



CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX
CROSSLINKS

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THE STORMS ARE RAGING EVERYWHERE

Vicar's five- minute reflection

STORMS, STORMS EVERYWHERE!



These are said to be very horrible times - there are storms everywhere - physical and spiritual storms, but they always were since I have known anything of the world, and they always were in our fathers' time. We are always at a crisis according to some people. I am not about to defend the times; they are no doubt very bad, for the innumerable spirits of evil are bold and active, while 'good' men seem to have lost their courage.

My wife and I worshipped in Zaria, Northern part of Nigeria, one of the cities which was at the receiving end of horrific atrocities unleashed by Muslim militants, '*Boko Haram*' on the Christians. The church where I preached had been torched during the attack but thank God the Christians were still in very high spirits and I almost wept as I joined over a thousand people who defied all threats to worship the living Jesus. The environment had changed in response to new security challenges. Every worshipper had to be frisked with scanners before entering the place of worship as if we were going to board a plane! The fear of further attacks was in the air but the resilience of faith in the One who is able to preserve His own to the uttermost overwhelmed every fear. We must not forget to pray for our brethren in Northern Nigeria. There are some cities where more than 80% of places of Christian worship have been razed to the ground, and the Christians now have to meet for worship in homes as it was 2000 years ago!

While we were agonising over the challenges the church was facing in Northern Nigeria, we saw on the International news the carnage that had been unleashed in Tottenham and other parts of London by agents of the same master. In John 10:10 Jesus says: the 'thief (devil and his collaborators) has come to steal and kill and destroy; (but) I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' What does God expect from His Church in all this opposition and persecution and what is our response?

Many of us are likely to focus on the horrible scenes where



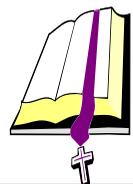
Christians and their families are killed, their homes and properties destroyed and churches are burned (re - Northern Nigeria), or the horrible scenes of looting, carnage and wanton destruction of properties across the U.K and feel enraged at such ungodly acts. But all these are evidence of dry ground and the reflections of stony hearts. Suppose God saves those *Boko Haram* terrorists in Nigeria or those hoodlums who are trying to destabilise our way of life in the UK; suppose He converts this throng of people whose bellies have become their gods? What penitent sinners they will make when God breaks their stony hearts and gives them new hearts of flesh!

Are we discouraged? Far from it. Bad times are famous times for Christ. The early church grew on account of the great persecution that broke out against it. There were casualties but the blood of the martyrs became the mortar which bonded the bricks with which the early Church was built. When Wycliffe came, the times were dark enough in England, and therefore the morning star was the more welcome. When Luther came into the world, the times were almost as black as they could be and therefore good times for reformation! The times were dead enough when Wesley and Whitefield came: but they proved glorious days for the Lord to work in! And if you discern now that there is not much prayerfulness, nor much Christ centred spirituality, nor much truthful doctrine, nor much zeal, do not fret; it is thoroughly dry soil and now the root of grace will grow. Let us all return to the Lord, penitently seek His face. It was at Calvary we were born; it is only at Calvary we can be restored when we are declining.

Dele Agbelusi

Memory Verse

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:31, 38 ,39)



JOINED AT THE HIP



Slide show is a musical based on the true story of the Hilton twins. The Hiltons were Siamese twins who rose from poverty as a sideshow attraction to become a singing and dancing vaudeville act in the 1930s and, later, stars of some B –grade films.

One unusual element of this play is that the two lead actresses must play the parts of the Hiltons, who are “joined at the hip.” It doesn’t matter how good their individual talents are if they can’t work together and if they can’t do it convincingly. The success of the show depends on the success of their partnership. If one of them decides to go solo, the show is over.

That is a good metaphor of marriage. Once the commitment is made, husband and wife are, as it were, “joined at the hip.” They succeed or fail together. Other people don’t generally think of one without thinking of the other. Wherever life’s drama takes them, their success depends on doing it together.

When husbands focus only on their interests and wives focus only on their interests, the bonds of marriage break. Building togetherness in each of the following areas will strengthen your marriage and increase your love:

Emotional togetherness - being tuned into each other’s feelings.

Intellectual togetherness - sharing thoughts, ideas, opinions, and beliefs.

Aesthetic togetherness - enjoying the beauty and artistry of life.

Crisis togetherness - leaning on each other when times are hard

Sexual togetherness - bonding through physical closeness

Spiritual togetherness - drawing closer to God and encouraging each other’s faith.

D.A.

JOHN STOTT - THE GEM IS HOME WITH THE LORD

"John Stott - Home with the Lord", written by Doug Birdsall
and Lindsay Brown - Wednesday, 27 July 2011



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Today we ... mourn the death and celebrate the life of ... John Stott. Surrounded by friends at the time of his passing, Stott is now in heaven with his Lord and surrounded by the saints who have placed their faith in Christ.

Stott was the most unifying leader in global evangelicalism for several decades. He reached millions with his theological works, sermons, devotionals, and Bible study materials. He was the primary architect of the 1974 Lausanne Covenant, a watershed document in church history. In recognition of his "services to Christian scholarship and the Christian world," Stott was awarded Commander of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth in 2005. But as a man marked by uncommon humility, the Rev. Dr. John R. W. Stott CBE was known by friends simply as "Uncle John."

Throughout his long and fruitful life, Stott defended the historic teachings of the church in a careful and irenic manner. He galvanized evangelical renewal within the Church of England from his parish at All Souls Langham Place in London. Through the Langham Partnership he encouraged emerging scholars, developed preachers, and helped develop libraries for preachers and teachers around the world.

Perhaps more than any other person in the last half century, John Stott restored confidence in the authority of the Bible and in the centrality of biblical preaching and teaching. He inspired many evangelicals around the world to make a robust and clear affirmation of biblical truth while at the same time emphasizing that this must be backed up with a distinctive, godly, Christian life.

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100 YEARS AGO

So why did my wife and I ask Canon Dele if we could come to visit Christ Church on July 12th 2011? Quite simply, it would be 100 years exactly to the day since two young people were married there – my grandparents!

Frank Oetzmann and Margaret Snowden came from two large London families, although, as you might suspect from the name, Frank's family were more recent arrivals in the country, probably as migrants from Northern Europe in the late 1700's. But without their marriage and the hopes that they and their families must have brought on that sunny day (yes, we have one or two photos from the day which show they had good weather!), their descendents would be so much the poorer; hence, our reason for this return to Christ Church – to give thanks for them and what they promised that day.

Frank had good prospects within the family business, but within 10 years, he would have died from TB, leaving a widow with three young children. Their youngest, never strong, would also die whilst still at school, though Margaret always said that at least it saved him from the traumas of the 2nd World War. But Margaret's faith was always strong, and she remained a faithful member of the local parish church all her long life (she died at the age of 92), so that one of my earliest memories is of walking across the fields where she lived to the Church on Easter day, when we had travelled from my childhood home in London to stay with her for Easter.

She was probably dimly aware in her last years that one of her grandchildren was preparing for ordination in the Church of England, but she would certainly never know that he would be spending 12 years in a parish at the Archway – just minutes away from the place where she and Frank stepped out in faith that July day in 1911. It seemed the very least we could do was to come back and offer thanks in the silence of the very building where they made their promises one hundred years before. Revd Malcolm White

FAMOUS PHOBIAS

Psychologists have given names to almost every fear (or phobia) under the sun. For example, if you have a fear of...

...crowds—then you have ochlophobia.

...darkness—you have nyctophobia.

...failure—you have kakorrhaphiophobia.

...loneliness—you have monophobia.

...marriage—you have gamophobia.

...poverty—you have peniaphobia.

...responsibility—you have hypengyophobia.

...ridicule (being made fun of)—you have categelophobia.

...God—theophobia.

...death—thanatophobia.

...hell—hadephobia.

So, what are you afraid of? We all have fears—some that are good (they protect us) and some that are bad (they destroy us). If you are a person with too many fears, your life will not only be miserable, but you are an easy target for Satan. The world preys on your fears—your fear of rejection, your fear of growing old, your fear of pain, your fear of loneliness.

But Jesus taught that we shouldn't be afraid of anyone or anything that would hurt us in the physical realm. God will take care of all our needs. We really don't have to worry. On the other hand, Jesus said, we should not fear anyone or anything that could hurt us spiritually and separate us from eternal life. (Matthew 10:28)

But for the Christian, God has taken care of that, too. As Paul wrote, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39). We have nothing to fear.

MAIN SERVICES IN SEPT AND OCT

<u>Date</u>	<u>10:30am</u>	<u>6:00pm</u>
18th Sept	(FS) What have you done? Gen. 3: 8 – 14	Farewell, Faithful Friends (Col. 4: 7 – 18)
25th Sept	(HC) Why are you angry? Gen. 4: 1 – 6 Luke 15: 1 - 7	FILM SHOW Road to Emmaus
2nd Oct	(MP) I am the Lord Exodus 20:1-11	Our Father in heaven (Luke 11:1-4)
9th Oct	(HC) Who am I ? Exodus 20: 12 - 21 Matthew 5:38 -48	Thy Kingdom come and Thy will . . . (Luke 11:1-4)
16th Oct	(FS) Count your blessings Harvest Thanksgiving Ephesians 1: 1-14	NO EVENING SERVICE

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

**There is Holy Communion Service every Sunday at 8am using
the Book of Common Prayer**

Christ Church Day of Reflection
Saturday 8th October 2011, 9.30am-2.30pm
Venue: Christ Church

Join us as the church family takes stock of the immediate past and looks into the future with a fresh vision. Come with your suggestions, your concerns, and your aspirations and together with the Holy Spirit we will map the way forward.

NEWS AROUND THE UK

INHERITANCE RIGHTS TO WAIT

Plans to give couples who live together the same rights as married couples have been abandoned by the Ministry of Justice. The Law Commission proposals, which were published under the last Labour government, were condemned for undermining the institution of marriage, and ministers confirmed that the measures would not be introduced during this Parliament.

The proposed changes would have given inheritance rights to cohabiting couples after two years of living together. Couples who had been together for five years would have been treated the same way as if they were married and unmarried couples who had a child together would have been given automatic inheritance rights if one of them died without a will, no matter how long they had been together...

FERAL UNDERCLASS

London's most senior police officer has questioned the Justice Secretary's description of those blamed for England's riots as a "feral underclass".

Acting Commissioner Tim Godwin said he would not have used Kenneth Clarke's term, as the officer outlined his vision for the future of policing in the wake of the widespread violence. When asked by the London Assembly how politicians could help, Mr Godwin called for assistance to empower disadvantaged communities.

Referring to the comments by Mr Clarke, Mr Godwin added: "I would not use (that term) myself. The use of the term feral was first used in about 2000 following the death of Damilola Taylor."

Mr Godwin said there has "got to be a big debate in London in terms of how we empower local communities".

LAUGHTER LINES

Healthy Christians

Bert and Ernie are two Christians who have lived very good and healthy lives. They die and arrive in heaven. Walking along one of golden streets and marvelling at all the paradise around them, Ernie turns to Bert and says, "Wow. I never knew heaven was going to be as good as this."

"Yeah," says Bert. "And just think, if we hadn't eaten all that oat bran, we could have gotten here ten years earlier."



Ouch!

"I'll give till it hurts," said a member of Hope Church to his pastor, "but you need to know I'm terribly sensitive to pain."

Too frequently an anonymous gift to the church is a donation by someone who hopes everyone will find out without his telling them.

If you want to know about the troubles the church is having, ask someone who hasn't been there for months.

Our Church will be perfect when we hear

1. "Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew."
2. "I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went twenty five minutes overtime."
3. "Personally, I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf."
4. "Forget the denominational minimum salary; let's pay our pastor so he can live like we do."
5. "I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before."

LAUGHTER LINES

6. "Since we're all here, let's start the service early."
7. "Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign."
8. "Pastor, we'd like to send you to this continuing education seminar in the Bahamas."
10. "I've decided to give our church the five hundred dollars a month I used to send to TV evangelists."

Hit Me With Your Best Shot

Our choir had grown so large that folding chairs had been placed up to and around the pulpit. This seriously restricted our pastor, who likes to move about when preaching. One Sunday, in fact, our pastor had flung out a hand to emphasize a point—and hit a lady choir member full in the face!

The following Sunday, the pastor had just started his sermon when the congregation broke into laughter. He stood there, confused, until someone pointed to the choir behind him. He turned around, and there sat the lady he had struck the week before, calmly wearing a catcher's mask.

—Mellie J. Smith-Smith, Lake Wales, Fla. Christian Reader "Lite Fare"

Ain't Misbehavin'

Preparing my five-year-old son, Keegan, for his first overnight sleepover, I explained, "Eat whatever is served, say thanks, and make sure you behave yourself." "Oh, don't worry, Mom," Keegan replied. "I never sin at anyone else's house."

—Suzy Ryan, California. Today's Christian Woman "Small Talk."

BUSINESS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Let me put it to you with the story of a simple, illiterate man who was converted through the work of the Salvation Army. He went regularly to the Salvation Army citadel. One day he came home rather disconsolate. His wife said, "What's the matter?" He said, "I've just noticed that all the people in the Salvation Army wear red sweaters, and I don't have a red sweater."

She said, "I'll knit one." So she knitted him a red sweater. The next Sunday after he went to the citadel, he still wasn't happy. His wife said, "What's wrong this time?" He said, "I just noticed all their red sweaters have yellow writing."

They were both illiterate, but she said, "Don't worry about it. I'll embroider some writing on for you." She had no idea what the yellow writing on the red sweater of a Salvation Army man said--Any of you know what it is? They have a yellow circle, and in it, BLOOD AND FIRE. That's their motto.

The man's wife had no idea what the letters said, and she couldn't read anyway. So copying a sign from a store window opposite their home, she embroidered the words of that store sign onto his red sweater.

When he came back the next Sunday, she said, "Did they like your sweater?" "They loved my sweater. Some of them said they liked my sweater better than their sweater."

What neither of them knew was that the sign on the store window she had copied read, THIS BUSINESS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.

That's what it means to get saved. That's what it means to get converted. That's what it means for the Holy Ghost to come upon you: this business under new management.

Stuart Briscoe, "Christmas 365 Days a Year," Preaching Today, Tape 135.

John Stott - the Gem is Home with the Lord



(continued from page 5)

For all of us who were together in Cape Town for the Third Lausanne Congress, we will remember the moving tributes given to the two giants of the Lausanne Movement, Billy Graham and John Stott. They were personal friends who loved and admired one another, and they were the defining figures of global evangelicalism in the last sixty years.

Today "Uncle John" went home to be with the Lord. He is now with the One who he served all his life and in whom he had total confidence.

John Stott impacted the church around the world in many ways. Perhaps his greatest contribution was to articulate clearly and to defend robustly the evangelical faith which he always understood to be biblical faith, grounded in the New Testament. The Cross of Christ was central to the message. Stott preached the cross as the sole means by which men and women could be made right with God. Evangelicalism was to Stott an expression of historic, orthodox Christianity.

The resurrection of Christ was the great hope of his life and for all mankind, and the hope for life beyond death. This is the great reality he is now experiencing as the reward and vindication for all he preached and lived for during the many years of his ministry in London and around the world.

Perhaps more than any other person in the last century, John Stott restored confidence in the authority of God's word and in the centrality of biblical preaching and teaching. He inspired many evangelicals around the world to make a robust and clear affirmation of biblical truth while at the same time emphasizing that this must be backed up with a distinctive, godly, Christian life.

He was able to hold together, in constructive biblical tension, a passionate commitment to (concluded on page 14)

John Stott - the Gem is Home with the Lord



(continued from page 13)

to evangelism along with a profound commitment to ministering to the needs of people in the context of suffering and brokenness. This is best expressed in the Lausanne Covenant, the defining evangelical document of the 20th century. Everywhere John Stott travelled to teach, he encouraged "double listening." This was a listening to the voice of the spirit of God through his word, and listening to the voice and the needs of our broken world.

Stott is known for his love for the Majority World and for students. He gave himself tirelessly to assisting and encouraging pastors and students in Africa, Latin America, Asia, the South Pacific and the Middle East. He leaves friends everywhere. Of course, his friends and his hosts knew that he would always want to take advantage of bird watching whenever the opportunity presented itself!

The church in England and around the world is richer for his great life. His simple lifestyle, his powerful preaching with its precision of thought and expression, his books written with such depth and clarity, have touched thousands and thousands around the world

We are saddened by his departure, but strengthened with the knowledge that his great confidence and his lifelong hope in Christ has now been made real to him, and his life's work has been vindicated.

Daniel 12:3: "And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above, and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

We were blessed to be impacted by a man we loved so much. The church is richer for his great life. Let's seek to honour Christ, and also to honour John Stott through a life that is lived for the glory of God and for the good of the church and the world.

HEAVENLY CORRESPONDENCE

E-MAIL FROM GOD (31)

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From: **GOD, YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER**

To: **You, My beloved child**

**Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.
(Colossians 3:12)**

Subject: **WHAT TO WEAR EVERY DAY**

My beloved child,

You might think that I have a certain dress code for you when you come to church...like maybe I demand your best outfit and your hair combed just right. Actually, I'm not all that concerned about things like that. Styles change every year.

Here's the wardrobe I want you to consider every day, and not just on Sundays: I want you to wear compassion - a kind heart that sympathises with others. I want you to wear kindness - simple deeds that help make other people's lives easier. I want you to wear humility - an attitude that isn't pushy. I want you to wear gentleness and patience - a gracious tolerance that doesn't demand its own way.

Those things will never go out of style, and you'll always be well dressed.

Your Heavenly Father,
God.

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

MOTTO/TEXT FOR THE YEAR

“I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH” PHILIPPIANS 4:13

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

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- 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 - 19th Sept., 3rd and 17th Oct. (8 pm)
- Wednesday** - Fellowship Meal in church (6:30pm) followed by,
Bible Fellowship (7.15pm)
- Thursday** - Homework Club (5pm-7pm)
- Friday** - Bible Fellowship in church - West Chapel (2.00 pm) - On recess
- 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

Editorial Board: Sheila Wheeler, Iyabo Agbelusi, Dele Agbelusi

Vicar: Revd Canon Dele Agbelusi

Church Wardens: Peter Green, Mervin Bentham, Charles Murphy

Lay Ministers: Richard Mercer, Iyabo Agbelusi

Organist: Position vacant

YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

**PLEASE WRITE TO THE EDITOR, CROSSLINKS,
THE VICARAGE, 32 CRESCENT ROAD, LONDON, N8 8AX
E-MAIL: christchurchN8@aol.com; www.christchurchn8.org.uk**