



Christ
Church
Orpington

Family News

2nd March 2024

Sunday 3rd March Third Sunday of Lent

10.30am Holy Communion

Welcome, Notices

Opening Prayer, Confession

Worship

In the name of the Father
Bless God
All hail the lamb

Bible reading

John 2 v 13-22

Sermon

Intercessions

Peace

Worship

Jesus Christ I think

Holy Communion

Worship

What a friend we have in Jesus

Final Prayer & Blessing

6.30pm Evening Worship –

Reflect



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=Z1g4TzIvVFVtcEUxeGRWb1FLUDVuZz09>

Reflection

Hosea 10:12

*“Sow righteousness for yourselves,
reap the fruit of unfailing love,
and break up your unploughed ground;
for it is time to seek the Lord,
until he comes
and showers his righteousness on you.”*

I was reading Hosea yesterday and the phrase “break up your unploughed ground” stood out to me as being such a wonderful analogy for us as we travel through Lent.

I love Lent because it is an opportunity to do a spiritual “spring clean”, sweeping away the cobwebs of world-weariness, and trying to put aside some time to refocus our hearts on the Lord. As we wait on the Lord and invite the Holy Spirit to work in us and change our hearts, we can think of our hearts as gardens that are being changed from hard, stony wastelands, into fruitful vineyards where the fruit of the Spirit can blossom and grow in us.

It is very easy to have “unploughed ground” – areas we keep to ourselves, keeping them away from God as we don’t want that area touched. Maybe it is an area that is still painful to touch so we keep it safely hidden? Maybe it is an area where we know the Lord isn’t happy but we don’t want to change? Maybe it is an area that we don’t even know is there – either we are blind to it or have buried it so deeply it exists now only in our subconscious and in our reactions?

When Jesus taught the parable of the seed falling on the path, the rocky ground, the thorny ground and the good ground, I think it is possible to apply this same principle as we look at our hearts. Hosea tells us to sow righteousness and seek the Lord. Sowing righteousness (seeking obedience and purity) and seeking the Lord in all things, means breaking up the unploughed ground so that Love can take root, grow, and produce the fruit that God wants to see. But breaking up the unploughed ground can mean hard work and time spent with the Lord as we painstakingly seek Him to discern the hardened paths, remove the rocks, dig through the shallow ground, and pull up those deeply rooted thorn bushes. As we put in the hard work though, the result will be deeper righteousness and softer hearts that will have more room for the Lord of Love, and blossom and bear more fruit for Him.

I pray you have a blessed Lent, and we all arrive at Easter Day with a renewed sense of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control overflowing in our hearts.

With much love and every blessing,

Sharon & Andi xx

Colin Fox

"Tim, Stephen and Julia would like to thank the CCO family for all their love, support cards and messages for their Dad, Colin, over the years and for making his thanksgiving service on Monday 26th such a beautiful tribute to him"

Community Club, Tuesday 5th March

Helen will be leading our Communion service at 11.00am during which we will set aside some time to pray for Sharon as her operation takes place that day.

Anyone wanting to join us in pray and Communion is welcome. Tea and Coffee served from 10.30am

Our menu will be

Pea & ham soup
Creamy chicken, roast potatoes with
seasonal vegetables
Fruit crumble and custard
Tea or coffee.

Please note price is now £7 for your 3-course meal.

Community Club – HELP required

Please would you seriously consider driving an elderly club member in and out on a Tuesday for lunch. We can work round any weeks that you are unable to do.

We are also looking for someone to play escort on our minibus. This needs to be someone agile who is able to hop on and off the bus easily to escort members from their homes to the minibus. The inward and outward collection take an hour each way (11.30-12.30 and 14.30-15.30).

Lift required

Do you live anywhere near Bicknor Road (turning off Mayfield Avenue) and could bring a lady to Church? Please speak to Jennie Mapp if you can help with this

Mother's Day – Sunday 10th March

The flower arranging team are meeting in the small hall at about 10am this **Saturday, 9th March** to make posies for Mother's Day – if you would like to help, please do along and join them. This year they have need of small leaved and ferny type foliage to go in the posies – if you can help with this please drop between 9.30 and 10am that day.

Easter Choir

Would you like to join together with other singers in a scratch choir for a song on Easter Sunday morning? Rehearsals will be after the morning service on 17th and 24th March for an hour each time. Please let me know if you'd like to be involved. It will be great to celebrate the resurrection together!

Liesel Stanbridge

Email: liesel.stanbridge@ntlworld.com

Text: 07511 876928

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 March: **4th & 5th**, 11th & 12th, 18th & 19th

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

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



Open Friday: Café Mosaic

9.15am-2.00pm (last orders 1.30pm)

Special this week:

Cottage pie with broccoli and carrots

- UHT milk
- tinned cold meat
- tinned fruit
- cooking sauces
- desserts, sponge puddings, jelly, etc

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

- washing-up liquid

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

**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**

"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

Family News notices

Next issue of Family News will be on 9th March with notices please by

midday, Friday 8th March 2024

thank you. Vernon, Family News editor

My email is vandjmapp@gmail.com

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



A fun and easy night out with...

Adrian Plass

Christ Church Orpington

Charterhouse Road, BR6 9EP

Thursday 30th May 7.30-9.30pm

An evening of gentle humour

£10 per ticket, but concessions are available to anyone who wants one.

For more details please contact:

ccorpington@talktalk.net / Tel: 01689 871601

Tickets are available via Christ Church Orpington and from participating churches near to you.

The social evening with Adrian and Bridget Plass, which was postponed from last October has been rearranged. We know that many people were disappointed when the event had to be postponed, so we are delighted that Adrian and Bridget have agreed to come and entertain us on Thursday 30th May. It will last from 7.30 until 9.30pm ish.

Adrian is best known as an author, a comedian a satirical broadcaster and writer, with his book "The sacred diary of Adrian Plass (37¾)" having sold more than a million copies.

The evening will be one of gentle humour, under the theme of:

'LAUGHTER AND TEARS'

There will be humour, sketches, stories, reflections and the odd poem. There will be references to Christianity, but nothing "cringy"! It will be suitable for people from all backgrounds and ages, Christian or otherwise.

Tickets are available from Anna Carey during the week, from Dave Humphries, Pieter Van Rooyen, Bill Belsham and Don Munro after Sunday 9.00am and 10.30am services. Community Club members can buy tickets there, from Don Bower. Some other local churches will also be selling tickets for the event, so we are looking forward to hosting a great evening for people in Orpington.

Tickets are priced at £10 each. If the price is stopping you from coming and you really want to come, please speak with us and we will look after you.

In memory of John Colin Fox

The following poem was written by Kayleigh Simpson (nee Fox) following her last visit to Colin in the nursing home. Kayleigh's & Tom's younger son is named Isaac John Fox Simpson.

JOHN FOX

Two people who hold that name
Are in this room
And you stare at each other
As though you stand at opposite ends of a
tunnel,
One looking forward,
One looking back.
One chubby and rosy-cheeked,
Squawking with sheer joy in the hushed
busyness of the hospital room,
Unable to walk, but holding your weight as I
bounce you on my knees.
One gaunt and purple-veined,
Talking with effort and precision,
Unable to walk, your weight held by the hospital
bed, propped up with pillows.
Your body breathes with the exhaustion of time:
Walking in London's smog,
Rising with the alarm clock,
Raising three children,
Quoting Shakespeare when
It comes up in conversation,
Carrying bags on every occasion.
Loving and losing your dear wife,
Remaining faithful to God throughout your life.
Tomorrow
and tomorrow
and tomorrow
In this hospital bed
Creeps on its petty pace
And we see the yearning in your eyes
For a land that once seemed distant,
Now, seems more home than home.
The minutes play tricks on us:
We blink and it is time to go;
The parking meter taps its watch.
The two of you, old man and baby, take each
other in
One last time,
Both smiling,
One without reserve, gleeful and unabashed,
One wryly, a half-smile of knowledge, bemused
and forlorn.
Farewell.
At the door, we turn to see a solitary figure alone
in a bed,
Lost in the memories inside of your head.
We walk out in the silence of grief and hope,
Knowing that this is not the end of your story
And one day we will see you again in glory.

By Kayleigh Simpson



**FREEDOM IN
CHRIST COURSE**
Christ Church Orpington
Charterhouse Road BR6 9EP

This course is for everyone who wishes to deepen their relationship with God and to walk in the joyful freedom which He has especially for **YOU**.

It begins on Tuesday 16th April and ends on Tuesday 25th June. We meet at 7 for 7.30pm start and finish around 9.30pm.

The course consists of ten weekly meetings each Tuesday (except 28th May for half term) with Freedom Day on Saturday 8th June, 9.30am to 3pm to process what you have learned.

You can purchase a Freedom in Christ course book for £7 and a Freedom Day book for £5.

Please contact Anna in the office for more information and if you wish to sign up: ccorpington@talktalk.net / 01689 871601

A sign-up sheet is available at the back of church on the info desk



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 stories,
puppets, songs, games & food together



NEXT : Saturday 9th March 2024 ~

"Messy Mothers & Others!"

at **Christ Church Orpington**

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 gratefully received !

★ **Next Dates** - 13th April, 11th May, 8th June,
6th July 2024

Any questions? Contact **Pip Allen**

messychurch@ccorpington.org