



Christ  
Church  
Orpington

## Family News

### 30th March 2024

**NB clocks go forward one hour**

### Sunday 31st March Easter Sunday

#### 10.30am Holy Communion

**Welcome, Notices**

**Banns**

**Opening Prayer**

**Easter Choir**

**Confession**

**Worship**

Living hope

He has risen

Jesus shall take the highest honour

**Bible Reading**

Mark 16 v 1-8

**Sermon**

**Intercessions**

**Peace**

**Gospel Choir**

**Holy Communion**

**Worship**

Thine be the glory

**Final Blessing**

#### **No Evening Service**



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

Meeting ID:

846 1097 4627

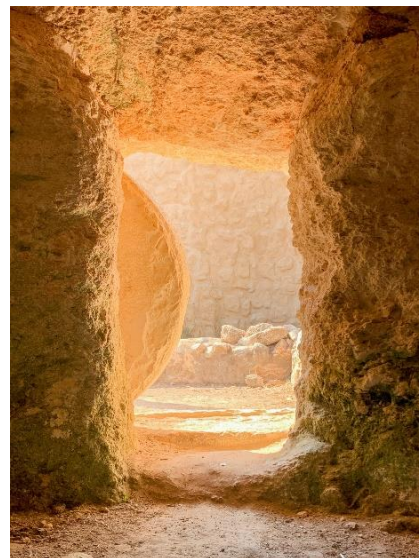
Passcode: R4V5My

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

## From grief to celebration

Over this Easter weekend, we will go through the whole range of human emotions. We started on Good Friday remembering the pain and suffering of Jesus on His way to the cross as well as the anguish of the cross itself. It was a day of grief – for Jesus's mother, Mary, for the other women at the foot of the cross, and for all the other disciples. As we considered at our time of meditation on Good Friday, Jesus was broken in mind, heart, body and spirit. Through His brokenness, we receive peace, love, healing and joy.

On Easter Saturday, we move into a time of waiting where Jesus was in limbo. He had committed His spirit into His Father's hands and trusted Him completely to see Him through. The disciples have been scattered, devastated by the seeming failure of the previous day. It was a time of fear, shame and silence; the end of dreams, the birth of doubt and the emergence of disappointment. Easter Saturday is a day to sit with our questions about the past, the present and the future.



Then we arrive at Easter Sunday. Christ is risen! The stone is rolled away and the tomb is empty. That first Easter, the disciples were amazed when they saw Jesus. They hadn't believed the report of the women who had seen the risen Christ, but now he appeared before their eyes. It was a time of celebration.

Easter is like a microcosm of our lives - with times of grief and loss, times of waiting, and times of celebration. As we sit with our questions, doubts and disappointments, do we believe that Christ died for us? Do we believe that Christ rose for us? This matters because it affects us too, as it says in Romans 6:8, 'Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.' If we are 'in Christ', we too will leave behind our old life, live an abundant and fulfilling life in the here and now, and rise from the dead when Jesus returns.

Happy Easter to you all!

Christ is risen!

Let's celebrate together.

Liesel

## \*Church Work Morning\*

Saturday 6 April, 9am till midday

We are doing a 'spring clean' work morning after Easter and we would love you to come and join us. You truly only need enthusiasm and do not need any special skills.

Jobs on the day will include indoor and outdoor tasks and any time you can give to maintain and care for the church building and grounds will make such a big difference. Even if you cannot stay for the whole morning, just an hour is great!

You are welcome to bring your preferred garden tools etc but we have loads so just come as you are also.

Come pick a task, have some fun, meet new people and enjoy a bacon sandwich and coffee for your efforts.

Please put your name on the sign-up sheet at the back of the church. Thanks, Pieter

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### Don Bissett

Don's Thanksgiving, Celebration of Life, Memorial Service is at Christ Church, 2pm on Thursday 4th April.

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**The Chosen**, season 4 Episodes 3 and 4 are to be shown at Christ Church on **Tuesday 9th April, 7.30pm** in the main church.

The Chosen are wonderfully wanting to reach everyone with the gospel free of charge, so this is completely free!!

If you want to know more about The Chosen, including how to support their work in bringing the gospel to the world, you can check them out on <https://thechosen.tv/en-us>

Any questions, please contact

Andi on [youth@ccoprington.org](mailto:youth@ccoprington.org) or

Anna in the office on [ccoprington@talktalk.net](mailto:ccoprington@talktalk.net)

Hope to see you there!

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## Family News notices

Next issue of Family News will be on 6th April 2024 with notices please by

**midday, Friday 5th April**

thank you. Vernon, Family News editor

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

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## Coffee & Cake Cafe

**CLOSED** on Wednesday 3rd April and  
Wednesday 10th April

**OPEN** Wednesday 17th April onwards

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### Café Mosaic:

Friday 5th April – **CLOSED** for Easter Holidays

Friday 12th April – **OPEN**

The staff of Café Mosaic would like to wish you a happy and safe Easter!

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Both Wednesday Coffee & Cake, and Friday Café Mosaic are in urgent need of VOLUNTEERS. Can you help! Please speak to Emma for Coffee & Cake, and Jeanette for Café Mosaic if you are able to help

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## what's on at Christ Church Orpington

### Easter Sunday, 31st March

(NB Clocks go forward one hour)

10.30am Holy Communion

*No evening service*

### Sunday 7th April

10.30am Holy Communion

*NB No evening service*

### Sunday 14th April

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship

6.30pm Evening Worship - Reflect

### Sunday 21st April

10.30am Morning Worship

6.30pm Holy Communion - Go Deeper

### Sunday 28th April

9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship / APCM

6.30pm Evening Worship - Reflect

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**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](mailto:ccorpington@talktalk.net) / 01689 871601

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



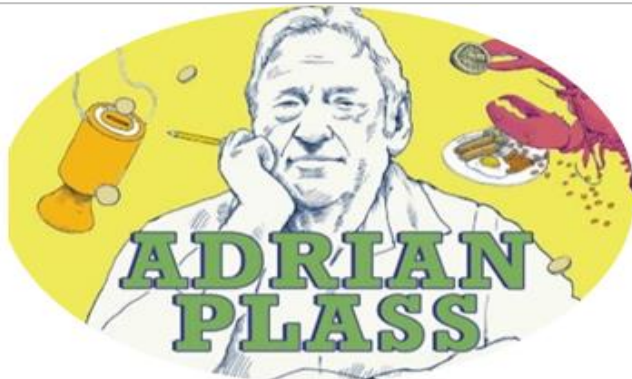
- **tinned cold meat**
- **cooking sauces**
- **tinned cold fruit**
- **desserts, sponge puddings, jellies, etc**
- **tinned custard**

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

**We cannot accept any chilled or frozen foods**

**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 fun and easy night out with...*  
**Adrian Plass**

Christ Church Orpington  
Charterhouse Road, BR6 9EP  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:ccorpington@talktalk.net) / Tel: 01689 871601

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

"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

### Holiday Home near Aberystwyth



Margaret Ball owns a 3-bed house in Llannon about 12-miles south of Aberystwyth, Wales, which she is willing to make available to people from Christ Church who wish to holiday there. The house was built by her great grandfather in the 1800s, as was the Methodist Chapel just round the corner. There is a double bedroom, a twin-bedded room and a single room, a large upstairs bathroom, a modern kitchen, a couple of reception rooms and a good-sized garden. There is free parking in the road and in a car park opposite.

It is situated next door to a pub which serves delicious meals and is about 100 yards from a general store. It is about a 10-min walk to the beach and the Llanon Coastal Walk.

Anyone wishing to take up the offer should speak to Margaret or make contact through the Church Office on 01689 871601 or [ccorpington@talktalk.net](mailto:ccorpington@talktalk.net).

Please note, you will have to provide your own bedding!

You are invited to make a contribution to Church funds.

## Would you like to be a part of great parliament of the church?

Deanery Synod elections are happening this spring, but what's it all about? What's a deanery synod?

Deaneries are groups of Anglican parishes in a geographical area. Orpington Deanery stretches from St Barnabas in St Paul's Cray in the north to Biggin Hill in the south, and from St Francis Petts Wood in the west to St Marys in St Mary Cray in the east.

The Deanery Synod is part of the way the Church of England gives people at different levels a chance to have their say. It sits between the parishes with their Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) and the full diocese, with its Diocesan Synod.

Deanery Synods are formal meetings for conversation, discussion and decision-making on matters relating to mission and ministry, not just in the local area, but also Diocesan-wide. They meet three or four times a year, visiting a different church in the Deanery each time.

Any healthy church is a church where everyone feels they have a voice. Deanery Synods need your voice, because we need all the voices to create that bigger picture. If you have ever felt frustrated or wondered why certain decisions were being made, then now is the time to take action and make your point heard. Put yourself forward and make a difference. The lay members serve for three years. Members are also invited to attend Christ Church's PCC meetings, which occur about six times a year.

If you would like to find out more, speak to Andy Goddard (our only Deanery Synod rep at the moment and Lay Chair of Orpington Deanery Synod) who will be able to give you more information.

Nomination forms are available from Don Bower.

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## Dear Christ Church

Can we pass on our gratitude for the gift of £1300 which we received on the 20th of March. We appreciate the continuous care of Christ Church for the ministry of LBC and for our family throughout many years. You are true partners and friends in God's Kingdom! May the Lord bless you abundantly for your ministry for His glory!!

With much love and appreciation,  
Victor & Ester

Dr. Vitali Petrenko  
LBC, Kraslavas iela 27, Riga, LV-1003, Latvia  
[www.bible.lv](http://www.bible.lv)

LBC Newsletter out next week

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## Jim and Katie's News - March 2024



## Dear Christ Church

We hope you had a good time over Christmas. Ours was pretty full as we had Jim's brother and family over from Australia as well as our mums and all the kids and one extra special person (more about her later!). They all stayed for a week or more but it was great to all be together for the first time in ages. Thank you for all those who sent cards and your news. Here are the highlights of our last year. Lots happened so you might want to make yourself a cup of tea!

## Focus on France - the street magician and the woman by the wall!

When we moved down south to Freiburg over 5-years ago it was with the intention of having a greater focus on France. This last year we have taken more steps than ever in this direction and have been there a total of 6 weeks. That included hosting a church leader's retreat for our church from Woolwich, as well as several outreach weeks. On one of these Jim had an amazing experience in preparation for a so-called "treasure hunt" in Avignon. His group was praying about the evening and he got a picture of a man in a blue waistcoat who was juggling knives. That evening we were



wondering around Avignon looking for our "treasure". As we got to a square there was a black box on the ground with a bunch of long knives lying next to it. Could this be it? We sat on the steps nearby with a crowd that had gathered. Then a street magician in a blue waistcoat walked up to the box and began his show. At some point he picked up the knives and juggled with them. At

the end we went up to him and explained that he was our treasure and that we had been looking for him. We ended up sitting for an hour with him at a café and sharing with him about God. It was very cool.

Then in September we ran a retreat in the south of France for 32 people from our church here in Germany. It was the first such retreat for the church in twenty years and was a wonderful time of deepening relationships and enjoying the paradise of the south. On one morning during a time of worship one of the older ladies also had a vision. She saw a young woman sitting by a wall. That evening we were due to go to Avignon again which is a medieval walled city. So, our groups walked around and were looking for the woman by the wall. Right at the end of the evening one group saw a young woman sitting under a spotlight by the wall and felt that she was the one from the vision. So, they approached her and explained that, although it seemed really strange, God had led them to her. The young woman burst



into tears. She was a Christian from England and had already been in Avignon for two weeks. She had been praying that God would send her some people to tell her where she could meet other believers

and find a church. That evening as she sat under the spotlight there had been a battle going on in her mind. She was having thoughts about going to sit in her car in the dark but then she heard a still small voice saying she should stay in the light by the wall. Isn't it amazing when you listen to the voice of God and act on it! These are just two of many amazing encounters in France this year.

### Family - Sweden via Hawaii and other big changes

Rick (20) finished school the year before last and was planning on taking a year out and work. We suggested he travelled a bit and suggested a few



months practical work on a YWAM base in Hawaii. He didn't need much persuasion. It turned out to be life-changing. Not only did he get baptised but he also met Filippa - a young Swedish lady who

was also in his group. They stayed in contact when he returned home (while he did a 3-month internship in a business here in Freiburg) and started going out officially in April. Deciding a long-distance

relationship was not for him, Rick cleared out his room and moved lock, stock and barrel to Sweden in May! He also applied to the University of Gothenburg (on the west coast of Sweden) and got a place to study Business and Economics (in English) from last autumn. In August Filippa and he got engaged and both are now living in Gothenburg. Their wedding is planned for June this year in our favourite place in France!



Amy (23) moved back to Freiburg after finishing her psychology degree the summer before last in Exeter. She was able to gain some good work experience at internships at Mark's old primary school and in Freiburg's school psychology department. She also worked in a kindergarten for several months in the summer. This autumn she moved to the beautiful medieval town of Tübingen (about two hours from us in the middle of the Black Forest) where she is



studying for her masters' degree in educational psychology. This will take 2-years. Hopefully it will be a bit of a redeeming experience after her studies during the Covid years in Exeter. So far it seems to be going well and she has found a nice flat share and met a lot of really friendly people there.

Susi (17) finished well at her secondary school with the equivalent of GCSEs and now attends a type of sixth form college which specialises in creative courses to do a 3-year training/qualification in graphic design and also the equivalent of vocational "A" levels (or whatever they are called in the UK these days). She is really talented in her artistic abilities and enjoys being able to drop more traditional school subjects and concentrate on more creative ones.





Mark (13) moved into Rick's old room, finally got a haircut and mastered chess before giving it up. He also inherited Rick's old PC (which had finally given up the ghost) and managed to take it apart, order new parts, rebuild it and (to our surprise) get it working again.

We celebrated our 30th Wedding anniversary in Peterborough for 2-nights in a wellness hotel. We also attended a marriage counselling training day for mentoring those who are planning to get married or are newly-weds.

Jim carried on his metal detecting when he got a chance and even managed his first gold find as well as a two-thousand-year-old Celtic silver coin.



### Teaching and preaching

Both of us had the opportunity to travel and teach on various DTS's (Discipleship Training Schools) and at other events. Katie's highlight was teaching on the DTS in the east of Germany in Bad Blankenburg. Due to the mix of nationalities, she was translated simultaneously into Ukrainian, Portuguese and German! She also went up to a Swiss mountain hut again with our DTS for several days. Jim taught on several DTS's as well as preaching at the wedding of some good friends in Austria, at a retreat for

university students in the mountains near us, and at a youth weekend in Bavaria.

In the summer we had the privilege of hearing Jackie Pullinger (of "Chasing the dragon" fame) speak for several days at the annual missions' conference we attend in the UK. She's still going strong!



### Local church - new roles, amazing healing.

Our involvement in our local church here has increased a lot in the last year. It is a free church with around 150 members. Jim was asked to join as an elder on the leadership team. This was quite a change after all the years of leadership in YWAM and his experience brings a very different perspective to the team. He also ran a training week on prophecy with one of the pastors.



Both of us are involved in the prayer team on Sundays. Katie was on the prayer team after one service when one of the younger mums called Priscilla came and asked for prayer for her knee. She had injured it when trampolining several weeks before and now had constant pain and was unable

to do many of the things she loved like cycling or hiking - difficult for a mum of 3 active young boys. The doctor had not offered any hope of relief. She had an impression during the service that she should come up for prayer. So, Katie knelt, placed her hand on Priscilla's knee and commanded the knee to be healed and all pain to leave (in English) whilst her prayer partner Sonja prayed for healing whilst standing. They were delighted when Priscilla said she'd felt a whooshing sensation in her knee as if something had sucked the pain out. Sonja reminded her that should she feel the pain returning she should rebuke the pain and claim her healing in faith. When Katie asked her 2-weeks later how her knee was doing Priscilla replied that it was still well and she could now do all the things again that she loved but hadn't been able to before. Once whilst cycling she'd felt a twinge in her knee and so, following Sonja's advice, she'd rebuked the pain and indeed it went away immediately, not to return. Now over half a year later she is still pain free and back to trampolining!

Katie has been preaching too on the theme of identity which has gone down really well, and continues to lead one of the children's teams.

### Plans for the coming year

We are excited about the coming year with several big events happening. Over February half-term we went off for a week to Sweden to meet our future in-laws. Rick and Filippa will be married in June in the south of France (where else?). As usual we have an outreach in the south of France planned. Then Jim will be joining YWAM Paris for an outreach week at the Olympic Games in August. The plan is to have a team of 2000 people during the games from all over the world. We will also have another church retreat in France in the summer.

We are hoping to make it over to the UK a bit more regularly in the future, especially to see our mums. They both had one or two health challenges this year but now seem to be on the mend.



### Thank you

Thank you to all of you who have sent us your news. And a massive thank you also to you for supporting us and our ministry through friendship, prayer and financial giving. One of the outcomes of that was that we could finally replace our aging heating system with one that actually works and doesn't break down. We are so grateful and warm!

We wish you a peaceful, healthy and blessed coming year.

Much love from us all

*Jim & Katie*  
*Amy, Rick, Susi & Mark*

Address: Hoegestrass 30,  
79108 Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany.

Email: [jkwhitear@aol.com](mailto:jkwhitear@aol.com)

If you don't yet support our ministry but would like to, either through prayer and/or financial support then please contact us for more information:)

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**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 13th April 2024**

**“Messy Cousins & Angels!”**

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** –

**11th May, 8th June, 6th July 2024**

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

**Christ-centred all age creativity hospitality celebration**

**Messy  
CATHEDRAL**

**Saturday 20th April 2024**  
**1.30-3.30pm**  
**ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL**

**A free event, no need to book.**  
**Bring your own picnic and something to sit on!**

**For more information contact -**  
[sarah.cabella@rochester.anglican.org](mailto:sarah.cabella@rochester.anglican.org)

**Rochester CATHEDRAL**  
Growing in Christ since AD604

**Diocese of Rochester**  
called together