



Christ  
Church  
Orpington

## Family News 18th December 2021

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### HAPPY CHRISTMAS 2021

#### Isaiah 42

'Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom I delight;  
I will put my Spirit on him,  
and he will bring justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not shout or cry out,  
or raise his voice in the streets.

<sup>3</sup> A bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out.

In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

<sup>4</sup> he will not falter or be discouraged  
till he establishes justice on earth.

In his teaching the islands will put their hope.'

<sup>6</sup> 'I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;  
I will take hold of your hand.

I will keep you and will make you  
to be a covenant for the people  
and a light for the Gentiles,

<sup>7</sup> to open eyes that are blind,  
to free captives from prison  
and to release from the dungeon  
those who sit in darkness.

This is good news on a cosmic scale, like nothing that had ever happened on this earth before, and will never need to happen ever again – the birth of God the Son as a human baby – to come and save His creation from hopelessness. Hallelujah!

He would come in God's Spirit to bring justice to the world. He would do this in gentleness, and be faithful to His calling to the bitter end of Easter. And in doing this He would give us hope – hope of a life free from sin, hope of a life spent with Him; hope of an eternal life in Heaven!

And this was not just for Israel, but for the whole world – which means us too! To give us eyes to see what is Real and what is sham, to set people free from the prison of sin, hate, anger, addiction, and all the things that stop us having life, and life in all its fullness; and teach us what God's good and true way is, and help us turn away from our self-centred, often

distorted, way. He came into the world to save us, when we had no hope of saving ourselves.

That is something to truly celebrate this Christmas! God loves celebrations. He gave the Israelites one day a week off to rest, relax, do no work, and enjoy Him; and He insisted that all their servants and animals had this rest too. He gave them several extra festivals throughout the year where they could celebrate and enjoy rest, each other, and sit in His presence. And He has given us, those who hope in Him, the birth of His Son to celebrate too, and rekindle again that hope that gets tarnished and dulled with all the difficulties that happen in life throughout the year.

If you feel able to come and celebrate Jesus' birth with us in person, please look at our services section as things do change. If the government regulations change or the Church of England regulations change from now onwards we will send you an email. But at the moment, we are able to go ahead with our services using masks, hand sanitising, distancing, and ventilation.

If you aren't able to come and celebrate with us, we are hoping to stream the Carols by Candlelight service to our Facebook site.

So this Christmas, we hope and pray that you will have a wonder-filled, joy-filled and peace-filled celebration, and that 2022 will be happy and healthy.



With much love,

Sharon & Andi xx

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**Can you please note that there will not be a  
Family News for the next few weeks!**

**next issue of Family News will be out  
15th January 2022**

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**Dear All,**

Please can you note that this Sunday (19th), as well as our Crib Service at 10.30am and our Carols by Candlelight Service at 6.30pm, for those who would prefer a quieter service Sharon will be holding a 9.00am service of Holy Communion in the chapel.

If people were able to bring mince-pies for refreshments after the Carol Service, they would be gratefully received. If you can, please would you bring them on Sunday morning and take them down to the kitchen.

With many thanks and every blessing,

Sharon

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## What's on...

All 10.30am services will be both in church and online  
(if we have the Tech Team to provide this)



### Sunday 19th December

9.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Crib Service - All Age  
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

### Christmas Eve Friday 24th December

11.15pm Holy Communion –  
Christmas Eve Mass



### Christmas Day, Saturday 25th December

10.30am Morning Worship – All Age

### Boxing Day, Sunday 26th December

No service

- - - - **2022** - - - -

### Sunday 2nd January

10.30am Holy Communion

### Sunday 9th January

9.00am Holy Communion  
10.30am Morning Worship  
6.30pm Reflect evening worship

### Sunday 16th January

10.30am Morning Worship  
6.30pm Go Deeper evening service  
with Holy Communion

Christmas services may be streamed  
online depending on available tech

Services available online through the Christ Church  
Orpington website: [www.ccorpington.org](http://www.ccorpington.org)

Or on Facebook (you don't need to have a Facebook account)  
<https://www.facebook.com/ccorpington/live>

Join **Heather Kroiter** for zoom coffee after church  
on Sunday (19th December) from 11.45am  
on Sunday (26th December) from 11.45am  
on Sunday (2nd January 2022) from 11.45am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5852280960?pwd=b1ByNjdxUzJ4bGY5TEp0YUpheEtZUT09>

Meeting ID: 585 228 0960

Passcode: 8Uwg8H

## Sunday 19th December

### 9.00am Holy Communion

### 10.30 am Crib Service

#### Welcome & Notices

Talk: *Saving Christmas*  
(interwoven throughout by introduction of characters)

*Mary & Joseph*

**Reading** Luke 1 v 26-33, 38

Song *Away in a Manger?*

*Angels*

**Reading** Luke 2 v 8-14

Song *Angels from the realms of Glory*

*Shepherds*

**Reading** Luke 2 v 15-20

**Song** *Silent Night*

*Wise Men*

**Reading** Matthew 2 v 1-5a, 9-11

**Prayers**

*Baby Jesus*

**Reading** Matthew 1 v 18-21, 24-25

Song *Joy to the World*

**Final Prayer & Blessing**

### 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

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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.

Thank you so much for your wonderful generosity."

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### **Notices for the next issue of Family News in 2022**

email them to Vernon [vandjmapp@gmail.com](mailto:vandjmapp@gmail.com)

by **12noon Saturday 15th January 2022** please

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## Bishop Simon Christmas 2021

In Bishop Simon's Christmas message to the people and parishes of Medway, north and west Kent and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley in the Diocese of Rochester, he reflects on the true reality of the first nativity.

Taking place in a messy, bug-ridden stable, this is God saying, 'I've been there, in the middle of shattered plans.'

### Love, surely

Two years ago, *Empire* film magazine chose the top ten Christmas films of all time. You're unlikely to guess which film tops the list. It's *Die Hard*. And it started one of those huge but trivial online debates. *Die Hard* is an amazing thriller, but for many, just setting it at Christmas doesn't make two hours of killing and destruction in a skyscraper very Christmassy.

In second place was *It's a Wonderful Life*. Third was *Elf* and fourth place was occupied by the film many now associate most with Christmas: *Love, Actually*. The films of Richard Curtis always deliver us a particular kind of London. A place full of attractive, witty, caring friends who live in stylish loft conversions on the south bank. Who are always available to drink lattes with you in hipster, brick walled cafes and offer amusing advice on your love life as you regale them with its latest twist. A London where the streets are covered in crisp, white snow unsullied by car tyres and where the pavements are full of generous, smiling strangers who laugh when you bump into them and make clever and kindly remarks as you pass by.

Can someone please tell us where this London is?

It's been described as richardcurtisland, and it's pretty much how we see the Christmas nativity scene. The stable is warm and cosy. The stars shine brightly in the sky. The cattle are neatly arranged around the baby. Mary has a smile broader and whiter than a youthful Donny Osmond. The hay is inviting like a fluffy pillow. And the shepherds get the first selfies with the baby in the background.

The reality would have been very different. Dingy, bug-ridden stable. Perilous birth among farm animals. No post-natal care or wider family on hand. And a paranoid and ruthless leader in Herod, hot on their tails. If ever anyone were entitled to say: *I'm a celebrity, get me out of here*, it was the Son of God at his birth. There was no pomp and ceremony for Jesus. No luxury or comfort. He began life downwardly mobile.

The nativity story sends us a coded message we easily miss. It's there for all whose lives are taking a wrong

turning, which is so many more people than would have been true two Christmases ago. Many of our lives are messed up like that stable. The pandemic may well have done this to us. Even if it hasn't, we are frequently tempted to pretend to others we're totally sorted when we're not because we're afraid they'll think less of us.

If we're on our knees right now, wondering how we'll get through Christmas and stay afloat in the new year, I believe God is saying to us: I've been there, in the middle of shattered plans. Like James Stewart's character in *It's a Wonderful Life*, we mean more to others than we could possibly imagine. And we are loved by God in Christ with a love deeper than the deepest stars in space.

Wishing you the peace and hope found at the heart of Christmas,

Bishop Simon Burton-Jones  
Bishop of Tonbridge

### Christmas 2021

You can watch Bishop Simons at:

<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/news/bishop-simons-christmas-reflection.php>



LIVING  
IN LOVE  
& FAITH



All Saints' Orpington, Bart Hart Road, BR6 0QD  
with the Orpington Deanery Synod

is hosting a free weekly Course for five weeks on  
*Living in Love & Faith*

Course Facilitator Rev Jane Winter,  
Diocesan Advocate for Living in Love & Faith.

Christian Teaching and Learning about identity,  
sexuality, relationships and marriage  
Each session includes an introduction to the topic,  
real life stories, bible study, time for questions and  
conversation, prayer

Wednesday 19th January to 16th February 2022  
7.30pm

The course is open to everyone  
Please email [orpdeanerysynod@gmail.com](mailto:orpdeanerysynod@gmail.com) to  
register your intention to attend



**TO DONATE TO  
US ONLINE SCAN  
THE QR CODE**



# WANTED

OUR MOST NEEDED ITEMS ARE:

**SWEETS  
COLD MEAT  
TINNED FISH  
RICE (500G BAGS)  
TINNED VEGETABLES  
LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE  
TOILET ROLLS  
SHAVING FOAM/GEL  
MEN'S & LADIES DEODORANTS  
BIO & NON BIO WASHING DETERGENT**

**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**

## Jewellery Sales

Thank you to all who bought my jewellery

Including Gift Aid, I have been able to put £131.25 into Church funds.

Karen Norwood

## Advent Prayer Space

Poet-priest Malcolm Guite writes: "Advent is a season for stillness, for quiet, for discernment. It is a season of active waiting, straining forward, listening, attentive and finely tuned. It's good to keep a quiet space, a sacred time, an untrammelled sanctuary away from the pressures, to be still and hear again one's deepest yearnings for a saviour."

To help us focus on God in this season which can be so busy, I am going to lead a time of prayer and reflection in church at 8pm each Wednesday evening during Advent. There will be words and music to listen to, pictures and silence for reflection and prayer.

Please come and join me at 8pm on the 22nd December. If you would like more info, contact me on [melanie@zartell.uk](mailto:melanie@zartell.uk).

Melanie



It is with much sadness that we have to announce that our dear sister in Christ, Pauline Mills, was taken to be with the Lord on Monday 13th December, after a short illness. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her, not least for her kindness, gentleness, and quiet, caring spirit.

Her funeral will be on **Friday 21st January 2022, 12pm** at Christ Church, and the family would like to invite anyone who would like to come to be there.

Please pray for her son Nick, daughter Katherine and the wider family and friends. The family are so grateful for all our prayers.

*'Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength.'* 1 Cor 15:43

## LBC News Flash



Dear friends, greetings from Latvia!!!

I am inspired by the faith of Mary. It's a childlike sincere and simple faith, which doesn't question or require an additional proof that God has spoken. Her answer to the angelic messenger, after a brief explanation, was equally striking: "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." (NIV) How much dear friends we need that kind of faith in the 2nd year of pandemic? It's a faith of unshakable trust and obedience to the Lord, no matter what. Rejoice - Our Saviour was born!!

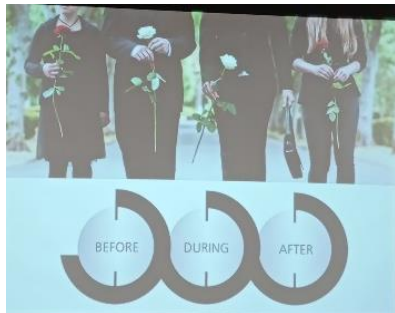
## LBC news



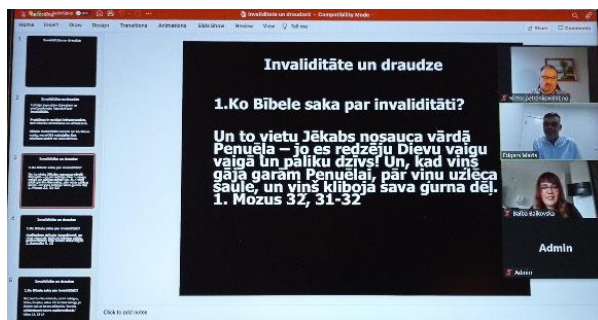
A month of the partial lockdown come and gone, but LBC's life continues. Latvian government-imposed restrictions affected our ministry but didn't stop it. We had to adapt to the existing conditions and to carry on our programs in the mixed regime. That meant that those who are vaccinated could come physically to LBC and sit in the classroom with others watching ongoing lectures via YouTube. All functioned well, though not seeing our students physically did affect the whole of dynamic.

Programs covered:

- OT & NT overviews
- The environment of the NT
- Pauline epistles



School of Preachers covered important themes such as Creativity in Preaching, Preaching on Special occasions like weddings, funerals, baptism services, etc.



LBC together with the organization "Society of possibilities" organized a seminar on the theme of "Invalids and Christian community" to educate regarding different issues in relation to invalids and how to reach them out with the gospel. Latvia still has a post-Soviet mentality and prejudice towards invalids. Although our society is changing slowly, the prevailing attitude still is that the invalids are invalids and they deserve compassion and mercy, rather than treating them as human beings with a certain potential. The invalids are also the most unreached part of Latvian society.

## CWS

We are happy to inform you that we are currently in the negotiations with a "Realis" seminary in Ukraine regarding CWS program in Ukraine. As you probably know Ukraine is a highly corrupted country and is in urgent need of "evangelizing" its workplace and business. There is a need for programs like ours to be developed, so that Christians could bring the "salt and light" into their workplace.

The other potential development could be also in Belarus where some leaders from the Baptist union expressed interest in this program.

## Prayer needs

- **Praise** the Lord for the programs and students who attended these courses. Despite lockdown and restrictions our students still show a great interest in studies.
- **Pray for:** The continuation of a good partnership between LBC and seminary in Ukraine and Belarus.
- Our librarian's (Arija) husband is dying from cancer. She needs a special grace during this Christmas.
- Our administrator Solvita buried her father back in November, but now her elderly mother is in a poor health as well as her husband. She is exhausted and tired by trying to look after them.
- We are currently advertising and recruiting the new students for CWS, BA program, post-graduate MA and PhD programs.
- The recruitment of a new director to succeed Victor.

Thank you, dear friends, for all your prayers, support, and love for LBC's ministry. You are our partners, and we treasure the relationship and friendship with each one of you.

God bless, Victor & Ester Petrenko

(On behalf of LBC staff, students, and teachers)

[www.bible.lv](http://www.bible.lv)

<https://www.facebook.com/LBC.RIBI>

Instagram: latvijasbiblecentrs

## More news from LBC

Dear friends, just to let you know that two of LBC staff members experienced bereavements. Solvita our administrator has a funeral today of her husband and Arija, our librarian just lost her husband this morning. Please lift them up in your prayers today and in the days to come this Christmas...

Solvita lost her father back in November and her mother is also very weak and in a precarious condition.

Thank you for all your support.

**Jesus is coming back!!!**

**Let's lift our eyes up to Him!!!**

With love and gratitude, Victor & Ester  
on behalf of LBC staff and students

## Open Kitchen – Please vote for us!

We have been nominated by Asda Swanley to be part of their Green Token Giving scheme during December and January. This gives us the opportunity to be awarded **£500** from the Asda Foundation, but we need your support. Only the charity with the largest number of votes will be awarded this grant.

Please vote for us **EVERY WEEK** during this month and January 2022. Go to [www.asda.com/green-tokens](http://www.asda.com/green-tokens), select Swanley from the dropdown menu, and then vote for Open Kitchen at Christ Church Orpington. Please share this with your family and friends, encouraging them to vote each week. This money will make such a difference to local families who are in need, all with the click of a button.

Thank you so much for your support!  
Liesel Stanbridge  
Open Kitchen foodbank



## Northumbria Daily Prayer

You are invited to come along to Daily Prayer at 9am-9.20am in the chapel on Mondays and Tuesdays led by Helen Musson, our curate.

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

we are meeting 20th & 21st December

## GDPR

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)

## Solution to last week's Wordsearch

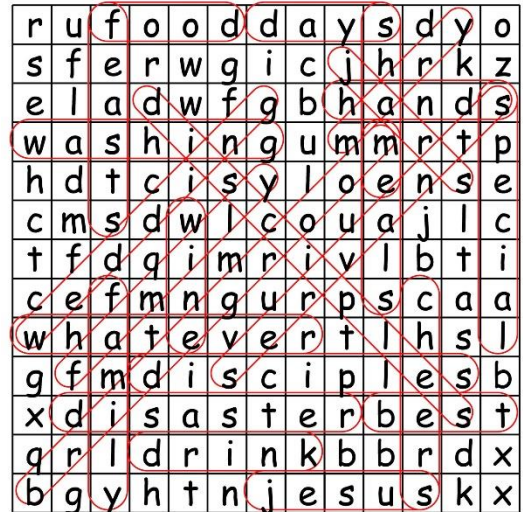


Photo by Caleb Stokes reproduced courtesy of Unsplash

**On your own for Christmas?  
Come have Christmas lunch with us!**

**At the Vicarage...**

**...after the Christmas Morning service**



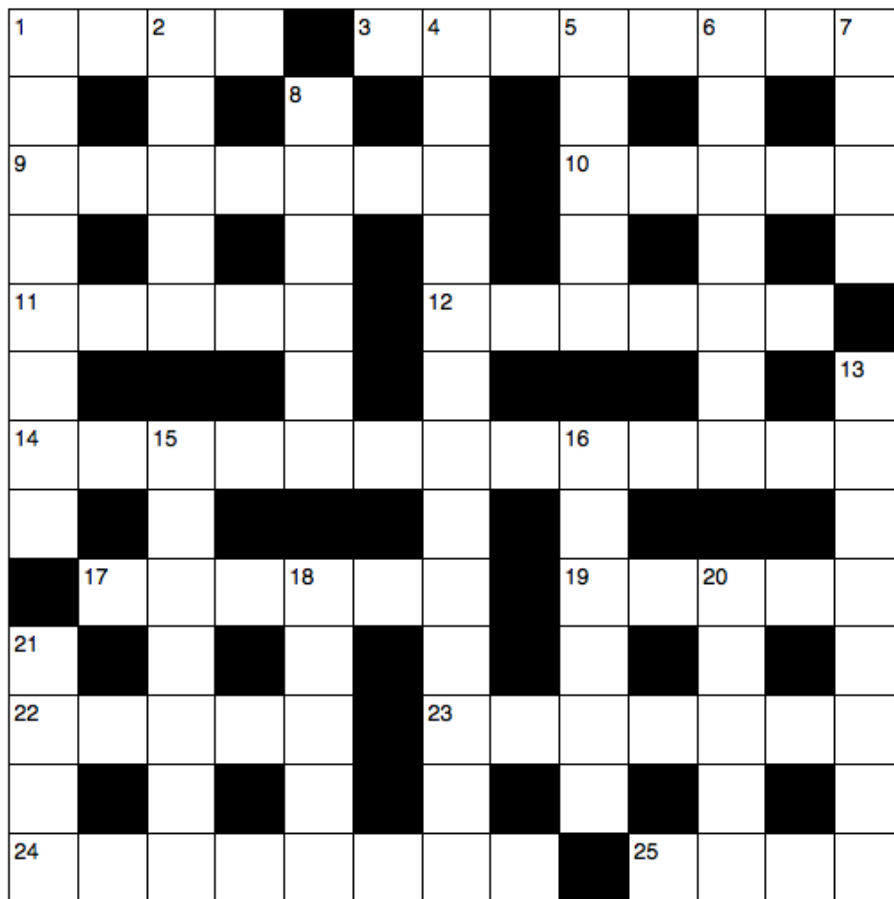
**11.45am – 3pm**

**Buffet Lunch**

**Christmas pudding & cream to follow**

**Please RSVP to Sharon or Andi**

# word



## Across

- 1 'The baby in my — leaped for joy' (Luke 1:44) (4)
- 3 A 'don't know' in matters of faith (8)
- 9 In the distant past (Jeremiah 2:20) (4,3)
- 10 Armada (1 Kings 10:22) (5)
- 11 Where Moses was confronted with the burning bush (Exodus 3:1) (5)
- 12 Hair colour indicative of skin infection (Leviticus 13:30) (6)
- 14 'The worries of this life and the — of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful' (Matthew 13:22) (13)
- 17 Expel (2 Kings 13:23) (6)
- 19 What Jesus wrapped round his waist when he washed his disciples' feet (John 13:4) (5)
- 22 The sixth plague to afflict the Egyptians (Exodus 9:9) (5)
- 23 For nine (anag.) (7)
- 24 Where there is no time (Psalm 93:2) (8)
- 25 Goliath's challenge to the Israelite army in the Valley of Elah: 'This day I — the ranks of Israel!' (1 Samuel 17:10) (4)

## Down

- 1 'I will become angry with them and forsake them; I — — my face from them' (Deuteronomy 31:17) (4,4)
- 2 Usual description of prophets such as Amos, Hosea, Micah, and so on (5)
- 4 'They cannot see the light of the gospel of the — — — , who is the image of God' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (5,2,6)
- 5 An animal's internal edible parts (Leviticus 4:11) (5)
- 6 Popular 20th-century religious novel by Lloyd C. Douglas, which became a 1953 film starring Richard Burton (3,4)
- 7 'A — on a hill cannot be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (4)
- 8 One of the exiles, a descendant of Bebai, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:28) (6)
- 13 Old Testament hymn-singing (8)
- 15 'And O what transport of delight from thy pure — floweth' (7)
- 16 Of felt (anag.) (3,3)
- 18 'So — the — sets you free, you will be free indeed' (John 8:36) (2,3)
- 20 Comes between 'bad' and 'worst' (John 5:14) (5)
- 21 'Neither height nor depth... will be — to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (4)