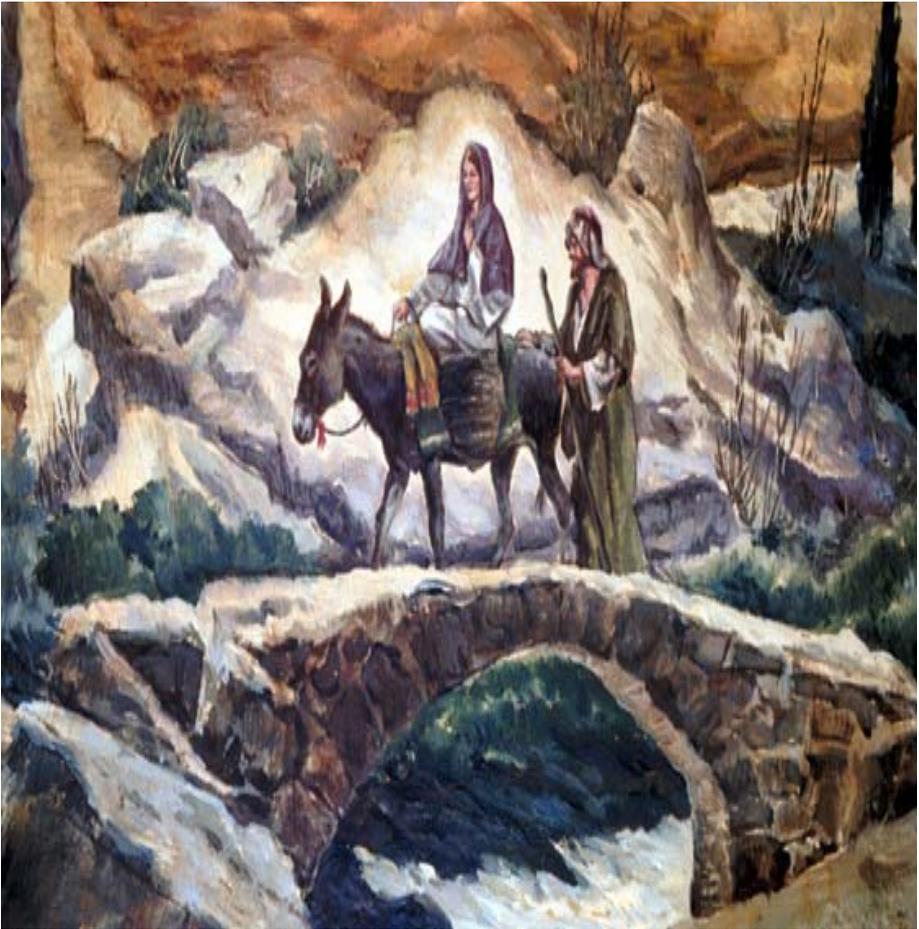




CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX
CROSSLINKS
JOURNEY TO THE FUTURE

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2006 ISSUE 6.70

Vicar's three minute reflection

A JOURNEY TO THE FUTURE



The boy Jesus matured to adulthood with the growing awareness of what His mission on earth was. It would have been a futile exercise on his part to constantly bemoan his parlous state in the world in comparison to where He was coming from— a sort of living in the past.

Rather, as He took calculated steps into the future, His priority was to do the father's will and that was what gave Him fulfillment, and joy. Jesus taught us in the Sermon on the Mount that we are to seek his kingdom and its righteousness first, and then the rest of our lives and priorities will fall into order. We must love the things that God loves and be heart-broken by the things that bring sorrow to His heart.

We are to seek His kingdom and its righteousness first, and then the rest of our lives and priorities will fall into order.

I believe the Apostle Paul, writing to the church at Philippi, gives a time-honoured principle that worked in 63 A.D. and will work for us in 2006. He wrote: "...But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead." (Phil 3:14) . This is our no 2 Principle.

If you have ever been to a circus, you would have no doubt seen the huge bull elephants chained to a peg in the ground. Perhaps it has occurred to you that the elephant could easily pull the peg out of the ground and escape. However, he does not try. As a baby elephant he was tied to a huge stake that he could not pull out of the ground. Weeks of pulling and tugging only wore a trench around the stake, and finally, he gave up. Now that he is full-grown, with great strength and the physical ability to pull the peg out of the ground, he remembers only the futility of past efforts and does not even attempt to escape. He is conditioned to failure. Paul says we are to "forget what lies behind."



Everybody could benefit from having a good mental trash basket. Jesus can clean the slate and give us a new beginning in 2006.

Have you ever noticed that your car's windshield is fifty times larger than your rear view mirror? It is quite simple--we are to spend 50 times as much energy and time looking forward than looking backwards. When you drive on the M25 or A406, (these are major roads in Britain) it is good to occasionally check your rear view mirror to see what is behind you, but it is dangerous to drive using only your rear view mirror. If you live mentally and spiritually only looking backwards, you will never get started to run the good race and to fight the good fight as a believer in Jesus Christ.

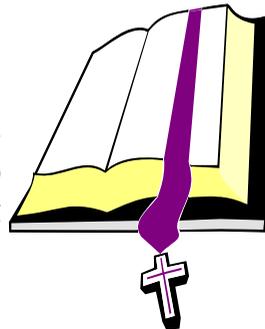
I believe that most Christians live empty lives simply because they don't realize the power that God offers His people is a resource you need to draw on. The feeble, raw disciples of Jesus Christ became transformed when the Holy Spirit was allowed to energise them. You can be a new you too, if you allow His Spirit to work in and through you. God can make your good dreams become reality, if you yield your will to Him and trust in His ability to see you through. As we look at this new year that has just arrived, we know it is filled with all kinds of possibilities: If we are wise we will ally with Jesus whose name is Yes and Amen. I wish you a fulfilling God - enriched year.

Dele Agbelusi.

Memory Verse

Though the fig-tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour.

Habakkuk 3:17-19



ANY GOALS FOR YOUR MARRIAGE IN 2006?



Marriage is a uniquely civilizing relationship based on commitment to mutual development and happiness. Yet the complexity of the marital relationship almost ensures that each partner will experience significant stress at various times throughout the marriage.

For many years in a marriage it is possible to pass from one year to the next without really taking the time to ask the question, "What is it God wants us to do to improve our marriage this year?" It is so easy to become complacent, having no plans or goals for your marriage. But it is not difficult to see the light in your marriage being turned on again as you realise how important it is to invest time and energy into it. So, as we enter into this New Year let's focus on what really matters—our commitment to each other, and to growth—even if our partner is resistant to the idea right now.

Dr. William Doherty offers, one of the best perspectives for marriage in his book, *"Take Back Your Marriage"*. He says, "Marriage with the long view comes with the conviction that nothing will break us up, that we will fight through whatever obstacles get in our way, that if the boat gets swamped we will bail it out, that we will recalibrate our individual goals if they get out of alignment, that we will share leadership for maintaining and renewing our marriage, that we will renovate our marriage if the current version gets stale, that if we fight too much or too poorly we will learn to fight better, that if sex is no longer good we will find a way to make it good again, that we will accept each other's weaknesses that can't be fixed, and that we will take care of each other in our old age. This kind of commitment is not made just once, but over and over through the course of a lifetime. We cling to it during the dark nights of the soul that come to nearly every marriage—times when the love is hard to feel but the promise keeps us together."

Happy married life in 2006.

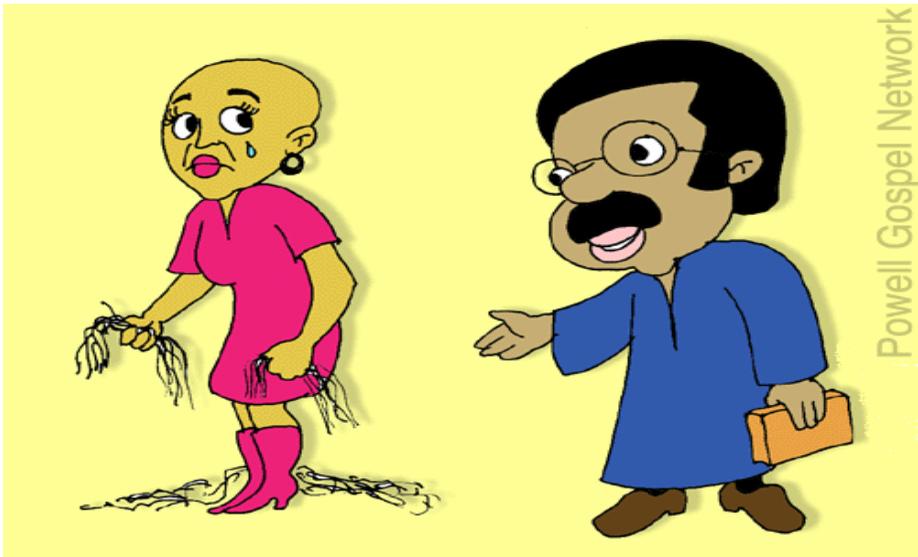
D.A.

DO NOT BE AFRAID

"Do not be afraid Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." Gen 15:1b. This is one promise in the Bible that is not limited to the person being addressed but is applicable to anyone who will trust God like Abram did. Claim this promise for yourself for 2006. Determine in simple faith to trust God and absolute obedience to do His will as He leads you from day to day. What else do you need when God Himself is your great reward? Make your walk with Christ through out 2006 your number one priority.

HAVE A BLESSED AND PROSPEROUS YEAR!

Sunday and Grace Bwanhot



**“Look sister, ... if you’re gonna pray, don’t worry!.
If you’re gonna worry, don’t pray!”**

Those who see God’s hand in everything
can leave everything in God’s hands.

CROSSWORDS-ON-BIBLICAL ADVICE

ACROSS

- 2 Wisdom starts with the ___ the Lord (Prov. 9)
7 ___, so you won't be judged (Mt. 7)
8 Where this is, so is your heart (Mt. 6)
9 Ask in faith, not this (Ja. 1)
12 ___ in prayer (Col. 4)
15 God loves one of these (2 Cor. 9)
17 Love never does this (1 Cor. 13)
18 Better to have wisdom than this (Prov. 16)
21 Give this always (1 Thes. 5)
23 Do this in the Lord always (Phil. 4)
26 Without this, faith is dead (Ja. 2)
27 No man can serve these (Mt. 6)
28 Ask in prayer and you ___ (Mt. 21)
29 Make ___ known to God (Phil. 4)

(Bible References using King James Version)

DOWN

- 1 Trying of faith develops ___ (Ja. 1)
3 Overcome evil with this (Rom. 12)
4 ___ are a honeycomb (Prov. 16)
5 Be ___ to my supplications (Ps. 130:2)
6 Love thy neighbour this way (Mk.12)
9 Better than weapons of war (Ecc. 9)
10 Train child in the way he ___ (Prov. 22)
11 Let us ___ the Spirit (Gal. 5)
13 Pray without doing this (1 Thes. 5)
14 ___ all appearance of evil (1 Thes.5)
16 Obey your parents ___ (Col. 3)
19 We need to love ___ (Rom. 13)
20 Practice without grudging (1 Pet.4:9)
21 Confidence is found in ___ (Prov. 3)
22 Have this in the Lord (Prov. 3)
24 The greatest of these is ___ (1 Cor.13)
25 Do this always (Eph. 6)

NOTICE BOARD

YOUTH WORKER

The church is looking for a Christian youth worker who loves the Lord passionately and is able to work with the church's team to develop our Youth and Community ministry. The applicant is expected to put in 17.5 hours a week - two week-days and Sundays. Please contact the vicar for more information.

22nd January 2006

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HORNSEY

Joint Service at the Moravian Church, Priory Road, N8 at 5pm

29th January 2006

Our next HEALING AND ANOINTING SERVICE at CHRIST CHURCH (usually the fifth Sunday of the month) is on 29th January at 10.30am. Our theme for the service is "THE PRAYER OF JABEZ"

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

This month we pray for members of our church family whose surnames begin with G, H, J

Gallagher Denise; Gardiner Stephen & Bridget; Goldson Barrington & Sharon; Greaves Sonia; Green Peter; Green Jasmine, Green Rosanne; Greenaway Catherine; Gregory Teresa; Haggerty Mark & Funmi; Hawthorne Giles; Horton Betty; Horton Rosemary; Hunt Ruth; Jackson Elizabeth; Jenks Jim; Jordan Carron; Joseph Etwyn.

A FACE-TO-FACE TELLING – OFF OF GOD

I recently read a story by a woman who said that as a girl she was poor. She said, "I grew up in a cold water flat, but I married a man who had money. And he took me up to a place where I had flowers, and I had gardens. It was wonderful. And we had children.

"Then suddenly I became physically sick. I went to the hospital, and the doctors ran all sorts of tests. One night the doctor came into my room, and with a long look on his face, said, 'I'm sorry to tell you this. Your liver has stopped working.'

"I said, 'Doctor, wait a minute. Are you telling me that I am dying?' And he said, 'I can't tell you any more than that. Your liver has stopped working. We've done everything we can to start it.' And he walked out.

"I knew I was dying. I was so weak, I had to feel my way along the corridor down to the chapel of the hospital. I wanted to tell God off. I wanted to tell God, "You've been passing yourself off as a lov-

I wanted to tell God, "You've been passing yourself off as a loving God for two thousand years, but every time anyone begins to get happy you pull the rug out from under them."

ing God for two thousand years, but every time anyone begins to get happy you pull the rug out from under them.' I wanted this to be a face-to-face telling-off of God. "And just as I got into the centre aisle of the chapel, I tripped and as I looked up, there stencilled along the step into the sanctuary, where the altar is, I saw these words: LORD, BE MERCIFUL TO ME A SINNER. I know God spoke to me that night. I know he did."

And she said, "There with my head down on my folded arms in the centre of the chapel, repeating, 'Lord, be merciful to me a sinner,' I surrendered to God. I found my way back to my hospital bed, weak as I was.

(continued on page 12)

QUOTES

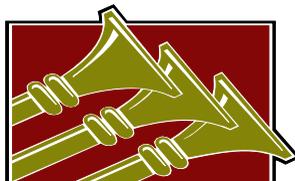
TODAY

YESTERDAY has gone forever —
Forget it, let it be.
Who knows what tomorrow holds?
Today's for you and me.
Another chance to start afresh
And leave the past behind,
Accomplish those unfinished tasks
And seek some peace of mind.
A time to write or make a call
Encourage someone's schemes,
And then a time for being you
To nourish all your dreams.
A time to reap, a time to sow
And every hope renew,
And celebrate this gift of life' —
Today's for me and you.
Iris Hesselden.

GET YOUR PRIORITIES RIGHT

We sometimes miss the great opportunities of life because we get sidetracked. There's the tale of a talented bloodhound in England that started a hunt by chasing a full grown male deer. During the chase a fox crossed his path, so he began now to chase the fox. A rabbit crossed his hunting path, so he began to chase the rabbit. After chasing the rabbit for a while, a tiny field mouse crossed his path, and he chased the mouse to the corner of a farmer's barn. The bloodhound had begun the hunt chasing a prized male deer for his master and wound up barking at a tiny mouse.

D.A.

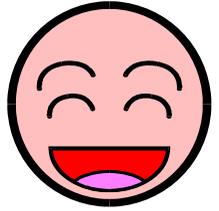


Because Jesus lives, I can face tomorrow.

LAUGHTER LINES

GOD'S NAME

A "pillar of the church" passed away and was on his way to heaven. When he got to the pearly gates of heaven, he met an angel. The angel asked him what God's name was. "Oh, that's easy," the man replied. "His name is Andy."



"What makes you think his name is Andy?" the angel asked.

"Well, you see at church we used to sing this song, **Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me.**"

From "The World's Greatest Collection of Church Jokes", published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. Used by permission.

GLORIA PATRIA

While walking up the front lane to his house, Pastor Norris of First Church heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly wilted his collar. His five-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead bird and were giving it a Christian funeral. The burial spot was dug, and the minister's son was selected to say the appropriate prayer. So, with dignity he intoned his version of what he thought his father always said, "Glory be to the Faaaather, and to the Sonnnn... and into the hole you gooo."

From The World's Greatest Collection of Church Jokes, published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. Used by permission.

COME IN

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "Tommy, how do you expect to get into heaven someday?" The boy thought it over and explained, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the gate until St. Peter says, 'For heaven's sake, Tommy, come in or stay out.'"

From "The World's Greatest Collection of Church Jokes," published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. Used by permission.

LAUGHTER LINES

NEGATIVE IMAGING

A guy blew a tire while driving through the country. To his chagrin, there was no jack in his trunk. Looking down the dark road he saw a distant farmhouse with a light on. It was his only recourse, so he started walking. During his journey he started thinking, "What if nobody's home?" A little later he thought, "What if they're home, but they don't have a jack?" His adrenaline started pumping even more when he asked himself, "What if they have a jack but won't let me use it?" This private conversation escalated to the point that when he finally arrived at the house, he simply yelled at the farmer, "You can just keep your stupid jack!"

"What Leaders Expect From Followers," John Maxwell, Vol. 8 No. 10, 1993



AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO LIVE BY

There was a man who went into a hardware store with a chain-saw. He threw the chain-saw down at the store owner's feet and said, "This is a piece of junk. You told me that I could cut down forty trees a day, and I couldn't cut down any more than three." The owner said, "Well, maybe the teeth on the saw need to be sharpened." Once that was done, the man took the saw back home, only to return three days later. The man said, "It's still a piece of junk. It's a little bit better, but not much. Now I can only cut down five trees a day and you said I could cut down forty. I want my money back." The store owner responded, "I really don't understand it. This is a good piece of equipment. Let's try it." The store-owner pulled the starter rope and the chain saw started right up. The man looked at it, surprised, and said, "What in the world is that noise?" We're like that. We have the chain saw, but we haven't found out about the power.

Most Christians live empty lives simply because they don't realize that all the angels of God are poised to listen to their words. The power that God offers His people is a resource you need to draw on this new year.

I wanted to tell God off—(continued from page 8)

"The next morning, after the doctor ran the blood tests and the urine analysis and so forth, he said, 'Your liver has started working again. We don't know why it stopped, and we don't know why it started up again.' And I said in my heart, But I know. Oh but I know. God has brought me to the brink of disaster, just to get me to turn my life over to him." Belonging to God in Jesus is the greatest thing that can happen to you—more than wealth—because as a child of God, you belong to the owner of the universe.

-- John Powell, "Prayer as Surrender," Preaching Today, Tape No. 108.

LET US GET BUSY DOING THE LORD'S WORK

God never goes to the lazy or idle when He needs men for His service--

- Moses was busy with his flocks at Horeb.
- Gideon was busy threshing wheat.
- Saul was busy searching for his father's lost sheep.
- Elisha was busy plowing with twelve yoke of oxen.
- Amos was busy following the flock.
- Nehemiah was busy bearing the king's cup.
- Peter and Andrew were busy casting a net into the sea.
- James and John were busy mending their nets.
- Matthew was busy collecting customs.
- Saul was busy persecuting the friends of Jesus.

Let's all get busy at this great work and the Lord will use and bless us.

Solution to Crossword on page 6

Across

2 - fearof; 7 - judgenot; 8 - yourtreasure; 9 - wavering;
12 - continue; 15 - cheerfulgiver; 17 - fails; 18 - gold;
21 - thanks; 23 - rejoice; 26 - works; 27 - twomasters
28 - willreceive; 29 - yourrequests

Down

1 - patience; 3 - good; 4 - pleasantwords; 5 - attentive
6 - asthymself; 9 - wisdom; 10 - shouldgo; 11- walkin;
13 - ceasing; 14 - keepfrom; 16 - ineverything;
19 - oneanother; 20 - hospitality; 21 - theLord; 22 - trust;
24 - love; 25 - pray

THE BEGGAR'S RAGS (Star Story of The Month)

A beggar lived near the king's palace. One day he saw a proclamation posted outside the palace gate. The king was giving a great dinner. Anyone dressed in royal garments was invited to the party. The beggar went on his way. He looked at the rags he was wearing and sighed. Surely only kings and their families wore royal robes, he thought.



Slowly an idea crept into his mind. The audacity of it made him tremble. Would he dare? He made his way back to the palace. He approached the guard at the gate. "Please, sire, I would like to speak to the king." "Wait here," the guard replied.

In a few minutes he was back. "His majesty will see you," he said, and led the beggar in. "You wished to see me?" asked the king. "Yes, your majesty. I want so much to attend the banquet, but I have no royal robes to wear. Please, sir, if I may be so bold, may I have one of your old garments so that I, too, may come to the banquet?"

The beggar shook so hard that he could not see the faint smile that was on the king's face. "You have been wise in coming to me," the king said. He called to his son, the young prince. "Take this man to your room and array him in some of your clothes."

The prince did as he was told and soon the beggar was standing before a mirror, clothed in garments that he had never dared hope for.

"You are now eligible to attend the king's banquet tomorrow night," said the prince. "But even more important, you will never need any other clothes. These garments will last forever." The beggar dropped to his knees. "Oh, thank you," he cried. But as he started to leave, he looked back at his pile of dirty rags on the floor. He hesitated. What if the prince was wrong?
(continued on page 15)

THE BEGGAR'S RAGS (continued)

What if he would need his old clothes again? Quickly he gathered them up. The banquet was far greater than he had ever imagined, but he could not enjoy himself as he should. He had made a small bundle of his old rags and it kept falling off his lap. The food was passed quickly and the beggar missed some of the greatest delicacies. Time proved that the prince was right. The clothes lasted forever. Still the poor beggar grew fonder and fonder of his old rags.

As time passed people seemed to forget the royal robes he was wearing. They saw only the little bundle of filthy rags that he clung to wherever he went. They even spoke of him as the old man with the rags. One day as he lay dying, the king visited him. The beggar saw the sad look on the king's face when he looked at the small bundle of rags by the bed. Suddenly the beggar remembered the prince's words and he realized that his bundle of rags had cost him a lifetime of true royalty. He wept bitterly at his folly. And the king wept with him.

How is this applicable to us?

We have been invited into a royal family—the family of God. To feast at God's dinner table, all we have to do is shed our old rags and put on the "new clothes" of faith which is provided by God's Son, Jesus Christ. But we cannot hold onto our old rags. When we put our faith in Christ, we must let go of the sin in our life, and our old ways of living. Those things must be discarded if we are to experience true royalty and abundant life in Christ. "Behold, the old is passed away; the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). *From Youth Specialties, Hot illustrations*

Beware of worshipping Jesus as the Son of God, and professing your faith in Him as the Saviour of the world, while you blaspheme Him by the complete evidence in your daily life that He is powerless to do anything in and through you. -- Oswald Chambers, *Christianity Today*, Vol. 37, no. 11.

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.

- **5.00pm.** 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**)
- Prayer meeting 9th, 23rd January; 6th and 20th February (**8pm**)
Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in the Hall (**7:30pm**)
Wednesday - Home Group 17 Coleridge Road N8 8EH (**10:00 am**)
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

Editorial Board: Iyabo Agbelusi, Grace Macauley, Dele Agbelusi

Vicar: Revd Canon Dele Agbelusi

Church Wardens: Peter Green, Charles Murphy

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YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

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