



CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX
CROSSLINKS

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**PENTECOST - THE DAY WIMPS
BECAME WARRIORS**

Vicar's ten - minute reflection
PENTECOST - THE DAY WIMPS BECAME WARRIORS



A ship strayed off course near San Diego some years back. It became stuck in a reef at low tide. Twelve tugboats were unsuccessful in their attempts to dislodge it. Finally, the captain instructed the tugs to go back home. He sighed, "I'll just be patient and wait." He waited until high tide. All of a sudden the ocean began to rise. What human power could not do, the rising tide of the Pacific Ocean did. It lifted that ship and put it back into the channel.

Something like that happened to the early church on the Day of Pentecost. They were all together in one place, confused, unmotivated and fearful

when suddenly the tide of God rolled in. There was such turmoil that some supposed that the disciples were drunk. It fell upon Simon Peter to explain to the crowd what was occurring. They were not drunk, he said. God was pouring out His Spirit on His people. And Peter began telling the good news of Jesus. When he had finished, about three thousand souls were added to the church. How I long to have such excitement in the church again! How I long for the mighty tide of God to roll in once more.

Just consider the changes that Pentecost brought about in the disciples. The fearful became fearless. Facing the very same Jewish Council which had condemned Jesus, Simon Peter indicted them all for executing Jesus. When the Council warned the disciples not to teach in Jesus' name, Simon Peter replied, "We must obey God rather than men". Those disciples stood like steers in a blizzard, refusing to be intimidated. When Simon Peter and John were beaten within an inch of their lives, they rejoiced over the privilege of suffering for Jesus. The amplified Bible says, "they were.....[dignified by the indignity]". The wimps had become warriors! And as persecution forced them out of Jerusalem, they just told the story over a wider area.

"without the Holy Spirit, I'm a mess. With the Holy Spirit I'm a message!"



The great missionary to India, E. Stanley Jones, was fond of saying, "Without the Holy Spirit, I'm a mess. With the Holy Spirit I'm a message!"

It is so ironic that God used Peter on that first Pentecost to explain what was happening to the disciples of Jesus. If you read the gospels, Peter spent most of his time with Jesus completely clueless as to what was really going on. At the trial of Jesus, he denied any association with his master for fear of the Jewish authorities. Now, he stood before a diverse group of perhaps 2,000 people who gathered to see what was happening, unafraid of what the authorities that killed Jesus Christ would say or do. Peter explained to them that the wind and fire was exactly what the prophet Joel had predicted.

'It shall come to pass in the last days that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young shall see visions, and your old shall dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.' (Joel 2.28-29) "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit gives us the power **to be** living witnesses of and for Christ.

Men and women, young and old, slave, and free, God pours the Spirit on us all. The Spirit redefined what it meant to be the people of God. Pentecost was an act of great inclusion.

* In a day when women were treated like property, God gave them the Spirit in equal measure.

* To older ones discarded and discounted, God gave the Spirit.

* To the young, often abused and neglected, God gave the Spirit.

* To the oppressed, the enslaved, God gives the liberating Spirit.

God was personally breaking down barriers welcoming those who too often get left out.

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STOP, LOOK, AND LISTEN



Living in a remote forest at the northern edge of Canada, Trapper John's closest friend was his faithful German Shepherd, Duke. Every few days he and Duke would take the overnight trek to check the traps. Selling animal pelts at the trading post in the distant town sustained their simple life.

Trapper John and Duke had shared each other's company for over ten years since he had traded a couple furs for the puppy. The dog loved the man, often protecting him from wild animals when they were out on their all-night treks. Duke even seemed to listen attentively to Trapper John share his feelings as he sat by the campfire. Although it was a lonely existence, Trapper John had chosen it.

On one trip into town to sell his furs and purchase more goods, he met her. New in town, this young woman immediately caught his attention. She worked at the trading post and seemed anxious to engage him in conversation. They enjoyed dinner together, and after that John started making more frequent trips into town. That spring they married, and she moved her things out to the trapper's cabin in the woods.

Their first child was born the following winter - but tragedy accompanied the birth of their beautiful daughter, for Trapper John's wife died in childbirth. Broken-hearted, he had no choice but to take his baby girl into town to live with a kind family willing to take care of her until she was old enough to return to the cabin.

She was almost a year old when Trapper John brought her back to his cabin in the woods. Now he was faced with the challenge of raising a child while sustaining their existence with trapping. During his overnight trips, he would leave Duke with the sleeping baby, knowing that he would protect her if she were in any danger. On one such trip tragedy once again visited this small family.

Returning home early in the morning after checking his traps,

Stop, look, and listen

John came to the top of the hill overlooking his cabin. His heart pounded wildly when he noticed the front door of the cabin pushed open. Throwing down his pelts, he raced to the open door to check on his daughter.

As he entered the cabin, his worst fears were realized. The baby's little bed was covered with blood. In that moment he caught sight of Duke cowering in the corner, covered with blood. Enraged, the man cocked his rifle and pointed it directly at Duke.

"You killed my baby! You killed my baby!" John's anguished roar awoke the child, who started out of sleep with a little cry from underneath the blood stained blanket. John, his finger on the trigger and his dog in the gunfight, turned his head toward that cry—and with a sweep of his hand, uncovered his unharmed baby. It was only then that he saw the dead bobcat behind his daughter's bed. In a heartbreaking moment of understanding, he realized that he had almost killed the one who had saved his baby's life.

If Trapper John had taken time to get all the facts, he could have avoided this near tragedy. How many times are we guilty of the same thing? We jump to conclusions about other people and judge them before we know the whole story. We sometimes hurt each other because we haven't taken time to get all the facts. In most cases, our understanding of another person's situation is only fragmentary. We need to **stop, look, listen** and think before we act.

When Jesus died on the cross, he prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). It was partly ignorance that nailed Jesus to the cross. Don't make the same mistake today. Don't crucify Jesus all over again by turning your back on him. He is your Saviour and friend.

Pentecost - The day Wimps became Warriors

(continued from page 3)

I grew up in a church where people didn't clap and seldom laughed. Actually, there wasn't much to applaud or laugh about. But when I read the account of the first day of Pentecost, I see diverse people so empowered and joy-filled that those who were looking on accused them of being drunk with new wine. Yes, life is serious and painful at times. That is why Jesus promised to send us a "comforter." The presence of the Spirit in our lives gives us confidence and power and peace, but only when we allow the Spirit to do so.

I heard of a student typing a paper for his religion class. One line of the paper said that Jesus came to take away our guilt, but he accidentally typed letter "q," so what he typed was that Jesus came to take away our quilt. The professor must have known something of the joy of the spirit because she wrote on his paper. Fear not little sheep, you will not be cold because God has given us a comforter.

And so it is for those who are members of the family of God. What transforms our lives is the knowledge that we are:

- * never alone,
- * never bereft,
- * never orphaned,

for God is with us always.

I heard an amusing story about a boy who was wandering around the narthex of a large city church one Sunday morning and stopped and examined a large bronze plaque that was hung on the wall. "What are all those names up there?" he asked one of the ushers. "Those are the names of people who died in the service," the usher replied. Curious, the boy asked the usher, "which service, the 9:30 service or the 11 o'clock service?"

I am happy to report that the Pentecost we are celebrating,

Pentecost - The day Wimps became Warriors

is a birth, not a death - the birth of the church, the birth of Christ in you and me - and in all who call on his Name. It is a significant day - the day on which the first believers came alive in their faith, the day when the Rock upon which Christ planted his church began to support and uphold an incredible new life - a life that has existed since the world began, but which was poured out in a special fashion and took on flesh in you and me much as it took life in Jesus, the son of Mary, the Son of God so long ago.

While it would be wrong to expect a rushing mighty wind or tongues, as of fire, to be present today when the Holy Spirit is poured out, we can experience the true gift. The disciples were filled in fulfilment of a promise. They were filled as they received in faith. They were filled in God's timing. They were filled as they were together in unity. And they were filled in unusual ways.

Pentecost is an event that the world has long been promised and which the people of God have long awaited. It is the reversal of what occurred at the Tower of Babel when, because of our sinfulness, we became unable to understand one another. It is the gifting of God to make us one and to make us one in the way the Trinity is one. Pentecost is our becoming Christ in the world.

Dele Agbelusi

Memory Verse

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

(Acts 1:8)



NOTICE BOARD

CHRIST CHURCH SUMMER BARBEQUE

Our summer barbeque this year will take place in the vicarage garden on Sunday 10th July 2011 at 12noon after morning worship. Tickets (covering Bbq, soft drinks and salads) are on sale from 12th June: Adults, £5, students/concession £2.50, children under 7, £1.00. Proceeds go towards church funds. Jim Jenks

COACH TRIP TO BRIGHTON

A day-coach trip is being organised to Brighton on Saturday 30th July 2011. The cost of transportation is £15.00 per person and it does not include the cost of meals or drinks. Please give your names to Iyabo Agbelusi or call 020 8340 1566 to register. The trip is open to all our friends and well-wishers. Iyabo Agbelusi

MORRISS HOUSE GARDEN PARTY

18th June, 2.30pm to 4.00pm at 23 Coolhurst Road, Crouch End, London N8 8EP. Proceeds go to brightening up the lives of the elderly residents of Morriss House, so come and support this good cause.

WORSHIP TIMES IN MAY/JUNE

<u>Date</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>6:00pm</u>
29th May	(HS) THE LORD IS WITH YOU Judges 6:1-24	NO EVENING SERVICE
5th June	(MP) THE GLORY OF THE FATHER IN THE SON Acts 1:6-24; John 17:1-11	HERE I AM, SEND MY BROTHER
12th June	(HC) PENTECOST: WHEN WIMPS BECAME WARRIORS Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23	BRICKS WITHOUT STRAWS Exodus 5
19th June	(FS) FATHER'S DAY: IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT Matthew 28:16-20	NO EVENING SERVICE
26th June	(HC) ENTER SAMSON, THE DELIVERER Judges 13; Luke 2:1-7	GOD WHERE ARE YOU? Exodus 6:1-12; 7:8-24

Note: HC denotes Common Worship Holy Communion; MP— Morning Prayer; FS, Family Service; HS— Healing and Anointing Service

Keep your valuables safe

Whilst police continue to carry out operational activity to tackle robbery, such as targeted patrols and pro-active investigations to identify and arrest those involved, we ask you to take steps to help keep your valuables safe:

- In public places, try to keep valuables, such as phones, laptops, neck chains and other jewellery, hidden.
- Be vigilant about where and when you use your phone, don't take your phone out as soon as you leave shops, transport hubs and other public areas, in quiet side streets or when you are going about your business and may be distracted.
- Register the IMEI number of your mobile phone for free on the www.immobilise.com property register.

What's your IMEI number?

If you are unfortunate to have your phone stolen, then do you need it back again and would you like to help police catch the person responsible?

The thing that makes all the difference is knowing your IMEI number. This is the unique serial number that is specific to the handset, so if someone takes your phone, and even swaps the SIM card, then the network can lockdown the phone so it cannot be used.

But they can't do that without knowing the IMEI number. It's a bit like the registration number on your car. To find the number all you need do is: press the keys * # 0 6 # on the handset keypad, which will bring up the IMEI number electronically on the phone screen. This will help frustrate thieves, help police catch those involved in stealing or handling stolen goods, and help you get your phone back.

If you have information about crime, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

In an emergency always dial 999.

LAUGHTER LINES

Mam-maw, You're Not Fat

My 4 year-old granddaughter, Brenna, has been taught that calling someone fat isn't polite. Instead, she's supposed to say "overweight." One day while she was at my house, I commented that I was fat and needed to lose weight.



Brenna replied, "Mam-maw, you're not fat! You're just overflowed!"

—Sherry Headrick, Irving, TX. *Today's Christian Woman*, "Heart to Heart."

The Dawn of Routine

There is an old story about a mother who walks in on her six year-old son and finds him sobbing. "What's the matter?" she asks.

"I've just figured out how to tie my shoes." "Well, honey, that's wonderful." Being a wise mother, she recognizes his victory in the Eriksonian struggle of autonomy versus doubt: "You're growing up, but why are you crying?"

"Because," he says, "now I'll have to do it every day for the rest of my life." —John Ortberg, *Leadership Journal*, Vol. 14, no. 3

Apology Included

An elderly gentleman was in the post office and was unable to address the postcard he wanted to send to a friend. He asked a young man if he would address the postcard for him.

The man gladly agreed to do so and even offered to write a short note on the card for the elderly gentleman. After a short note was dictated, the young man handed the postcard to the old fellow. The elderly gentleman looked at the postcard, handed it back to the young man, and asked, "Would you mind doing one more thing for me?"

The young man had thoroughly enjoyed this act of kindness and answered, "Certainly, what else may I do for you?"

The elderly gentleman replied, "At the end of the note could you add, 'Please excuse me for the sloppy handwriting?'"

Michael E. Hodgkin

LAUGHTER LINES

Business is Business

A young Jewish boy started attending public school in a small town. The teacher of the one-room school decided to use her position to try and influence the new student. She asked the class, "Who was the greatest man who ever lived?"

A girl raised her hand and said, "I think George Washington was the greatest man who ever lived because he is the father of our country."

The teacher replied, "Well, that's a good answer, but that's not the answer I'm looking for."

Another young student raised his hand and said, "I think Abraham Lincoln was the greatest man who ever lived because he freed the slaves and helped end the Civil War."

"Well, that's another good answer, but that's not the one I was looking for."

Then the new Jewish boy raised his hand and said, "I think Jesus Christ was the greatest man who ever lived."

The teacher's mouth dropped open in astonishment. "Yes!" she said. "That's the answer I was looking for." She then brought him up to the front of the classroom and gave him a lollipop.

Later, during recess, another Jewish boy approached him as he was licking his lollipop. He said, "Why did you say, 'Jesus Christ'?"

The boy stopped licking his lollipop and replied, "I know it's Moses, and you know it's Moses, but business is business."

Michael E. Hodgins

Not going Fishing

An elderly woman saw a young boy with a fishing pole over his shoulder and a jar of tadpoles in his hand. He was walking through the park on a Sunday afternoon. "Son," she called out, "don't you know you shouldn't go fishing on Sunday?"

"I am not going fishing," the boy answered. "I'm going home."

Michael E. Hodgins

STORY OF THE MONTH - FROM RAGS TO RICHES

The story is told of a man called Yates who, during the depression, owned a sheep ranch in Texas. He did not have enough money to continue paying on the mortgage - in fact he was forced like many others to live on government subsidies.

Each day as he tended his sheep he worried about how he was going to pay his bills. Sometime later a seismographic crew arrived on his land and said that there might be oil on his land and could they test drill. After a lease was signed they went ahead.

At 1115 feet a huge oil reserve was struck - subsequent wells revealed even more oil than the first well revealed. Mr Yates owned it all. He had the oil and mineral rights. He had been living on relief - yet he was a millionaire. Think of it - he owned all that oil with its tremendous potential, yet for many years he did not realize it.

How often are we like Mr. Yates? Considering ourselves poor and helpless, all the while unaware of the extraordinary power that we have available to us. The Spirit has been and is being poured out upon us. The gift of God is just below the surface in our minds and hearts, and to the right and to the left of us - above us and below us, to the front and to the rear.

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One, and blessed be the church which his victory has won.

If you find a pathway with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere.

Your attitude toward your trouble often hurts you more than the trouble.

For the Christian, dark clouds of trouble are but the shadow of God's wing.

When troubles call on you, call God.



IS JESUS GOD OR MAN? ASKS NICEA COUNCIL

Three hundred and twelve bishops gathered. In the centre of the room, on a throne, lay the four gospels. The emperor himself, dressed in a purple gown and wearing a silver diadem, opened the council. It was he who had called them together. "I rejoice to see you here, yet I should be more pleased to see unity and affection among you." The place was Nicea. It was on May 20th, 325.



The next few days would be devoted primarily to one purpose: finding a way to describe exactly who Jesus was. Arius had preached that Christ was a creation of God, the first of all his creatures, to be sure, but a creation nonetheless. He was not of the substance or nature of God. "There was a time when the Son was not," he and his followers insisted. They even made up songs with catchy tunes to propagandize their ideas among the masses.

Bishop Alexander of Alexandria was horrified. Jesus, the Word, had co-existed eternally with God the Father he argued. If Christ were not God, then man could not be saved, for only the infinite and holy God could forgive sin. He deposed Arius. Arius did not go quietly. He gathered followers and continued to teach his controversial doctrine. The factions rioted. The unity of the empire was shaken. Constantine was alarmed. He called the council.

As the council progressed, the bishop of Nicomedia defended Arius' views, attempting to prove logically that Jesus, the Son of God, was a created being. Opposition bishops snatched his speech from his hand and flung it in shreds to the floor. They had suffered for Christ, some of them greatly, in the persecutions of Diocletian. They weren't about to stand by and hear their Lord blasphemed. Otherwise, to what purpose had they borne their gouged eyes,

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Is Jesus God or Man? Asks Nicea Council

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scourged backs, hamstrung legs and scorched hands? The issues of Nicea boil down to this. If Christ is not God, how can he overcome the infinite gap between God and man? If a created being could do it, there were angels aplenty with the power. Indeed, why could not any good man himself bridge the gap? On the other hand, Jesus had to be truly man, otherwise how could he represent mankind?

At some point the council decided their best course was to write a creed that testified to what they believed. The creed of Nicea became a document of fundamental importance to the church. That so many of the bishops who approved it had suffered greatly for Christ only added to its significance. The council itself was a forerunner to many more, some international, some regional. Those councils which came after also grappled with issues of Christ's humanity and deity...

Dan Graves, MSL

THINKING CORNER



HEAVENLY CORRESPONDENCE

E-MAIL FROM GOD (29)

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From: **GOD, YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER**

To: **You, My beloved child**

**Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness; come before
him with joyful songs. (Psalm 100:1)**

Subject: **BRING THE NOISE**

My beloved child,

People get loud and extreme for rock stars, movie stars, and famous athletes, but they think it's disrespectful to cheer for Me. Do you think the only way to worship Me is with your face in a hymnal, bowing your head, or kneeling? Someone has deceived you.

I want you to get loud for Me. My Word says it's okay. I made you to be the way you are, and I made you part of your generation. True, I made times for kneeling, but I also made times for celebrating.

So if I've done something good for you, if there's anything about Me that you like, then *shout* thanks to Me. If you play music, then write songs for Me, and turn up the volume when you play them. You have My permission to get loud. Crank it up!

The One Who Made Thunder,
God

Adapted from 'e-mail from God for Teens'-Clonigers

MOTTO/TEXT FOR THE YEAR

“I WANT TO KNOW CHRIST AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION...” (Philip. 3:10)

FINDING OUT ABOUT ...CHRIST CHURCH?

Tel/Fax: 020 8340 1566

We are a family of men and women, boys and girls who are resolved to live for God in a world that has largely chosen to ignore Him.

We believe that it is God's world and that He has given the answer to all human problems in Jesus Christ. As a body of believers, we offer to all who come, regular opportunities for worship and service that point the way to God as our strongest resources in all aspects of life.

We will be pleased to welcome you to any of our activities. You will find a warm welcome at Christ Church.

Times of worship and fellowship are shown below:

- Sunday**
- **8.00 am.** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
 - **10.30 am.** Main service with Crèche facilities
- There is family/parade service once every month - usually the third Sunday of the month unless otherwise indicated.
- **6.00 pm.** Evening worship

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday** - Choir practice in church (9.30 am)
- Monday** - Baby n' Toddler Group (9.30 am to 11.30 am)
- Brownies meeting in church (5.30 pm)
- Prayer meetings in church - 6th and 20th June, 4th July (8 pm)
- Wednesday** - Alpha in church - (6.30 pm for 7.15pm start)
- Friday** - Bible Fellowship in church - West Chapel (2.00 pm)
- Scouts meeting in church and hall (6.30 pm)
- Music Team practice in choir vestry (6.00 pm)
- Saturday** - Cell group prayer meeting in church. 7-8pm

Enquiry/Counselling/Prayer Lifeline - please phone 020 8340 1566

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YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

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