for his emails to get his reflections straight to your inbox. You won't be overwhelmed with spam, but will get excellent emails, every now and then, to read what is on his heart. I have found them so timely, thought provoking, and often refreshing. They are too good to miss!

With much love, Sharon & Andi xx

### J. John BLOG: Why keep Lent?

Lent, the forty days before Easter (not counting Sundays), begins this year on Wednesday 14th February. Most things in the church's year are festivals and we happily talk about celebrating them. Lent is very different. It is a minor-key period that is never 'celebrated' but only 'kept'. Some churches and Christians treat Lent very seriously, while others ignore it entirely.

Even among those who keep Lent, there is no agreement on *how* it should be kept. Many Christians try to give up something: for instance, chocolate, social media or television. It's even become a period for us to try to break bad habits, almost as if Lent gives us another opportunity to retake those New Year's resolutions seriously!

Now what exactly is Lent about? Lent is about three *preparations*.

Lent is a *preparation for Easter*. Easter, with its message of Christ destroying sin and death through his death and resurrection, is the most exciting moment in the church's year. Yet we can undercut this note of victory by being so occupied that, amid the frantic busyness of our lives, we carelessly stumble upon Easter. Lent provides us with forty days' preparation to Good Friday and Easter Sunday that forces us to prayerfully ponder the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As the best

way to appreciate a sunrise is to be there in the darkness before dawn, so a good way to appreciate Easter is to have come to it through Lent. We as Christians are, of course, an Easter people living in a Good Friday world.

Secondly, Lent is a *preparation for Existence*. A fatal flaw in our culture today is that people do not know how to say 'no' to bad things. It is now almost a virtue to give in to every desire that comes upon us. Yet a great element in Christian morality is to be able to say no to wrong desires. St Paul, in Titus 2:11-12, says: '*For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives*' (NIV). Lent gives us the opportunity to practise resisting harmful and hurtful desires. Trivial as it may appear, a battle won over chocolate, coffee or cake at Lent may help us win a battle over lust, lying or laziness thereafter.

Finally, Lent is a *preparation for Eternity*. If we take Lent seriously, then these forty days can seem to be a long and often wearying season in which we never get our own way. Here, for a time, pleasures are put to one side. But Lent doesn't last. The darkness is broken by the joyful light of the glorious triumph of Easter Day. Here there is a splendid parallel with our lives. For many of us, much of our life seems to take place in what we might call 'Lent mode': things do not go as we hope, we do not get what we want and our joys appear absent. Yet, for the Christian, there is that wonderful and certain hope that however deep and hard the darkness is in our lives, it will ultimately be lifted and replaced by an indestructible joy. For those of us who love Christ, life's long Lent will end, one day, in an eternal Easter in which sin and death are destroyed for ever.

Whether or not you keep Lent, starting on Wednesday 14th February, and in what way you keep it, is your choice. But to keep Lent, thoughtfully and prayerfully, is to experience a rich and lasting inheritance. Be blessed this Lent and bless others.

**J. John**

Reverend Canon

[www.canonjohn.com](http://www.canonjohn.com)

---

# Sunday 11th February Sunday next before Lent

## 9.00am Holy Communion

## 10.30am Morning Worship

### Welcome, Notices

### Opening Prayer, Confession

### Worship

Be still for the presence of the Lord  
This is amazing grace  
Father of creation

### Bible Readings

2 Kings 2 v 1-12  
Mark 9 v 2-9

### Sermon

### Intercessions

### Worship

Behold our God  
These are the days of Elijah

### Final Prayer & Blessing

## No evening service – Half Term



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

Meeting ID: 846 1097 4627

Passcode: R4V5My

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/84610974627?pwd=Z1g4TzIwVFVtcEUxeGRWb1FLUDVuZz09>

## Family News notices

Next issue of Family News will be on 17th February  
with notices please by

### midday, Friday 16th February 2024

thank you.

Vernon, Family News editor

My email is [vandjmapp@gmail.com](mailto:vandjmapp@gmail.com)

"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

No Community Club lunch on the 13th February as its Half-Term. Do not be alarmed though, you will not miss out on your pancakes!

## Open during Half-Term: **Coffee & Cake Café**

**Wednesday 14th February, 10.00am-2.00pm**

Do come or come with others for home-made cake and a variety of coffees and tea. There will not be any fixed prices but you are encouraged to make a suitable donation. Cards can be used

## Open during Half-Term: **Café Mosaic**

**Friday 16th February, 9.15am-2.00pm**

(last orders 1.30pm)

## **Bishop Simon is coming to CCO!**

Bishop Simon is coming to CCO on **Sunday 18th February** at 10.30am to bring us an "Anointing for Everyday Faith" Service

This is going to be a Family Service, with Bishop Simon talking on the importance of everyday faith, followed by anointing as many of us as would like this with oil, and prayer into wherever we are in our lives. This is for you, your children, your friends, and anyone who would like it

Come, bring your friends, and get anointed for God's help in your life

**Sunday 18th February, 10.30am Family Service**

For more information, contact Andi Smith on

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

## **Barry Remnant**

Thank you to all who came to the Thanksgiving Service last Thursday and to those who made everyone feel so welcome (quite a few rarely enter a church).

There was a Memory Book and this will be on a table in the Café Area on Sunday 11th February for anyone to write in who was not able to come on Thursday.

Bless you all, Joan, Daniel and Debbie

For those who were unable to attend, there is a video link – if you would like to watch the service, please contact the office and it will be sent to you.

**2024 prayer calendars** are now printed and are at the back of the church if anyone would like to take one

## Repair Café

St Mary's Green Street Green are running a **Repair Café** on **Saturday 17th February** from **11am-1pm**.

Do you have a broken kettle, toaster or bike? Don't throw it away – they are willing to fix your broken items in a sustainable way. They can fix small electrical appliances, laptops, computers, watches, clothing, joinery and bikes. No charge but they ask for a small donation to cover costs. Enjoy delicious cake, tea and coffee while you wait!

**All Saints' Festival Choir** are performing

"Stainer's Crucifixion & Dvorak's Mass in D" on **Saturday 16th March** at 7.30pm.

Tickets £12 (advance) or £15 (door) at All Saints' Church, Bark Hart Road, BR6 0QD

## Northumbria Morning Prayer



You are invited to join in Northumbria Morning Prayer at Christ Church, 9.00-9.20am in the chapel on Mondays and Tuesdays.

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

Dates for February: 19th & 20th, 26th & 27th

For more details about the Northumbria Community and Northumbria Daily Prayer:

<https://www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/how-to-use-daily-office/>

**Jim & Katie Whitear**, our partners with YWAM (Youth with a Mission) have sent the church a **thank you pack of sweets and biscuits!**

Do find them in the café after the morning service, read the card and take a prayer letter. Do pray for their work as we thank God for their generosity.

## Coffee & Cake Café

### Calling cake makers and any who want to serve

We are looking for any who would be happy to make cakes perhaps once a month to provide home-made cakes for the Coffee & Cake Café.

We are also looking for volunteers who would be happy to serve on a Wednesday for about 4 hours greeting people, serving cakes and coffee and taking donations.

Please contact Emma on 07429 859352 for any offers to help

## what's on at Christ Church Orpington

**Ash Wednesday, 14th February**

8.00pm Holy Communion

**Sunday 18th February**

10.30am Morning Worship with Bishop Simon  
6.30pm Holy Communion - Reflect

**Sunday 25th February**

9.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Morning Worship  
6.30pm Evening Worship - Go Deeper



- squash
- cooking sauces
- angel delight, jelly, sponge puddings
- UHT milk
- tinned vegetables

**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 and 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 please contact her on: [gdpr@ccorpington.org](mailto:gdpr@ccorpington.org)