



CHRIST CHURCH  
CROUCH END HILL  
LONDON N8 8AX  
**CROSSLINKS**

JUNE 2012    ISSUE 12.141

*150 years*  
of  
God's Faithfulness  
in  
Christ Church  
Crouch End



1862 - 2012



*150 Years And Still Counting ...*

**Vicar's fifteen - minute reflection**  
**150 YEARS AND STILL COUNTING...(Phil. 3:12-14)**



About 150 years ago, when Crouch End village had only one built-up road, the Lord laid a burden on the heart of the then Rector of St. Mary's Hornsey, Canon Richard Harvey, that there was a need for a place of worship in Crouch End Village. "Crouch End for hundreds of years has been a separate community and appears in Norden's map of 'Myddlesex' dated 1593 as the 'village or hamlet of Crouch End.' Its Parish Church was then St. Mary's Hornsey, and remained so until Christ Church was built." (Chas. Watson, *A hundred years in Crouch End*). It is remarkable that the donation of a suitable site by a landowner stipulated that no school should ever be built beside the church. Who knows what a difference a church school would have made today!

God raised a team of people who became the church pioneers. They gave their time, their money and were very dedicated to the cause of raising a place where people could easily worship our Lord Jesus Christ. It must be recalled that, at that time, the poor state of the country roads, especially in winter, made the journey to St. Mary's difficult and even hazardous, particularly for old people and this created an urgency in the execution of the "Project Crouch End Parish".

The sermon at the first Sunday Service was preached on June 29th by the Incumbent, the Rev. William Fleming, LLB. Since then, Christ Church has had a succession of ministers, fourteen in all including the Incumbent Rev. Canon Dele Agbelusi. Some of the ministers have laboured under challenging situations including ill health and scarce resources but their faith and zeal never waned. With the help of countless lay workers, some of whom served as church wardens, Sunday school teachers, Church Council members etc, the church was able to remain a beacon of Christ's light to everyone in the neighbourhood and beyond.

Christ Church scored a first in the annals of Church History. Prior to the act of Parliament in 1921 which decreed that all Anglican churches should have Parochial Church Councils, Christ church had had one for some twenty years! You will be able to read more about the Church in **150 years of history** in a publication that will be launched on September 16 2012 by the Bishop of London.



We can talk about those glorious days when Christ Church was the centre of Crouch End life; those days when you had to queue to find seating positions at the evening services. We can also talk about those days when pews were rented out and poor folks knew their limitations. We can talk about the sons and daughters of Christ Church who lost their lives during the World wars.

We all enjoy remembering the past. As a congregation we also remember the myriad contributions of those in the church's past. What our congregation is today is the result of the foundations laid for us. Our history as a church is vital to our present being. Looking back is ok sometimes. There is nothing wrong with it. But for the Christian, and for the church, looking back needs to take a back seat to looking forward.

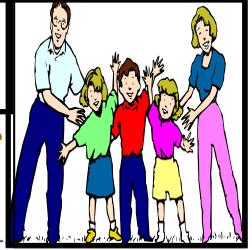
You can't keep looking back and grow as a Christian. You can't continue to look back and grow as a church. Paul knew this and that is why he says, "While it is ok to think about the past, every once in a while, there comes a time when we need to say: The past was the past and the present is the present, and I want to go to the future."

**"While it is ok to think about the past..., there comes a time when we need to say: The past was the past and the present is the present, and I want to go to the future."**

Yes, there is much about our past which is only properly forgotten. The gift of forgetting makes possible the second direction of Paul's words in Philippians 3:12-14, "straining towards what is ahead." We do not need to spend our time or energies in confessional anguish or remorse. Once the past is absolved, we have a new future with new possibilities before us.

But there is another caution here in verse 13. Paul said, "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do..." Notice that Paul did not say, "one thing I will do." He didn't say, "one thing I'm going to do," or "one thing I will get around to someday." He said, "one thing I do." Paul was living and acting in the present. Many people today try to live in the future. I'm sure that we've all made plans for "someday," but the fact is, sometimes "someday" never comes through. (continued on page 6)

## DON'T SETTLE FOR A STEREOTYPICAL MARRIAGE



*God gives spouses a unique and purposeful voice in each other's lives*

I always thought marriage was ordained by God to undermine a bruising human emotion: loneliness. God made the first people, male and female, and blessed them (Genesis 1:27)). He gave them the world! The two became one and they were no longer alone. Then came a bad choice of fruit and painful labour all around. In a marriage, after the pretty wedding dress and pressed suits are put away, the party of two is left to piece together an enduring, anti-loneliness relationship. "To have and to hold from this day forward?" We're about to find out.

Early in our marriage, my husband said two words that had me believing in happily ever after. We were in our first apartment watching TV when he stood to get a snack from the kitchen and casually asked, "Want something?" Want something? Were there ever spoken two more beautiful words?

I had grown up a good farm girl with four brothers and two sisters and a big kitchen that I pretended to love. Mercilessly, I scorched potatoes and charred holiday recipes for years. Yes, I wanted something—I wanted to avoid the kitchen now and as long as we both shall live! And I wanted a home where I didn't feel compelled to pretend.

I had the idea that a marriage was the first and best place to really be myself. My husband and I had great intentions and we wanted to know how to do up our marriage extraordinarily, astoundingly, miraculously well. Especially since most people ... don't. We heard a lot of advice. In church one day, a pastor gave guidance on the role of men in a marriage. Then he said, "For a marriage to have a long life of peace, the woman must be the heart of the home."

Sure. That's me. If falling asleep within the first few minutes of a long car ride is peace. And if "Don't talk, I'm reading my book" counts as heart. I absolutely wanted to be wonderful for my husband. But would this advice set me up for a strong adult life and a godly marriage? Or a stereotypical one?

(continued next page)

## Don't settle for a stereotypical marriage

I've seen them. They're found among that percentage of American couples who don't get divorced but also don't improve much. At the very least, I longed for my marriage to hit a grade level higher than "didn't get divorced." I couldn't lock down a step-by-step formula for how two could gloriously, beautifully, edifyingly become one. Most church pamphlets warned that two could really only become support for one, and if you weren't the one with facial hair, you'd better learn to clap and whistle encouragingly.

Heart, heart, how to become the heart? I turned to Paul's letter to the Corinthians, which outlines the sweet behaviour of love—surely this would help. After the “love is patient and kind” section I'd heard at weddings for decades, I hit something convicting: “When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things” (1 Corinthians 13:11).

In my home, I was no longer a child. If I put away my childish ways, that meant standing firm as a woman with purpose. Where was the marriage pamphlet that captured that? And anyway, do men even think that's ... good?

Bible hero Boaz did. At a time when men were stereotypically focused on their professional successes and their myriad of manly lusts, Boaz saw a young woman picking up leftover food in his fields. The young woman's name was Ruth. Even though Ruth was not one of Boaz's workers, he allowed her to keep coming to his fields. Why? Well, he was a powerful man, and she was a powerless young woman. We've heard it all before. Right? Wrong.

Boaz had heard that Ruth had left her homeland to listen to God and help her mother-in-law survive. And Boaz respected her for it (Ruth 2:11-12). Interestingly, descriptions of Ruth's appearance are distinctly absent from the text. Was she pleasing to the eye? It isn't mentioned. Maybe God doesn't write about stuff like that in his Bible. Except a few books earlier, a different woman—Potiphar's wife—eyed young Joseph up and down, decided he was cute, and said, “Come and sleep with me” (Genesis 39:7)

(continued on page 12)

## Vicar's fifteen - minute reflection

### 150 years and still counting...

(continued from page 3)

Paul is the ultimate example of living each day to the fullest -- living each day as if it were your last. When he was imprisoned in Rome, he didn't sit there resting, thinking about all the things he would do when he got out of jail. He wrote letters to churches, sang praises to God, and even converted some of the people who had imprisoned him! Paul used everyday to the uttermost. Your success tomorrow begins today.

So, as a church 150 years old, can we start to pat ourselves on our backs and say "Well done, we have arrived" ? No! Paul was not satisfied with his present accomplishment: "Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on..." (v.12). "I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do..." v.13. "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call ..." v.14

Obviously, we know Paul did many things. He made tents. He preached sermons and established churches. He healed the sick. He wrote books. He did a lot of different things. But he continued to strive for excellence! It is that kind of goal – that awareness of divine purpose and divine call that keeps us alive.

I don't think anyone understood this better than Mother Teresa, the contemporary saint who gave her life for the poorest of the poor. On one occasion she observed, "We all long for heaven where God is, but we have it in our power to be in heaven with Him right now – to be happy with Him at this very moment. But being happy with Him now means: loving as He loved, helping as He helps, giving as He gives; serving as He serves; rescuing as He rescues, being with Him for all the twenty-four hours each day, touching Him in His distressing disguise." Mother Teresa understood, as we must understand, that the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus is not a prize that is to be ours in some far off tomorrow, when the last trumpets sounds and the angel calls us – though to be sure there is that prize or reward of heaven. But the high calling of God in Christ Jesus is a present reality, energizing who we are and how we live.

(continued next page)

## Vicar's fifteen - minute reflection 150 years and still counting...

Paul wrote from such spiritual maturity and purity that we might expect he believed that he had conquered all spiritual difficulties and saw himself as having arrived at near perfection. Yet he assured us this was not so. There was no complacency in Paul.

Sadly, it is common for many Christian leaders to cultivate the attitude that they **have already attained**. Without saying the words, they put forth the image of constant triumph that gives the idea that they **have already attained** and are **already perfected**. "Just as a little child is a perfect human being, but still is far from perfect in all his development as man, so the true child of God is also perfect in all parts, although not yet perfect in all the stages of his development in faith." (George Muller). "The work of Christ for us is perfect, and it would be presumptuous to add anything to it. However, the work of the Holy Spirit in us is not perfect, it is continually carried on from day to day, and will need to be continued throughout the whole of our lives." (Spurgeon)

When Spain led the world (in the 15th century), their coins reflected their national arrogance and were inscribed *Ne Plus Ultra* which meant "Nothing Further" - meaning that Spain was the ultimate in all the world. After the discovery of the New World, they realized that they were not the end of the world, so they changed the inscription on their coinage to *Plus Ultra* meaning "More Beyond."

As we celebrate the 150 years of God's faithfulness at Christ Church Crouch End, I want to conclude that we are God's work in progress. There is more Beyond. There is more to come. Happy Anniversary.  
Dele Agbelusi

### Memory Verse

**"But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14)**



THE VICARS  
OF  
CHRIST  
CHURCH



Rev. William Fleming LL.B.  
1862-1872



Rev. Charles W. Edmonstone, M.A.  
1872-1897



Rev. Charles J. Sharp, M.A.  
1897-1916



Rev. Dr. Walter R. Matthews, M.A. D.D.  
1916-1918



Rev. R. Neville Pyke, A.K.C.  
1918-1930



Rev. A. T. W. Dowding, M.A.  
1930-1934



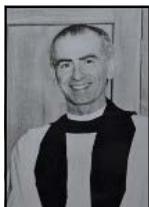
Rev. Bryan S. W. Green, B.D.  
1934-1938



Rev. W. Frank P. Chadwick, M.A.  
1938-1947



Rev. Augustus C. Bowell A.L.C.D.  
1947-1952



Rev. Archie C. Markbie, M.A.  
1953-1964



Rev. Donald W. C. Mossman, O.B.E.  
1964-1969



Rev. David H. Hubbard, M.A.  
1970-1982



Rev. John E. Townsend, A.L.C.D.  
1983-1998



The Incumbent  
Rev. Canon Dele Agbelusi, M.Sc; B.A.; M.Th.  
1999- Present

## NOTICE BOARD

**Date      10:30AM**

1st JULY (**HC**) Is God Fair  
Eccl. 6: 1-9, 8  
Matt. 6: 25 - 34

8th JULY(**FS**) Remember your Creator  
Eccl. 12: 1-8

15th JULY(**MP**) The End of the Matter  
Eccl. 12: 9-14

22nd JULY(**HC**) He appeared to Mary  
2 Cor. 5: 14 - 17,  
John 20: 1-2, 11-18

29th JULY(**MP**) What do you have  
in your hand.  
John 6: 1-21

5th AUG (**HC**) Jesus The Bread You Need  
Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15

12th AUG (**MP**) Stop Grumbling  
John 6: 35, 41-51

19th AUG (**FS**) Be careful  
Ephesians 5: 15 - 20  
John 6: 51-58

26th AUG (**HC**) Do you want to leave?  
Eph. 6: 10-20; John 6: 56-69

**6:00PM**

Eulogy on Salvation  
(Ephesians 1: 1-14)

**NO EVENING SERVICE**

Thanksgiving Prayer Report  
(Ephesians 1: 15-23)

The New Life in Christ  
(Ephesians 2: 1-22)

The Beloved Prisoner  
(Ephesians 3: 1-21)

The Moral Revolution  
(Ephesians 4: 17-5: 20)

Household Code  
(Ephesians 5: 22-6: 9)

Moving forward by  
standing still  
(Ephesians 6: 10-24)

**NO EVENING SERVICE**

**Note: (HC) - indicates Holy Communion (Common Worship);  
(MP) - Morning Prayer; (FS) - Family Service;  
There is Holy Communion Service every Sunday at 8am  
using the Book of Common Prayer.**

**SUMMER BARBEQUE 8TH JULY 2012  
12NOON - 3.30PM**

**Barbeque, Salads, other eatables and soft drinks.**

**Food will be served between 12noon and 2.pm.**

**Tickets available from churchwardens and church office.**

**Adult £5, Students £2.50 and children £1**

## THE UNEXPECTED GIFT

There's a wonderful old story about a church in Ystad, Sweden. Back in 1716, King Charles XII announced to that little town that he was going to come and visit them, and that he would worship in the village church. The pastor of the church got all excited about the presence of the King in his congregation. He decided that he would put aside the prescribed text for that Sunday, and he would deliver a sermon in the form of a eulogy on the greatness of the royal family. He did that.

Three months later, a gift arrived at the church, a big box. The pastor was thrilled. It was a present from the King. But he wasn't ready for that particular present. Inside the box was a life-size crucifix, a life-like statue of Jesus on the Cross, with this instruction: "Place this on the pillar opposite the pulpit, so that the one who stands in the pulpit to preach will always be reminded of his proper subject."

**The pastor of the church got all excited about the presence of the King in his congregation... he would deliver a sermon in the form of an eulogy on the greatness of the royal family...**

That is the bottom line, not just in our preaching but in our total life. We must remember our proper subject. If we burn with the passion of our higher calling of God in Christ Jesus, burn with the conviction that Christ Jesus has made us His own, we will not go through life looking back to some Mt. of Transfiguration; our path will be marked by His constant presence – and maybe, just maybe, there will be occasions when in His presence He will become a dazzling light to keep us from settling into discipleship drudgery – to call us back to the stand of Paul: "Not that I have already obtained – or have reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own."

## NIGERIA'S CHURCH IS UNDER SIEGE

A radical Islamist sect on Monday claimed responsibility for the Sunday's suicide attacks. The attacks occurred in the religious flashpoint state of Kaduna that sits at the border between the country's predominantly Muslim north and its mainly Christian south. The state government initially imposed a 24-hour curfew, but relaxed it on Monday to a dusk-until-dawn curfew.



Bystanders look at the Sharon Church after it was struck by a suicide bomber's attack in Kaduna on Sunday.

The group known as Boko Haram said in an email that it was responsible for the attacks. "Allah has given us victory in the attacks we launched (Sunday) against churches in Kaduna and Zaria towns which resulted in the deaths of many Christians and security personnel," the statement said in the local Hausa language. Boko Haram, whose name means "Western education is sacrilege" in Hausa, is waging an increasingly bloody fight with Nigeria's security agencies and public. More than 580 people have been killed in violence blamed on the sect this year alone, according to an AP count.

The first two suicide bomb attacks occurred Sunday within about 10 minutes of each other in different parts of the city of Zaria. Thirty minutes later, a third attack targeting a church rocked the nearby city of Kaduna. All three attacks wounded at least 100 people. Churches have been increasingly targeted by violence in Nigeria. This is the third weekend in a row that Boko Haram is claiming responsibility for church attacks in central and northern Nigeria.

That threat has prompted churches to boost their security. The most deadly attacks seem to have targeted Christian holidays: An Easter Day blast in Kaduna left at least 38 people dead, and a Christmas Day suicide bombing of a Catholic church near Nigeria's capital killed at least 44. Boko Haram claimed responsibility for both attacks.

## Don't settle for a stereotypical marriage

(continued from page 5)

Aren't men the ones who are supposed to be interested in only one thing? And women not so much? Looks like even in God's Book, the characters must quash the same "s" word as today. You know, stereotypes.

No wonder the Bible is bigger than a marriage pamphlet—so are its plotlines. And most definitely, so are the directives from God. What my husband and I have discovered is that a God-size marriage does not only mitigate loneliness. It promotes purpose. God positions spouses to have a unique voice in each others' lives. When we use that voice to advance God's purposefulness in one another, God rewards us with insight about his intentions. Gleaning that insight seems to come on the heels of obedience. In our case, that means looking at each other through God's lens. I have a photo of my husband as a child to remind me that he has dreams to fulfill. We encouragingly ask each other, "What is God telling you to do? How can I help?"

Our marriage is an inspiring and softening buffer against a sharp-edged world. It is my favourite place to be. Except that we are a little hungry. Ask your spouse about God's work in his or her life—about his voice, his directives, and what you see happening as well. Ask God what to say. It takes practice, but you will know when you've landed on the conversation personal to your marriage. You will begin to feel decidedly and purposefully ... not lonely. *That* is the heart of the home.

*Janelle Alberts is a freelance writer focused on integrating Bible stories into daily life. She and her loving husband enjoy their two wonderful children most of the time*

## FIRST ANGLICAN SERVICE IN THE NEW WORLD

Sir Francis Drake and his men plundered their way up the coast of South America, robbing and killing Spaniards with glee. Their ship, the *Golden Hinde* was battered by the time they reached the coast of what is now California. On June 21, 1579, the first Sunday after Trinity, they landed for repairs in "a convenient and fit harbor." That landing ushered in a significant date in church history.



No one is quite sure just where Drake touched, but it is believed to have been on the shore of San Francisco Bay near the Golden Gate. A couple days afterward, probably on June 23rd or 24th Drake and his men participated in a religious service.

Leading the worship was the Anglican clergyman Rev. Francis Fletcher, who was not only the ship's chaplain but Drake's "historian." The two men had not always seen eye to eye. Notes from earlier in the voyage indicate that some rough play took place between them. Whether this was in jest, or whether Francis Drake really was angry at his chaplain is unclear. Whatever the circumstances, Francis Fletcher led the service--the first Protestant service in North America.

A number of Indians gathered to watch the men. Drake had worried that these natives were blaspheming, because they received the English sailors as if they were gods. And so the rough sailors lifted their hands to heaven and prayed God to open the eyes of the idolaters "to the knowledge of him and of Jesus Christ, the salvation of the Gentiles."

The ship's chaplain, Francis Fletcher, read from the Anglican *Book of Common Prayer*. This was the first time that it was used within the region that would become the United States.

Today, a 75 foot tall sandstone cross stands on a rise in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park to commemorate the service. Anglicans and other Protestants make pilgrimages to the site which naturally holds a special attraction for them because of its historic association.

Dan Graves, MSL

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO YOU

There's a Gospel according to Matthew,  
To Mark, and to Luke, and John too;  
There's another that many are reading -  
The Gospel according to you.

All the teachings we find in the Bible  
Are but facts we believe to be true;  
You must live them to make them the Gospel -  
The Gospel according to you.

Every day you are writing your gospel;  
In this life you may never know who  
May be helped or hindered by reading -  
The Gospel according to you.

Many read not the words of the Bible;  
I will tell you what some of them do:  
They are reading the book you are writing -  
The Gospel according to you.

There's a power in the minister's preaching,  
So you say; I believe this is true.  
But the thing that may tell most on others  
Is the Gospel according to you.

God help you to Christ be faithful,  
And to live all His teachings, so true,  
So that all may be seeing His Spirit  
In the Gospel according to you.

Revd H.H. Ryland

### REAL DEDICATION

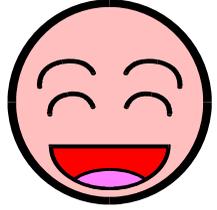
Where do you stand in your relationship with the Lord? People often say, God is good to me, by which they mean that they have experienced good health or prosperity. What a person possesses is not always a safe measure of his dedication to the Lord.

Theodore Epp

# LAUGHTER LINES

## ABRAHAM'S COMPUTER

Abraham bought himself a fancy new computer. He was showing it to Isaac one day. "Look at all the wonderful programs it has on it. And look at all the neat things it can do..."



Isaac was impressed, but a little concerned..."But dad, I don't think your computer has enough memory."

Abraham said "Don't worry son; the Lord will provide the RAM."

## CORRECT A MISTAKE?

A minister and lawyer were chatting at a party: "What do you do if you make a mistake on a case?" the minister asked. "Try to fix it if it's big; ignore it if it's insignificant," replied the lawyer. "What do you do?"

The minister replied "Oh, more or less the same. Let me give you an example. The other day I meant to say 'the devil is the father of liars,' but instead I said 'the devil is the father of lawyers', so I let it go."

## WHAT CHILDREN SEE...

We hadn't told our toddler Daylene her aunt was pregnant. At two-and-a-half years, we thought she wouldn't notice. We were speechless when one day someone said, "Looks like Aunt Dodie has a watermelon in her tummy," to which Daylene exclaimed, "Do you think the baby will eat it?"

—Virginia Bartle, New Salem, Kentucky. *Christian Reader*, "Kids of the Kingdom."

(See more laughter lines on pages 18 and 19)

## CHARLES WESLEY LACKED HOLY SPIRIT NO MORE

Charles and John Wesley longed for a deeper walk with God. With some other men at Oxford, including George Whitefield, they formed a "Holy Club." Through rigorous spiritual exercises, they sought peace.

Charles was ordained in 1735. With his brother John, he laboured for Christ, seeking to win souls in Georgia. Ill health forced Charles to return to England after only a year in the New World. Something seemed lacking in his life. The work he had done was not fruitful. He was unable to escape a sense of emptiness. Inside he felt hollow.



Sick with pleurisy, Charles lay upon a bed at the home of Thomas Bray, a Christian brazier. Charles felt that what he needed was the witness of the Holy Spirit and began to pray for him to come. On Pentecost Sunday, May 21, 1738, Charles woke up, hoping that this would be the day. John and some friends came to him and sang a hymn to the Holy Spirit. This increased Charles' hopefulness and when they had left, he began to pray, reminding Christ of his promises to send a comforter. He cast himself solely on Christ in reliance of his promise to be sent at his time and hour.

As he lay back to rest, he heard a friend's voice saying, "In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, arise, and believe, and thou shalt be healed of all thine infirmities." Charles lay still, hardly daring to hope, his heart palpitating, but he murmured, "I believe, I believe." In his journal he credits that day as the day he received the witness of the Holy Spirit.

His brother John was converted a few days later. Afterward, John traveled about teaching and organizing renewal groups within the Church of England. These were known as Methodists. Although still connected with the Church of England, these groups usually met separately. Their worship services differed, too, for whereas the Church of England sang mostly psalms, the Methodist groups sang hymns. Most of those hymns were penned by Charles.

(continued next page)

## Charles Wesley lacked Holy Spirit no more

(continued from page 16)

Some of his well known songs include "And Can it Be that I Should Gain," "Arise, My Soul, Arise," "A Charge to Keep Have I," "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing," and "Depth of Mercy, Can There Be... ." Many others of his verses have also blessed the church.

A year after his conversion, Charles Wesley commemorated the event by writing what is possibly his best known hymn:

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing,  
My great Redeemer's praise;  
The glories of my God and king,  
The triumphs of his grace.

Dan Graves

### QUOTABLE QUOTES ON THANKSGIVING

**Being thankful** is not telling God you appreciate the fact that your life is not in shambles. If that is the basis of your gratitude, you are on slippery ground. Every day of your life you face the possibility that a blessing in your life may be taken away. But blessings are only signs of God's love. The real blessing, of course, is the love itself. Whenever we get too attached to the sign, we lose our grasp on the God who gave it to us. Churches are filled with widows who can explain this to you. We are not ultimately grateful that we are still holding our blessings. We are grateful that we are held by God even when the blessings are slipping through our fingers.

Craig Barnes

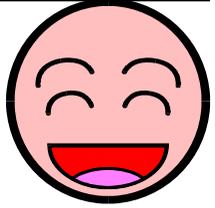
Gratitude as a discipline involves a conscious choice. I can choose to be grateful even when my emotions and feelings are still steeped in hurt and resentment. It is amazing how many occasions present themselves in which I can choose gratitude instead of a complaint. I can choose to be grateful when I am criticized, even when my heart still responds in bitterness. I can choose to speak about goodness and beauty, even when my inner eye still looks for someone to accuse or something to call ugly. -

Henri Nouwen

## LAUGHTER LINES

### WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

A woman named Naomi Magdanz in Lodi, California tells about her 6-year-old grandson, Joshua. Joshua attended a Vacation Bible School with the theme, "What Would Jesus Do?" To remind the children of the theme, they made little armbands with WWJD on the band.



One evening Joshua's mother asked him to change his clothes. Joshua looked at his armband and said, "WWJD - What would Jesus do?"

His mother replied that she thought Jesus would do what his mother asked him to do and change his clothes.

Joshua thought for a moment, then remarked, "I don't know; [Jesus] seems to be wearing the same clothes in every picture I see of him."

### ADAM'S COUNTER OFFER

God looks down and notices that Adam is all alone while all the animals have companions, so he decides to create a companion for man as well. He comes to see Adam and says to him, "Adam, you are my greatest creation and therefore, I am going to create for you the ultimate companion. She will worship the very ground you walk on, she will long for you and no other, she will be highly intelligent, she will wait on you hand and foot and obey your every command, she will be beautiful, and all it will cost you is an arm and a leg." Thinking for a few moments, Adam replies, "What could I get for a rib?"

## LAUGHTER LINES

### ARE YOU AN ATHEIST?

A young woman teacher with obvious liberal tendencies explains to her class of small children that she is an atheist. She asks her class if they are atheists too. Not really knowing what atheism is but wanting to be like their teacher, their hands explode into the air like fleshy fireworks.

There is, however, one exception. A little girl has not gone along with the crowd. The teacher asks her why she has decided to be different. "Because, I'm not an atheist." Then, asks the teacher, "What are you?" "I'm a Christian."

The teacher is a little perturbed now, her face slightly red. She asks her why she is a Christian. "Well, I was brought up knowing and loving Jesus. My mom is a Christian, my dad is a Christian, and my grand parents are too, so I am a Christian."

The teacher is now angry. "That's no reason," she says loudly. "What if your mom and your dad were idiots. And what if your grand parents were idiots? What would you be then?"

She paused, smiled and said, "Oh, I guess that I'd be an atheist!"

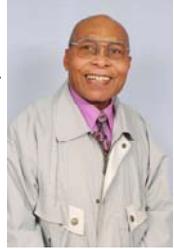
### DIVINE DIRECTIONS

One day I decided to take my three children to an ice skating party in a nearby town, but after several wrong turns and stops to ask directions, I pulled over to the side of the road and suggested we all ask God to help us find the rink. When we finally arrived, we were nearly an hour late. The following week, as we got into the car to go skating again, my five-year-old son exclaimed, "Mom, let's pray now and save time!"

*Pegi Tehan, Dayton, OH. Today's Christian Woman, "Heart to Heart."*

## FAREWELL MERVIN BENTHAM, FAREWELL

On Tuesday 29 May 2012, Mervin was busy in the church with other volunteers. He was directing the preparations leading to the 150 years Anniversary of Christ Church - An event that was to take place on 26th June 2012. Although he was the oldest of them all, he demonstrated the agility of a youth. He was every where and would have wanted his colleagues to finish the assignment for the day but he had to be persuaded that **Tomorrow is another day**. What an irony, Tomorrow was for Mervin a destiny with eternity.



Mervin came to England from Barbados in 1958 and it was his plan to train as a medical doctor. But this was never going to be. He could not find the funds to pursue his dream and run a young family with his newly wedded wife Anita. So Mervin ended up as a sorting officer at Mount Pleasant sorting office in Clerkenwell.

There must be some attraction with Christ Church as Mervin was a churchwarden in Christ Church, Barbados, and later in 2009, churchwarden at Christ Church, Crouch End London. But at Christ Church, he had been a "churchwarden" in deed for several years without bearing the title.

Mervin was a selfless worker and committed Christian. I can recall several nights in the cold winter when others would prefer the warm embrace of their homes, Mervin would not fail to keep a date with the Lord along with others for Monday prayer meetings. If good works could take anyone to heaven, Mervin would sure be a good candidate. But alas! Candidacy for God's kingdom is only by grace through faith in the completed work of Christ on the Cross. And Mervin knew Him as Lord and Saviour and friend.

Christ Church will surely miss Mervin. He was tireless in his dedication to duty and very humble, never wanting to be noticed. He was also a devoted family man and very often, he would be seen taking the grandchildren to school and ensuring that they have the best he could give in his personal circumstances.

We love you Mervin but Jesus loves you more. You are at rest and at peace in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ you served best. Rest in Him until we meet again at the bosom of the Lord.

Dele Agbelusi (Vicar of Christ Church)

## A POEM WRITTEN FOR MERVIN

He was a quiet force that moved mountains  
An example to be followed  
A whisper that made waves  
A life never to be forgotten  
He was a Saint

We want to live like Jesus  
He showed us how it was done  
We discussed being a family  
He didn't do the talk but everyday he walked it

In quiet servitude  
He was a king amongst men  
He didn't boast about his philanthropy  
But if we took score  
He would always have won

We set about to painting our portrait  
And right in the middle his reflection took its place  
He led by example  
Touching lives  
Beyond the eye's reach

The only thing that matches the joy he brought us  
Is the celebration that began  
When heaven opened its doors and welcomed him home  
R.I.P. Mervin Bentham.

Tolu Agbelusi

## GOD, GIVE ME A THANKFUL HEART

If one should give me a dish of sand and tell me there were particles of iron in it, I might look for them with my eyes, and search for them with my clumsy fingers, and be unable to detect them; but let me take a magnet and sweep through it, and how it would draw to itself the almost invisible particles by the mere power of attraction! The unthankful heart, like my finger in the sand, discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day, and as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find every hour some heavenly blessings; only the iron in God's sand is gold!

Henry Ward Beecher

## INCREASE OUR FAITH

### **The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' Luke 17:5**

*"If we desire to enter into our supernatural inheritance, the deep tranquillity of faith, coming unto God, must be completely absorbed by the thought that he is; and rewards, in such ways as we can endure, them - and them only - that diligently seek him for his own sake alone."*

**-Evelyn Underhill**

*"Faith is a crusade - no weaklings need apply. No, I take that back. For we have here a regimen that makes weak men strong and cowards brave."*

**-Henry M. Edmonds**

*"If a man believes and knows God, he can no longer ask, 'What is the meaning of my life?' But by believing he actually lives the meaning of his life."*

**-Karl Barth**

*"Faith always implies the disbelief of a lesser fact in favour of a greater. A little mind often sees the unbelief without seeing the belief of a large one."*

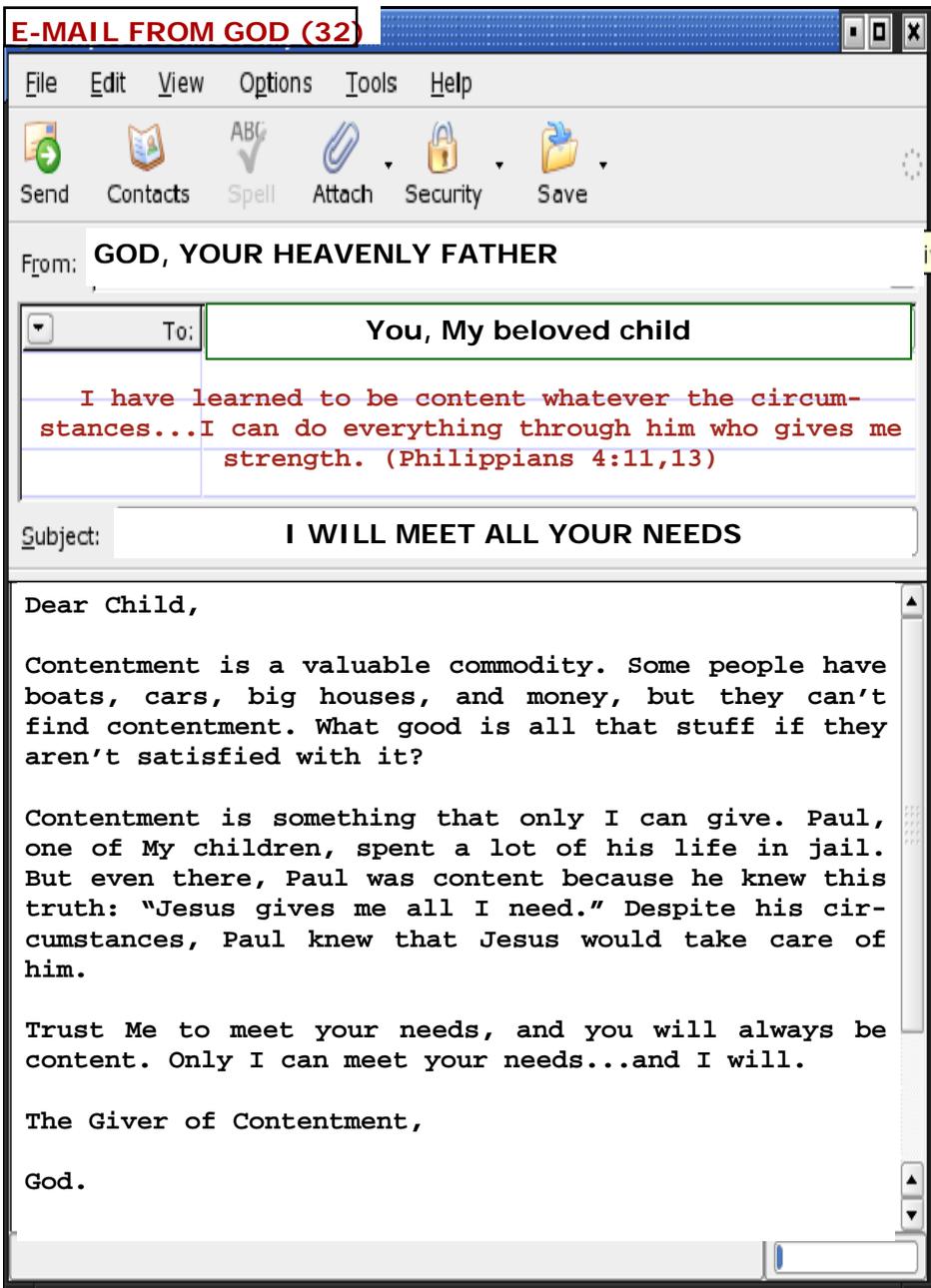
**-Oliver Wendell Holmes**

## LIVING - PAUL'S WAY

It is foolishness to attempt to relive the past. Past is past and you cannot relive it. Your yesterday might have been the best or worst experience on earth but it belongs to the archives and you can only look into it as history but not to relive it. You are not defined by your past. Your present is all that is in your control and how you respond to it will determine whether you will have a good or bad day. The call is yours. Your future is not in your control, yet it is what should define you and motivate you on how you live today. If you have a clearly defined vision for the future, then that is what you live for today...Andrew Reed (1787-1862) said: **"I was born only yesterday; I shall die tomorrow; I must not spend today in telling what I have done; but in doing what I may for Him who has done so much for me."** Are you living for yesterday, today or tomorrow? I am living for tomorrow and that is what defines me.

Sunday and Grace Bwanhot

# HEAVENLY CORRESPONDENCE



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

## MOTTO/TEXT FOR THE YEAR

“...I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.”

### 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 resource 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) - On recess  
- Brownies meeting in church (5.30 pm)  
- Prayer meetings in church - 2nd, 16th July. (8 pm)
- Wednesday** - Fellowship Meal in church (6:30 pm) followed by,  
Bible fellowship (7.30 pm) - resumes on 18th April.
- Thursday** - Homework Club (5 pm-7 pm )
- 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 (7-8 pm)

**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, Charles Murphy

**Lay Ministers:** Richard Mercer, Iyabo Agbelusi

**Assistant Organist:** Jan Hazucha

**YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME**

**PLEASE WRITE TO THE EDITOR AT:**

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