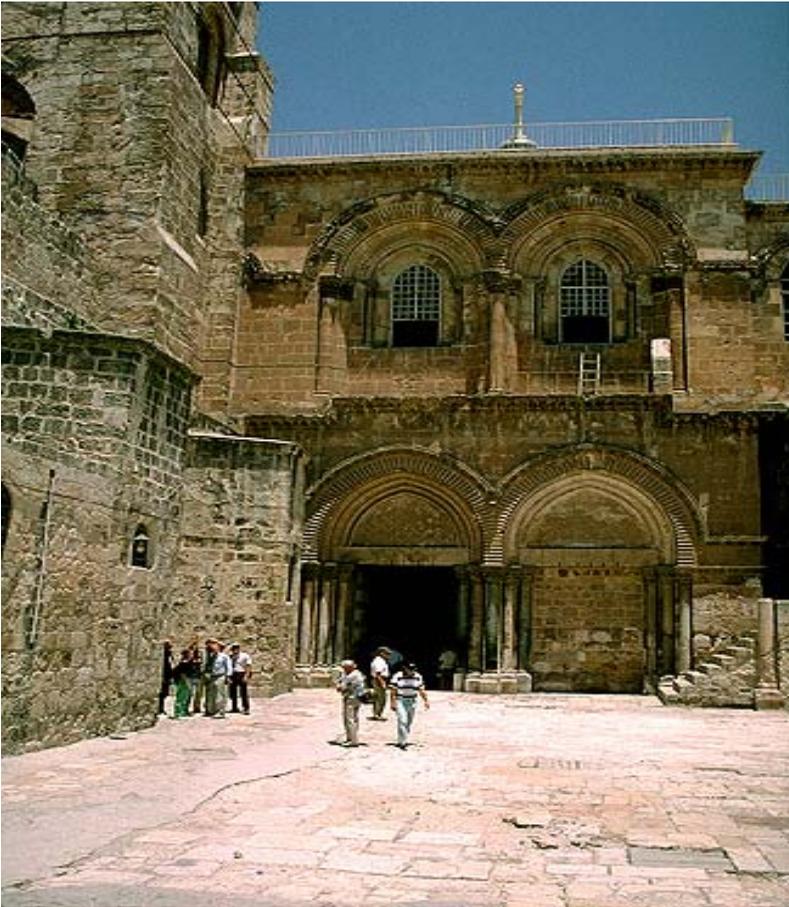




CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX
CROSSLINKS
CHRIST IS RISEN

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



The entrance to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built over one possible site of Jesus' death and burial.

APRIL 2007 ISSUE 7.84

Vicar's three minute reflection CHRIST IS RISEN. DEATH IS DEAD!



Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain... What a way to begin the most important day of history - with tears! For Mary Magdalene, Easter was a day of tears - tears of sorrow that turned to tears of joy. The angels at the empty tomb asked Mary, "Why are you weeping?" Later, Jesus asked the same question, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

Tears of joy are appropriate for Easter because they express our exhilaration of victory. Life does not come after death but out of death.

**The Resurrection
tells us the truth that
God can be trusted.**

Sorrow precedes joy; Easter follows Good Friday. We cannot appreciate the victory unless we realize the dreadfulness of death. Humans can overcome all other enemies but only God could put death to death. Death turns life into tragedy. It separates families. If death is the ultimate, if there is no cure for death, then we may just as well "eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die!" What an enemy, but more so, what a victory!

On Easter, we shout victoriously, "Death is dead!" But, we must understand that this does not mean we shall not physically die. It is appointed for every person to taste death. No, the death over which God gives victory is eternal damnation and its consequential separation from God. As St. Paul wrote, nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God or God himself. Though we physically die, we shall continue to live in and with God. And this is our comfort when we mourn the loss of those who died in Christ.

When Mary Magdalene recognized the risen Jesus, she exclaimed, "Rabboni!" meaning "Teacher." Of all possible names, the one that instinctively came to her was the one that dealt with his teaching the truth. We need to know and understand the truth of God for our stability and security. Without the truth, we are confused.



We want answers and solutions for our many questions and problems. We are on sinking sand until we have the truth. Getting to know the truth is our reason for rejoicing. We rejoice with tears of joy because we have the truth in the Risen Christ, for the whole Christian faith ultimately rests on the resurrection.

If Christ did not rise from the dead, our faith would be in vain. The Resurrection tells us the truth that God can be trusted. It says to us positively that God is in control of the world and our lives. It was God who raised Jesus. It was God who rolled away the stone from the tomb.

On Good Friday, we wondered where God was that he would allow his Son to be crucified. No doubt every one of us has come to a moment in our lives when we wonder why God does not do something; when it appears as though He does not care. At other times it seems like God's hands are tied. Those surmises are wrong. God is always interested and concerned about what goes on in the world. God does act in history. However, God must work through means and through people and according to His will.

In the light of Easter, now we know that God was in the shadows, suffering and dying in his Son. Behind the overcast sky of doubt and tribulation, the sun of God shines and one day the sun of God's love and presence will shine through. In the light of this, no college teacher or unbelieving cleric can upset or scare us with a philosophy that God is dead, and that Jesus did not resurrect. His living reality is witnessed in the Resurrection. How happy we are to know that God lives and reigns!

Dele Agbelusi

Memory Verse

“Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was in Galilee”

Luke 23:5b,6.



GETTING YOUR TEMPER UNDER CONTROL



The earlier temper control is begun, the easier it is to effect alternative ways for its management. A temper is something that lives only through reinforcement. It can be controlled in the child if the child is taught to find other means to get his or her needs met. But, because that rarely happens, let's pick up on the adult level, learning how to break the temper cycle.

Temper gets a particular hold on ADD [those with Attention Deficit Disorder] people because of the tendency for emotional flooding to occur. So:

- **Never try to deal with a temper when it is active.**
- **Make plans when all is calm, cool, and collected.**
- **Acknowledge that you have a temper.**
- **Forget the business of blaming others.** To be sure, someone cutting in front of you on the freeway may have triggered your anxiety, surprised you, or frightened you, but your particular reaction of temper is your responsibility.
- **You must realize that there are other ways to react to the stress.** And with your willingness, you can learn alternatives that work particularly well for you in dealing with family and work settings, the places where temper is most likely to work against you.

1) Decide on a signal that means it's time to stop whatever is going on. In our house, it's the "time out" sign used in sports. Anyone in the family can use it and we automatically stop—no questions asked. The questions can come later. This time-out breaks into the flooding and stops the emotions from taking over. Tell your partner, "I'm going to read for a while." If others are around, tell them you'll be back in a little while. Go to the store for milk if you have to. If it is your partner who's having the trouble, be nonchalant with other people and just say, "He's taking a break."

2) Identify the feeling underlying the anger—fear, frustration, helplessness, hopelessness—and use words to express that feeling: "I feel helpless in this situation."

(continued on page 5)

GETTING YOUR TEMPER UNDER CONTROL

"I felt frightened when that car pulled out in front of me." —
"I feel put down by you." Be honest. It may be hard at first, but it pays off once you've learned to do it. Start by making the statements to yourself, if it's too difficult to do so with others initially.

3) Ask yourself two simple questions: "What do I need to feel better or become a winner here? How can I get it?"

4) Promise yourself that you will continue to work to get what you want without throwing a temper tantrum.

5) Congratulate yourself on a job well done.

You'll be surprised how quickly you can break the temper cycle by following these steps. It is not a long, trying process— unless someone around you enables you to continue with your temper or even cultivates it by reinforcing it. They do you no favour but probably don't know any better, so you might as well make up your mind to open up alternatives in spite of them.

QUESTIONS YOU WISHED YOU COULD FIND ANSWERS TO.

Question: I used to have a temper but it is much better now that I've been working on it. My husband still reacts as if I have one though. How can I get him to stop?

Answer: Ask him, "What will it take to get you to relax? I've changed and I need you to catch up with my changes." Do realize, though, that it may take several months for him to catch up. It won't happen all in one day, either. So some patience on your part is wise.

Question: Are there certain circumstances when a person's temper will be more likely to erupt even after control measures have been learned?

Answers: Tiredness is the biggest culprit I know. Also, keep track of the amount of stress that you are under.

GETTING YOUR TEMPER UNDER CONTROL

Times of change are high stress times and likely circumstances for an explosion.

QUESTION: My spouse has an awful temper but blames me for causing it. What can I do to avoid triggering it? Is there anything I can do to take the steam out of his temper if he won't work on it?

ANSWER: When you two are in a calm mood, ask him what hurt him. Then, practice saying things in a matter-of-fact way. Know, however, that he needs to take responsibility for his display of temper.

Do not reinforce his temper. When he blasts off, do not argue. The most you want to say is, "I'll talk it over with you when you're calm." You may need to wait until he is calm to say this. Most people with tempers will display just as much temper as they can get away with...

The above article is an excerpt from the writings of Dr Lynn Weiss in her secular book, "Attention Deficit Disorder in Adults", published by Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, Texas, ISBN 0-87833-782-2. Dr. Lynn Weiss, is a psychotherapist and mother of an ADD son.

UNLOCK WALK (continued from page 7)

under the Thames by the foot tunnel to Greenwich, through Bermondsey to Tower Bridge and St. Katherine's Dock.

UNLOCK was founded by Bishops David Shepherd and Peter Hall amongst others to reach urban communities in ways that are tailored to their needs.

Chief Officer Dawn Lonsdale writes, "With 30 years of experience and expertise, we train, pay and resource workers in city locations, we offer our insights and experience to others working in urban mission, we make resources available free of charge to anyone who wants to use them in their work of developing discipleship."

The walk raises funds by sponsorship, and covers about half of UNLOCK's running costs. If you can't walk yourself, you can sponsor those who do. Please contact Sheila Wheeler for further details Sheila Wheeler

NOTICE BOARD

COMING EVENTS

15th April - Christ Church AGM

This is a very important meeting which takes place after a brief morning worship. We will be glad to see every member of the church present.

19th April - 1st PCC meeting

29th April - Healing and Anointing Service
This is the first one in 2007.

5th May - Church Training Day

This is in preparation for our outreach in June. It will take place in the church hall from 10am-3pm.

13th-19th May Christian Aid Week

UNLOCK WALK

On Saturday 21st April I am hoping to take part in the annual UNLOCK walk, and it would be great if you could join me. About a thousand people generally come along from churches all over London and the Home Counties.

The walk is eight and a half miles in total, but there are lots of opportunities for a rest as five of the churches on our route will be open, with refreshments for sale and loos to use!

This year's walk is largely following the route of the very first annual walk twenty four years ago. It goes through the Isle of Dogs, where the Canary Wharf development has transformed the area since that first walk, (continued on page 6)

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

This month we pray for members of our church family whose surnames begin with T, W

Tasker Rosemary, Thomas Claudia, Topping Constance & Roger, Tucker Diana, Turner Carol, Tumalu Annette, Watson Granville, Wharton Nikki, Wheeler Sheila.

THE WRATH OF GOD IN RELATION TO THE ATONEMENT

If we are wrong in our doctrine of God, we are wrong all along the line. So our doctrine of God will relate powerfully to our doctrine of the Atonement. If, for example, we do not believe that God is God of wrath as well as God of love, and that his essential holiness means the inevitable punishment of sin, then we shall not believe in the substitutionary and vicarious nature of Christ's death on the Cross. That is why the doctrine of God's holy wrath borne by his Son at Calvary is repugnant to the liberal theologian. He has an erroneous view of God.

The Bible makes it clear that the unforgiven sinner stands under God's curse and that 'the wrath of God rests on him' (John 3:36). 'When it is stated that 'Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us' (Gal. 3:13), not only is it implied that we were 'the children of wrath' (Eph. 2:3), and under God's curse, but also it is implied that when Christ was made a curse for us he was the object of divine wrath. On the Cross Christ bore the full penal sanction of the law of God which was our due. Our punishment was transferred to him. The curse which he endured consisted especially in his experience of being forsaken by God. There was an awareness in his human nature of a complete withdrawal of God, and that is the essential element of damnation and eternal death: that is hell.

It was not that the Father hated his Son on the Cross. There was no emotional anger on the Father's part. He never ceased to love the Son in whom he was well pleased. There was, however, a judicial suffering caused by God. God's wrath in this context should be seen not as a divine emotion, but as a divine act, a point that is stressed by Shedd and Calvin in their masterly treatment of the subject.

It is clear from Scripture that Christ's atoning death was substitutionary or vicarious and that by it he satisfied the holiness of God and so rendered him propitious or favourably disposed to his people.

THE WRATH OF GOD IN RELATION TO THE ATONEMENT

John Murray says that 'propitiation presupposes the wrath and displeasure of God and the purpose of propitiation is the removal of this displeasure' Leon Morris comments: 'If there is "a righteous anger" of God, and the New Testament is clear that there is, then it cannot be ignored in the process of forgiveness' (The Cross in the New Testament, p. 349). Propitiation, then, a turning away of God's wrath, lies at the heart of Christ's redemptive work.

Naturally, the idea of averting the wrath of God by a substitutionary suffering is repugnant to liberal theologians.

Certainly this aspect of the Cross has been caricatured and misrepresented as when it is suggested that Christ had to placate an angry God in order to change him into a loving God. A recognition of the love of God is crucial at this point. 'God commended his love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us' (Rom. '5:8). The Cross of Christ is the supreme demonstration of the love of God. God 'spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all . . .' (Rom. 8:32). The costliness of the sacrifice matches the greatness of the love. There is no conflict between God's wrath and God's compassion; they exist simultaneously. There is this difference, however; God's wrath against sin is inevitable, whereas his mercy is optional and depends entirely on his sovereign pleasure. As a holy God he must punish sin; but he is not obliged to propitiate his own wrath.

In mercy he determined to do this and he has done so by the Cross of Jesus Christ. There is no conflict, then, between God's holy wrath and God's holy love. 'Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins' (1 John 4:10).

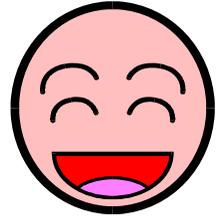
This is an abridged edition of the article in the Banner of Truth Magazine (Issue 379: April, 1995, pp. 23-25). It was written by Frederick S. Leahy who was professor of Systematic Theology and Christian Ethics in the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland and author of Satan Cast Out, (Banner of Truth).

LAUGHTER LINES

THE NEW IRRATIONAL VERSION (N.I.V.)

(From Youth Specialties Inc)

This collection of comments about the Bible was actually written by children. The Bible is full of interesting caricatures.



In the first book of the Bible, *Guinnessis*, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Cain, asked "Am I my brother's son?"

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark, which the animals came to in pears. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night. God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Montezuma. Jacob, son of Isaac, stole his brother's birthmark. Jacob was a partridge who had twelve sons. One of Jacob's sons, Joseph, gave refuse to the Israelites.

Sampson was a strong man who let himself be led astray by Jezebel. Then he slayed the Philistines with the ax of the apostles.

People who lived in Egypt were called mummies. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and traveled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is so hot that it is cultivated by irritation. The Egyptians built the Pyramids in the shape of a huge triangular cube. The Pyramids are a range of mountains between France and Spain.

Pharaoh forced the Hebrew slaves to make bread without straw. Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients. The Egyptians were all drowned in the desert. Afterward, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments. The First Commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple. The Fifth Commandment is humor thy father and mother. The Seventh Commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.

LAUGHTER LINES

THE NEW IRRATIONAL VERSION (N.I.V.) Continued

Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle to Geritol. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

When Mary heard that she was the Mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta. When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the Manager. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption. St. John, the Blacksmith, dumped water on his head.

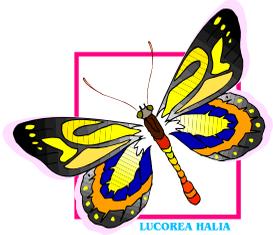
Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do one to others before they do one to you. He also explained, "Man doth not live by sweat alone." It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tomb stone off the entrance.

The people who followed the Lord were called the twelve decibels. The epistles were the wives of apostles. One of the opossums was St. Matthew, who was by profession a taxi man. St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage. A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony.

We hope you have had a good laugh at these jokes. Unfortunately, children are not the only ones who misinterpret or misunderstand the Bible. Adults, too, are often biblically illiterate. That's why it's important to read the Bible for yourself and to attend Bible studies and classes that will help you to learn what the Bible really says and means. The Bible is God's love letter to you. It is full of wonderful stories and teachings that are not only very interesting, but they will help you to live a happier, more successful life. The Bible reveals God to you and tells you about the Christ who died for you.

STRUGGLES STORY OF THE MONTH

When he was a small boy, he had loved butterflies. Oh, not to net and mount them, but wonder at their designs and habits. Now a grown man with his first soon to be born in a few weeks, he found himself once again with a cocoon. He had found it at the site of the park path. Somehow the twig had been knocked from the tree and the cocoon had survived undamaged and still woven to the branch.



As he had seen his mother do, he gently protected it by wrapping it in his handkerchief and carried it home. The cocoon found a temporary home in a wide-top mason jar with holes in the lid. The jar was placed on a mantle for easy viewing and protection from the curious cat who would delight in volleying the sticky silk between her paws.

The man watched. His wife's interest lasted only a moment, but he studied the silky envelope. Almost imperceptibly at first, the cocoon moved. He watched more closely and soon the cocoon was trembling with activity. Nothing else happened. The cocoon remained tightly glued to the twig and there was no sign of wings.

Finally the shaking became so intense, the man thought the butterfly would die from the struggle. He removed the lid on the jar, took a sharp penknife from his desk drawer, and carefully made a tiny slit in the side of the cocoon. Almost immediately, one wing appeared and then out stretched the other. The butterfly was free!

It seemed to enjoy its freedom and walked along the edge of the mason jar and along the edge of the mantle. But it didn't fly. At first the man thought the wings needed time to dry, but time passed and still the butterfly did not take off.

(continued next page)

STRUGGLES

The man was worried and called up his neighbour who taught high school science. He told the neighbour how he had found the cocoon, placed it in a mason jar, and the terrible trembling as the butterfly struggled to get out. When he described how he had carefully made a small slit in the cocoon, the teacher stopped him. "Oh, that is the reason. You see, the struggle is what gives the butterfly the strength to fly."

And so it is with us. Sometimes it is the struggles in life that strengthens our faith the most.

Retold by Alice Gray from "Stories for the Heart".

SNIPPETS ON FAITH

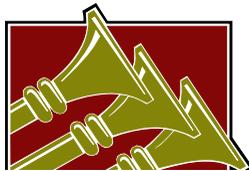
The time to trust is when all else fails

A.B. Simpson

You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule. You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

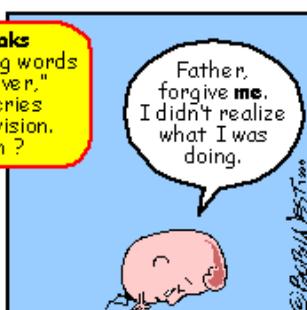
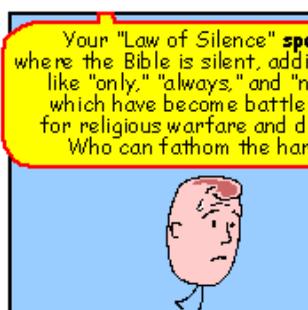
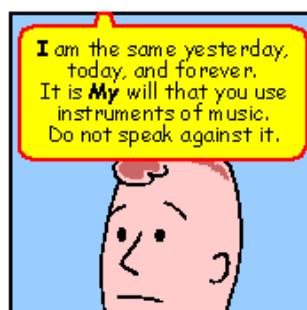
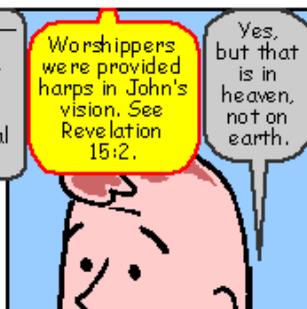
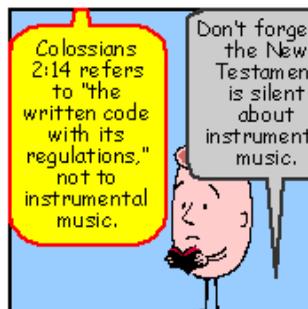
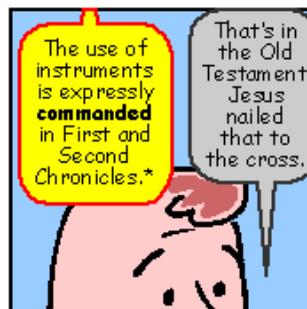
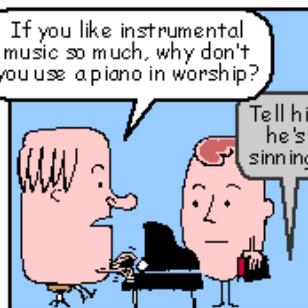
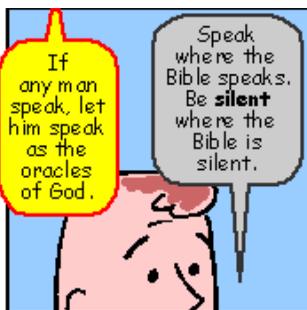
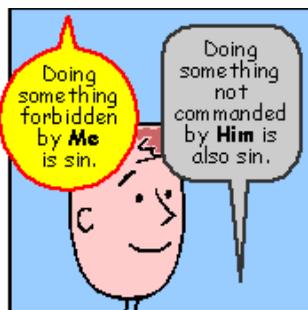
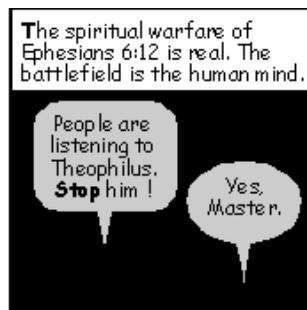
Matthew 5:3-4 The Message.

The peace of God is that eternal calm which lies far too deep down to be reached by an external trouble or disturbance. A T Pierson



**Because Jesus lives,
I can face tomorrow.**

THE BATTLEFIELD



DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING???

I HAVE TAKEN YOUR STING

A little boy and his father were driving down a country road on a beautiful spring afternoon. Suddenly out of nowhere a bumblebee flew in the car window. Since the little boy was deathly allergic to bee stings, he became petrified. But the father quickly reached out, grabbed the bee, squeezed it in his hand, and then released it. But as soon as he let it go, the young son became frantic once again as it buzzed by the little boy. His father saw his panic-stricken face. Once again the father reached out his hand, but this time he pointed to his hand. There still stuck in his skin was the stinger of the bee. "Do you see this?" he said. "You don't need to be afraid anymore. I've taken the sting for you." And this is the message of Easter. We do not need to be afraid of death anymore. Christ faced death for us. And by His victory, we are saved from sin. Christ has taken the sting! First Corinthians 15:22 asks: "Where, oh death, is your sting?" Christ has taken the stinger for us. He has risen! Fear is gone. New life is ours.

James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) p. 167.

EASTER

If Easter means anything to modern man, it means that eternal truth is eternal. You may nail it to the tree, wrap it up in grave clothes, and seal it in a tomb. But truth crushed to earth shall rise again. Truth does not perish. It cannot be destroyed. It may be distorted. It has been silenced temporarily. It has been compelled to carry its cross to Calvary's brow or to drink the cup of poisoned hemlock in a Grecian jail, but with an inevitable certainty after every Black Friday dawns truth's Easter morn.

Donald Harvey Tippet

Motto /Text for the year
"I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES
ME STRENGTH" *PHIL. 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 trying 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** - **8.00am.** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- **10.30am.** Main service with Crèche facilities

There is family/parade service once every month– usually the third Sunday of the month unless otherwise indicated.

- **6.00pm.** Evening worship

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

- Monday - Baby n' Toddler Group (**10.00 am to 12 noon**) -Term time only
- Brownies meeting in Church (**5.30 pm**)
- Next Prayer Meetings 16th & 30th April, 7th & 21st May (**8pm**)
- Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in the Hall (**7:45pm**)
- Friday Home Group at Flat 10, 3 Waverley Road, N8 (**2.30 pm**)
- Scouts meeting in church and hall (**6.00 pm**)

Enquiry/Counselling - please phone 020 8340 1566

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YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

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