



CHRIST CHURCH  
CROUCH END HILL  
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**CROSSLINKS**



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**GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST**

## Vicar's reflection on Luke 2:13-14 GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST...



Every year, we say we're going to cut back, simplify, and have a family Christmas that focuses on the real reason for the season—Jesus. But every year, advertisements beckon, the children plead, and it seems easier just to indulge our wants and whims. Overspending, overeating, materialism, and busyness rob us of our peace and joy and rob Jesus of his rightful role as the centre of our celebration.

This Christmas, cut through the hype that leaves you exhausted and broke at the end of the year. Instead, experience the peace of knowing that God is truly with us, the joy of giving sacrificially, and the love of a Saviour who gave everything he had for us.

A number of years ago a story appeared which told of a man who picked up a beautiful rock from a North Carolina stream bed and used it as his cabin doorstep. Years later a geologist who was hiking in the area stopped at the cabin and noticed the doorstep, which he immediately recognized as a huge lump of gold. In fact, it proved to be one of the largest gold nuggets ever found east of the Rockies. Imagine having a huge nugget of gold at your doorstep and not knowing or recognizing it! In the same way, many people did not and do not recognize the glory and value and worth of Jesus.

However, the angels of Christmas Day did not have this problem. They knew exactly who it was in the manger. They understood the being and the person and the mission of the baby born in Bethlehem. As the angel himself put it, "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Who is that baby in the manger? He is the One spoken of by the prophets. He is the covenant heir of Abraham and the promised son of David. He is Emmanuel – God with us. He is Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He is the newborn King. He is the Suffering Servant who was pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. To sum up, He is the Messiah – the promised, looked for, longed for, and prayed for Messiah.

I am amazed that the angels sang "Glory to God in the highest." I am amazed by this because Christ did not leave His throne in heaven for the sake of the angels. When Satan rebelled against God and dragged a third of the angels with him Christ did not come down from heaven to save them; instead... (continued next page)



He put them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment. He did not take on the form of an angel to save the angels but He took on our flesh to save us.

Yet, the angels sang because of the birth of our Saviour and Lord. They stretched their wings and sped from their bright seats above to tell humble shepherds the good news and marvellous story of God in the flesh.

Throughout the course of history the angels have witnessed many mighty works of God. They saw the planets fashioned by the hands of God and put into the immensity of space. At that time, says Job, the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy (Job 38:7). But now they sing when they see God descend from heaven to earth and become a baby, and hang upon a woman's breast for milk. "Glory to God in the highest."

This tells us that salvation is God's highest glory. We know that God is glorified in every flower that blooms, every bird that sings, every bee that buzzes, every frog that croaks. God is praised in and by every creature in the heavens, on the earth, and in the sea from the least to the greatest. All of creation sings of its Creator's might. But none of this praise can begin to compare to the glory and majesty given Him because of the birth of the Saviour and Lord in Bethlehem. "Glory to God in the highest." God's wisdom, God's power, God's love, God's faithfulness, God's mercy, God's justice all reach their highest expression in the baby in the manger who becomes the man on the cross. The whole of God is glorified in Christ.

**Though creation may be a majestic organ of praise, it cannot reach the compass of the golden canticle—Incarnation! What power, that Godhead should unrobe itself and become man! Behold, what *love* is thus revealed to us when Jesus becomes a man. The whole of God is glorified in Christ; and though some part of the name of God is written in the universe, it is here best read—in Him who was the Son of Man, and, yet, the Son of God.**

The only glad tidings that made the angels sing, are those that put God first, God last, God in the middle, and God without end, in the salvation of his creatures. But, now, they sang as it were a new song before the throne of God: for they added this stanza—"on earth, peace." They did not sing that in the garden because there was more than peace there; for there was glory to God there.

(Continued on page 10)

## THE LORD WILL CARRY YOU



What is it that makes couples happy? You'll be surprised to find out what it's not! Money, success, health, beauty, intelligence or power have little to do with a couple's subjective feelings of wellbeing.

Research has shown that the level of a couple's joy is determined by each partner's ability to *adjust to things beyond his or her control*. Happy couples learn to find the right attitude in spite of the conditions they're in.

If your hearts  
are heavy, do  
what you can  
to meet one  
another's  
needs

When trials come your way, you have a choice. You can throw up your hands in frustration, give in to self-pity and become mired in resentment and defeat. Or you can raise your hands to God in prayer, search out alternatives, move ahead and ultimately trust the Lord to carry you through. If your hearts are heavy, do what you can to meet one another's needs. Then rely on God to get you through your beyond-belief ordeal. Your capacity to adjust to undesirable circumstances is the real secret to building the happy marriage that you both desire.

Les and Leslie Parrot

## MARRIAGE COMMITMENT

With the rising divorce rate and the trend toward total truthfulness these days, it is almost as though the marriage vows are being changed from "till death do us part" to "till something better comes along." The ties of a durable marriage are not like the pretty silken ribbons attached to wedding presents. Instead, they must be forged like steel in the heat of daily life and the pressures of crisis in order to form a union that cannot be severed.

## THERE IS HOPE FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

Stress really brings out the worst in me. Despite my best efforts, anxiety roils up inside me and I become irritable and snappish with the people around me—especially my husband. At such times, I can't stand to be around myself, and I can't blame others if they don't want to be with me either.

Just last week, when we were packing and taking care of several details in preparation to head out of town for Thanksgiving, I snapped at my husband for accidentally turning a white T-shirt pink in a load of dark laundry. Of course, I overlooked the thanks he deserved for doing the laundry in the first place. And of course my overreaction led to a fight when we needed to work together instead. As usual, undoing the damage took a lot longer than causing it.

Although I want to behave lovingly in my marriage at all times, I know this won't be the last time I snap at my husband for something stupid. And it won't be the last time he fights back in a way that makes things worse. Perhaps in marriage as nowhere else, if we're honest we realize we can't sustain goodness for long.

But there is hope for all of us: "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable" (Hebrews 4:12-13).

God cares about us and our marriages, and he knows how much we need to change to be truly loving people. He is powerful enough to change us, and he uses his powerful, living Word to do just that.

*Beginning from next month, we shall run a series on 'Activating God's Word in Your Marriage' By Lisa Cowman*

# CHALLENGES IN CHRISTMAS PREACHING

## 1. Putting the Christ back into "Xmas"

by focusing on the real events and significance of Christmas. We don't want to appear killjoys by criticising all the trappings of Christmas, but we do want to emphasise that they are the trimmings – and not the reality. However, even when we focus on the events of the first Christmas we face a further challenge:

## 2. Separating fact from tradition

Christmas carols reveal the confusion about Christmas:

- was Jesus born *"In the bleak midwinter"* where *"snow had fallen snow on snow"*?
- was he born on *"a silent night"* where *"all is calm, all is bright., sleeping in heavenly rest"* or should we *"See him a-lying on a bed of straw, a draughty stable with an open door"*?
- more seriously, was it *"certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay a-keeping their sheep"* who *"looked up and saw a star as it shone in the east beyond them far"*?
- And *"by the light of that same star"* did *"three wise men come from country far"*, following hard on the heels of the shepherds? (so that not only was there no room in the inn but little room in the crowded stable with Mary, Joseph and baby, shepherds, wise men, and assorted animals).

If we are going to preach Christ at Christmas faithfully and accurately, we need to get the facts straight with some careful examination of the texts. And when we do we may be able to convey a fresh appreciation of Christmas. But there is a third challenge of preaching Christ at Christmas:

## 3. Utilising the Biblical materials on Christmas

As you will know, only two of the gospels (Matthew and Luke) give any details about the birth of Jesus (at a rough count around 7% of the material in the four gospels) – and this presents a real challenge to the busy pastor who may be expected not only to preach two or three times at Christmas Sunday services, but is also called on to give a talk (usually very brief) at several other Christmas events.

I saw another cartoon recently, in which two church members were discussing their pastor: *"Oh, he is a very green pastor, he recycles his sermons!"* Well, even the greenest pastor struggles to recycle the stories of ... (continued next page)

## Challenges in Christmas Preaching

the shepherds and the wise men, year after year! But not only a fresh look at these birth narratives, but also exploring other parts of Scripture, may reveal new treasures to be mined in preaching Christ at Christmas.

Some years ago (in Glasgow I think) I heard the American pastor Dale Ralph Davis preach on 2 Kings 11:1-3 – the account of how Athaliah, the Queen Mother, wiped out all the royal seed after the death of her son Ahaziah – well, almost all, for Aunt Jehosheba took and hid Joash the king's young son – and so preserved the promised line. Davis entitled the sermon, *"The woman who saved Christmas"*

I've just been reading (and would highly recommend) his book *"The Word became flesh – how to preach from Old Testament narrative texts"*. In it, he tells how, on the Sunday before one Christmas, he preached on the long lists of genealogies in 1 Chronicles 1-9 under the title, *"A Whole Bunch of Dead Folks for Christmas"*!

Let me mention one final challenge (and I am sure there are more) in preaching Christ at Christmas – the challenge of what we might summarize as:

#### **4. Connecting the crib to the cross**

Of course, we know that the baby born in Bethlehem is the man born to die outside Jerusalem. But most people don't connect the blissful image of a baby in a manger with the bloody image of a crucified man – and they don't want to.

The song *"Do they know it's Christmas?"* went to number 1 (twice, in 1984 and again in 2004) but you can hardly imagine a few dozen pop-stars singing (or selling) a song entitled, *"Do they know it's Easter?"* But it's essential that we explain the connection between the crib and the cross.

So, in summary, these are:

#### **Four challenges in preaching Christ at Christmas**

1. Putting the Christ back into "Xmas"
2. Separating fact from tradition
3. Utilising the Biblical materials on Christmas
4. Connecting the crib to the cross

*Peter Grainger*



## WHERE IS THE CELEBRANT?



### WHAT HAS CHRISTIANITY GOT TO DO WITH CHRISTMAS!!!

Christmas is celebrated the world over, but millions who celebrate the day are ignorant of its meaning.

A young woman went into a local bookshop and was looking through the Christmas cards. Suddenly she threw down the one she held in her hand and said to her friend as she stamped out of the shop, "Imagine bringing religion into Christmas!"

### DON'T SPOIL OUR FUN.

Two women were viewing the window of a departmental store in which there was a display of Christmas gifts and in the centre a painting of the 'young child' , Jesus. One remarked to the other, "I suppose those religious fanatics are going to try to cram Christianity into Christmas and spoil our fun."

From the collections of A. Naismith

**Where's the line to see Jesus,  
Is He here at the store?  
If Christmas time is His birthday,  
Why don't we see Him more?**





# NOTICE BOARD

For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life.

(John 3: 16)



Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Saviour at

**CHRIST CHURCH  
CROUCH END HILL, LONDON N8**

**Sunday 11th December**

**10.30am: Christingle and Family Carol Service**

**Theme: This Little Light of Mine**

**Sunday 18th December**

**10.30am: Christmas Carols and Nine Lessons followed by Christmas Lunch in the church hall**

**Saturday 24th December - Christmas Eve**

**11.00pm: Midnight Holy Communion**

**Sunday 25th December - Christmas Day**

**10.30am: Parish Holy Communion**

**Saturday 31st December**

**11.00pm : New Year's Eve Praise, Worship and Prayers**

**There is Holy Communion Service every Sunday at 8am using the Book of Common Prayer, except on 25th December when there will be a combined Parish Holy Communion**

We are grateful to the Lord for the home-going of Lisa Miller. She answered the call of her Saviour on Saturday 19th November 2011. She was aged 67.

Lisa is survived by five children and many grand children. Lisa was the co-ordinator of the Parent/Toddler group in the church for several years until the last week of her death. She can be referred to as the ever-ready sidesperson. Lisa would not wait to be called to fill in the gap whenever a sidesperson was late or unable to attend. She was a jovial person and she loved the Lord Jesus. At various times she helped with flower arranging. We shall surely miss Lisa but she is with the One who loves her best. Her funeral service will be held on Friday 9th December 2011 at Christ Church Crouch End at 1:30pm.



## Glory to God in the Highest... (from page 3)

But, now, man had fallen, and since the day when cherubim with fiery swords drove out the man, there had been no peace on earth, except in the hearts of some believers, who had obtained peace from the living fountain of this incarnation of Christ. Wars had raged from the ends of the world; men had slaughtered one another. There had been wars within as well as wars without. Satan had tormented man with thoughts of sin. There had been no peace on earth since Adam fell. But, now, when the newborn King made his appearance, **the swaddling band with which he was wrapped up was the white flag of peace. That manger was the place where the treaty was signed, whereby warfare should be stopped between man's conscience and himself, man's conscience and his God.**

It was then, that day, the trumpet blew—"Sheathe the sword, oh man, sheathe the sword, oh conscience, for God is now at peace with man, and man at peace with God." Do you not feel it my brothers and sisters, that the gospel of God is peace to man? Where else can peace be found, but in the message of Jesus? A few more years, and the world shall understand as it sees why angels sang; and he that will come shall come, and will not delay. Christ the Lord will come again, and when he comes he shall cast the idols from their thrones; he shall reign from pole to pole, and establish his peace all over the world.

And, then, they wisely ended their song with a third note. They said, "Good will to man" and rightly so because there is no greater proof of kindness between the Creator and his subjects than when the Creator gives his only begotten and well beloved Son to die. This third note melts my heart the most. Some think of God as if he were a morose being who hated all mankind. Some picture him as if he were some abstract substance taking no interest in our affairs. Sing, shout out loud because God has "good will toward us," so much so that he said it with an oath too, "As I live, says the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of him that dies, but had rather that he should turn unto me and live." And if you say, "Lord, how shall I know that you have this good will towards me," he points to the Bethlehem manger, and says, "Sinner, if I had not a good will towards you, would I have parted... (continued next page)

## Glory to God in the Highest...

with my Son? if I had not good will towards the human race, would I have given up my Son to become one of that race that he might by so doing redeem them from death?"

I wish everybody that keeps Christmas this year, would keep it as the angels kept it - not with drinking orgies, unbridled merriment and the boisterousness of sin. Let us labour if we can to make peace next Christmas day. Let the old gentleman, who won't forgive his offending son fetch him at Christmas. Let us make peace in our family and in our church. Let not the sun go down on your anger. If you do not make the matter up today, or tomorrow, do it on that day. That is the way to keep Christmas. And if you have anything on your conscience, that prevents your having peace of mind, keep your Christmas by praying to God to give you peace in yourself. And when the Lord Jesus has become your peace, remember, there is another thing, *good will* towards others.

If you have the means, do something to clothe the naked, and feed the hungry, and make glad the mourner. Remember, it is good will towards men and women. Try, if you can, to show good will at this special season; and if you will do that, the poor will say with me, that indeed they wish there were six Christmases in the year.

Let each one of us go from this place determined, that if we are angry all the year round, this next week shall be an exception; that if we have snarled at everybody last year, this Christmas time we will strive to be kindly affectionate to others; and if we have lived all this year at enmity with God, I pray that by his Spirit he may this week give us peace with him; and then, indeed, it will be the merriest Christmas we ever had in all our lives.

Go home to your friends, and tell them what the Lord has done for you, and that will make a blessed round of stories at the Christmas fire. If you, young people will each tell your parents how the Lord met with you in the house of prayer; and have now come back to love your mother's God, and read your father's Bible, oh, what a happy Christmas that will make! What more shall I say? May God give you peace with yourselves; may he give you good will towards all your friends, your enemies, and your neighbours; and may he give you grace to give glory to God in the highest. Dele Agbelusi

## IMMANUEL COUNTS THE HAIR ON YOUR HEAD

One night my 11-year-old daughter Eva noticed I was distracted as I tucked her in to bed. I told her about a friend's teenage daughter whose hair was mysteriously falling out and I encouraged Eva to pray for Amy. Her simple words, "Jesus, please hold Amy's hair on her head," touched me.

As the doctors experimented with different treatments, Amy continued to lose her hair. Eva continued to pray the same prayer.



After six weeks the doctors determined Amy had *alopecia*, an extremely rare disorder where hair loss is unpredictable but can be complete and permanent. When I told Eva, she took my hand and closed her eyes. This time her prayer was different. "Dear Jesus, if you won't hold Amy's hair on her head, would you please hold Amy?" Tearfully, I realized how sometimes God doesn't move mountains; he moves us.

Tearfully, I realized how sometimes God doesn't move mountains; he moves us.

Elisa Morgan in Christian Parenting Today. Christian Reader, Vol. 34.

### REMEDY FOR HEADACHE

Six-year-old Molly complained to her mommy that her stomach hurt. Realizing it was lunch time, Mom told Molly, "Your stomach is empty; you'll feel better after you put something in it." Later that evening the pastor came over for a visit. During the conversation he mentioned he had a headache. Molly piped up with the solution: "That's because your head is empty. You'll feel better once you put something in it." \* Christian Parenting Today, Nov./ Dec. 1991, p. 93

TO BE A HEALTHY CHRISTIAN, DON'T TREAT THE BIBLE AS SNACK

## LAUGHTER LINES EXTRA

### IGNORANCE OF THE BIBLE



A police inspector went to visit a primary school, where he was asked to take a Scripture class. He began by asking, 'Who knocked down the walls of Jericho?' There was a long silence as the children shuffled nervously on their seats. Eventually, a little lad put up his hand and said, 'Please sir, my name is Bruce Jones. I don't know who did it but it wasn't me.'

The policeman thought that reply very cheeky, so he reported the incident to the headmaster. After a pause the headmaster replied, 'I know Bruce Jones; he's an honest chap. If he said he didn't do it, then he didn't. The inspector was exasperated. The headmaster was either rude or very ignorant.

The inspector wrote to the Department of Education to complain, and received this response: 'Dear Sir, We are sorry to hear about the walls of Jericho and that nobody has admitted causing the damage. If you send us an estimate we will see what we can do about the cost.'

**Editors comment:**

Can you retell the story of how the walls of Jericho fell? Read Joshua 6.

### NOT A GOOD EXAMPLE

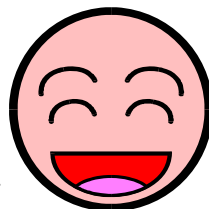
A rather pompous, self-righteous Sunday School teacher was trying to make the point that good Christians don't keep their faith a secret. With her head held high and her chest thrust out, the teacher strutted impressively back and forth across the room. She asked, "Now, class, why do you think people call me a Christian?"

The room was silent for a moment. Then one of the boys slowly raised his hand and said, "Probably because they don't know you."

## LAUGHTER LINES EXTRA

### BOY SPEAKS UP ABOUT CHRISTMAS COMMERCIALISM

Thanksgiving was only eight days away. Michelle, who teaches the Bible in our mid-week children's program, decided to ask her preschoolers about the upcoming holiday. She thought it would be effective to have the class playfully correct some wrong ideas about Thanksgiving.



"Now let me see. Thanksgiving. That's the day when we think about all the stuff we have. And how we want more things than anybody else has. And how we don't care about anybody but ourselves. And —"

"No!" the kids started to yell. "No-o-o!"

Then one little guy called out, "That's not Thanksgiving, Miss Michelle, that's Christmas!"

—Rubel Shelly, Nashville, Tennessee

### 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*, Vol. 14, no. 3.

## LAUGHTER LINES EXTRA

### FORGIVE US OUR DAILY BREAD

When our granddaughter was 4, she came to the table one day in a disgruntled mood. She complained loudly about every dish on the table. Hoping to change the mood, her mother suggested that she give the blessing. After a sullen pause, she prayed, "OK, God, I forgive you for this food."

Arden Taylor, Goldwaite, Tex. "Lite Fare," Christian Reader.

### TITHES AND OFFERING

My 5-year-old son was proud of the fact he had graduated from bow ties to a necktie just like Dad's. But one Sunday morning, with his hand clutching the tie, I heard this panicked whisper, "Dad, why did the pastor say they're going to collect the ties and offering?"

G. Brian Manning, Sudbury, Ontario. "Kids of the Kingdom," Christian Reader.

### TO THE HEART

One day, my friend's daughter, Britney, came up to her and said, "Mom, I know that Jesus lives inside my heart. But how do I tell him I love him? Do you think if I write 'I love you' on a piece of paper and eat it, he'll get the note?"

Donna Hutchinson, New Jersey. *Today's Christian Woman*, Vol. 18, no. 5.

### GET THEE BEHIND ME SATAN

The young minister's wife had just returned from a visit to the sales with a smart two-piece outfit. Her husband remonstrated with her, saying that on his salary they could not afford it. She replied that she appreciated the fact, but the outfit had been a bargain and she had been tempted. "In that case," said her husband severely, "you should have said, 'Get thee behind me, Satan.'" "Oh, but I did," responded his wife, "and that was when Satan said, 'It's a perfect fit at the back, madam.'"

## POEM - CAN THIS BE CHRISTMAS?

What's all this hectic rush and worry?  
Where go these crowds who run and curry?  
Why all the lights the **Christmas** trees?  
The jolly "fat man," tell me please!

Why, don't you know? This is the day  
For parties and for fun and play;  
Why this is **Christmas!**

So this is **Christmas**, do you say?  
But where is Christ this **Christmas** day?  
Has He been lost among the throng?  
His voice drowned out by empty song?

No. He's not here you'll find Him where  
Some humble soul now kneels in prayer,  
Who knows the Christ of **Christmas**.

But see the many aimless thousands  
Who gather on this **Christmas** Day,  
Whose hearts have never yet been opened,  
Or said to Him, "Come in to stay."

In countless homes the candles burning,  
In countless hearts expectant yearning  
For gifts and presents, food and fun,  
And laughter till the day is done.

But not a tear of grief or sorrow  
For Him so poor He had to borrow

A crib, a colt, a boat, a bed  
Where He could lay His weary head.

I'm tired of all this empty celebration,  
Of feasting, drinking, recreation;  
I'll go instead to Calvary.

And there I'll kneel with those who know  
The meaning of that manger low,  
And find the Christ this Christmas.

I leap by faith across the years  
To that great day when He appears  
The second time, to rule and reign,  
To end all sorrow, death, and pain.

In endless bliss we then shall dwell  
With Him who saved our souls from hell,  
And worship Christ not **Christmas!**

M. R. DeHaan, M.D.  
Founder, Radio Bible Class



### CHRISTMAS QUOTES

- **Remember, if Christmas isn't found in your heart, you won't find it under a tree.** - Charlotte Carpenter.
- **Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts.** - Janice Maeditere



## NO CRIB, NO CROSS

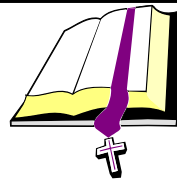
On Christmas day what are we celebrating? A God who humbled Himself, a young couple who clung to one another, a motley group of lowly shepherds. All this, and more. Angels who sang in the heavens, wise men who followed a star and the humble babe lying in a manger from which animals normally ate. Now you may ask: what is the point? Well, it is here that we begin to hear the very heartbeat of God, what it is that moves him to the very depths of his being to go to such extreme lengths such that the angels must have drawn back in horror and disgust when they found out, that the One whom they had been worshipping for untold millennia in the unsullied glory of heaven should undergo such a grotesque change in his being and enter the sullied darkness of the Virgin's womb.

They must have felt like crying out: 'God what are you doing? Why are you doing it, why does it matter so much?' Here are some reasons why it matters. God had to become man if he was to pay the penalty for our sin. How could God who is Spirit, suffer for the sins of man who is flesh? How could God take upon himself human suffering and the penalty for sin in human experience without entering our physiology and psychology? It was a human penalty he had to bear and therefore it was a human nature he had to acquire. No crib, then no cross

D.A.

### Memory Verses

**And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests. (Luke 2:8-14)**



## I HAD THE MAIN PART

There is a story that has been circulating on the web about a church Christmas pageant. The day of the presentation finally arrived. A young girl named Jana was so excited about her part that her parents thought she was to be one of the main characters, though she had not told them what she was to do.

The parents of the children in the pageant were all there and one by one the children took their places. Jana's parents could see the shepherds fidgeting in one corner of the stage which was evidently intended to be a field. Mary and Joseph stood solemnly behind the manger. In the back three young wise men waited impatiently. But still little Jana sat quietly and confidently.

Then the teacher began: "A long time ago, Mary and Joseph had a baby and they named Him Jesus," she said. "And when Jesus was born, a bright star appeared over the stable."

At that cue, Jana got up from her chair, picked up a large tin-foil star, walked behind Mary and Joseph and held the star up high for everyone to see.

When the teacher told about the shepherds coming to see the baby, the three young shepherds came forward and Jana jiggled the star up and down excitedly to show them where to come. When the wise men responded to their cue, she went forward a little to meet them and to lead the way, her face as alight as the real star might have been.

The playlet ended. They had refreshments. On the way home Jana said, with great satisfaction, "I had the main part!" "You did?" her Mom asked, wondering why she thought that. "Yes," she said, "'cause I showed everybody how to find Jesus!"

And ultimately that is what it means to walk in the light. It is to show the world how to find Jesus. It is to so live that people see in us year round the love of the Bethlehem babe. That is our part and it is the main part to show the world how to find Jesus.

# HEAVENLY CORRESPONDENCE

**E-MAIL FROM GOD (33)**

File Edit View Options Tools Help

Send Contacts Spell Attach Security Save

From: **GOD, YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER**

To: **You, My beloved child**

The Lord has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted.  
(Isaiah 61:1)

Subject: **I GIVE NEW HOPE**



My beloved child,

Have you ever seen a dog after his master dies? Sometimes the dog will mope around the house and howl for days. His entire purpose in life is gone. That dog is broken-hearted.

A broken-hearted person has hoped and been betrayed. Can anyone mend a heart that's been broken? My Son can do it. He knows all about your hopes and dreams. He knows how you've been hurt, and He knows how to give you hope again. If you will trust Jesus to heal your hurt, He will come in and give you a new heart. All you have to do is ask.

Your Heart-Mender,

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.

- **5.00 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 - 5th and 19th Dec; 16th Jan. (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

**Assistant Organist:** Jan Hazucha



**YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME**

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