



CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX
CROSSLINKS
TRUST IN GOD

**A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL
SPECIAL SUMMER HOLIDAY EDITION**



JULY AND AUGUST 2007 ISSUE 7.87

Vicar's seven-minute reflection

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD



A small boy had been told that he must always wait patiently till he was served at meals, and not draw attention to himself. One day he was eating at a friend's house with his mother, and somehow he was accidentally overlooked. Nobody noticed, and for a time he was patient, but at last he could stand it no longer. Leaning across to his mother, he said in an audible whisper: "Mother, do little boys who starve to death go to heaven?" That little fellow was more patient than most of us.

Some things simply take time. We wonder why God does not work more quickly in our lives. We wonder why our prayers are not answered according to our time table. We wonder why we do not see results as rapidly as we would like. One of the great lessons we learn in life is that God's schedule is not our schedule. Sometimes we have to wait. Perhaps the circumstances are not right. Sometimes we are not right.

There are many of us who end up fretting about life and the future because we find it difficult to trust God and wait on Him. We live in a state of fear. We are afraid of the present and dread the future, so much so that we are almost paralyzed by worry. The trouble with any type of overwhelming concern is that it may transform us to emotionally handicapped people, who are unable to live normal, productive lives, when we ought to be trusting God and pursuing life to the utmost. Fear and worry over the future may literally destroy us, or cause us to destroy ourselves, and they are absolutely catastrophic to our relationship with God and people. It may stunt our growth from becoming mature people of God.

Would Jesus say the same things to us today that he said to the disciples: "do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what shall you drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on..." - in the face of the terrible economic chaos, drought, and starvation that are taking so many lives in some parts of the world?



I am positive he would still tell people, "Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all (food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and so on). But seek first his (God's) kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be yours as well." Wasn't he talking about trusting that God would provide us with the opportunities and the resources to obtain the necessities of life, not simply handing us what we need on a platter? Trusting God liberates us from those fears and anxieties which paralyze and immobilize us in daily life. Trusting in God frees us so we can use our hearts, minds, and strength to do all those things that need to be done to support our lives and to help others meet their daily needs, too. Trusting in God is our response to the faith-knowledge that he cares about us and all people, and is concerned about our physical welfare and the quality of our lives. But trusting in God is not simply sitting idly, watching the world go by, and waiting for God to do something to help us and others; it is responding to the opportunities we have to do something for others and for ourselves in the name of Jesus Christ.

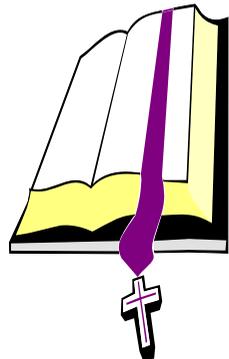
Those who trust in God above everything else don't worry needlessly about food, clothing, and shelter; they find ways of supplying them to others, as well as obtaining them for themselves. It was A.W.Tozer who said, "What we need very badly these days is a company of Christians who are prepared to trust God as completely now as they know they must do at the last day.

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Memory Verse

"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hands, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Daniel 3:17-18



SOMETIMES A MARRIAGE NEEDS MATTHEW 5:44.



A man came to his pastor for help because he was considering a divorce. The pastor counselled him to stay in the marriage and began to show the man scriptures which spoke to the issue of marital commitment. He first used Ephesians 5:25, "Husbands love your wives." The man responded by saying, "I don't love her." The pastor then turned to John 13:35, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." The minister noted that they were both Christians and should be able to at least love each other as fellow believers. The husband replied, "We fight all the time. The longer I stay with her the less I like her." The determined man of God then scrambled to Matthew 22:39, "Love your neighbour as yourself." Pleadingly he asked, "Will you at least try loving her as your next door neighbour?" In response the man said, "Pastor, you just don't understand. We're not even friends anymore." The pastor's face lighted up with relief. "Well, then, I've got just the verse you need." Triumphantly he read Matthew 5:44, "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you." Sometimes a marriage needs Matthew 5:44.

ARE YOU TIRED?

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me - watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Matthew 11: 28-30 (The Message)

SWEET REVENGE

Ted Engstrom tells the story of a disgruntled husband named Joe. He was ready to end his three-year marriage, but since he was so angry with his wife, he wanted not only to leave her but to hurt her as well. Joe visited a psychologist and sought a professional opinion as to how he could most severely hurt his wife. The wise counsellor sized up the situation and gave this advice: "Here's the perfect solution. Go home and start treating your wife like a goddess. Give her your undivided attention, take her out to eat, help around the house, compliment her every move, and just treat her like a queen. Do this for two months, then just pack your bags and walk out. When you leave her after treating her so well she will literally crumble." Joe thought it was a wonderful scheme. He put it into practice as soon as he got home. For two months he gave his wife the best he had to offer. After this eight-week setup, the marriage counsellor called Joe and asked, "Well, did she crumble when you left?" Joe shot back, "Are you kidding? I wouldn't leave this woman for the world. I now have the best marriage a man could want. My wife is a goddess!" The marriage counsellor hung up the phone with the satisfaction that he had accomplished what he set out to achieve, "sweet" revenge. When a spouse treats a mate like a prized treasure, the result is a beautiful and fulfilling marriage.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Haggerty Mark and Funmi ; Horton Betty; Horton Rosemary; Hunt Ruth; Jackson Elizabeth; Joseph Etwyn; Kambeja Harriet, Kirsakye Sydney and Bernadette; Lines Florence; Liscott Peter; Lukomona Desiree.

HE CHOSE YOUR HEART

He could have chosen anywhere
Throughout this world to live
He could have chosen any heart
With the many gifts He's given.

He could have come to anyone
Of any color, size or form
He could have come as anyone
But He came as a new-born.

He chose the humble nature
Of a blessed little babe
As He began His mission
Many troubled souls to save

He walked upon this earth we share
Touching people near and far
And for His final resting place
He thoughtfully chose YOUR heart

So when you feel troubled
Or perhaps you are in pain
In silence God will bless You
If you let Him lead the way

Be still and know (continued from page 3)

For each of us the time is coming when we shall have nothing but God. Health and wealth and friends and hiding places will be swept away, and we shall have only God. To the man of pseudo faith that is a terrifying thought, but to real faith it is one of the most comforting thoughts the heart can entertain." Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done. The highest pinnacle of the spiritual life is not happy joy in unbroken sunshine, but absolute and undoubting trust in the love of God. The more we depend on God, the more dependable we find He is. Let us learn to feel secure in God's hands and know that He is God. Dele Agbelusi

NOTICE BOARD

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday, 22nd July 2007

Healing and Anointing Service at 10.30 am

Sunday, 16th September 2007

Harvest Festival at 10.30 am

Do you have anything to thank God for this year? Special thanksgiving envelopes are available in church from August.

Sunday, 25th November 2007

Confirmation Service at 10.30 am

If you wish to be Confirmed please see the vicar.

JUST A THOUGHT

There were 3 or so abortive terrorist attacks over the week-end. If the terrorist bombs had gone off as planned killing hundreds of people, the question that most people would have been asking is "Why has God allowed this carnage?" "Why didn't he do something to prevent it?" The insinuation is that "God is powerless and not in control!" I wonder how many people are turning to God now to say "Thank you for averting a disaster that would have resulted in an unprecedented proportion of casualties? We have developed an attitude which blames God when things are not working the way we want but fail to show any appreciation when they are. Some are even saying it's our good luck. Aha! "Good luck" when the going is good and "why God" when the going turns sour"

I am just thinking aloud. Have you said "thank you God" for His mercies and undeserved goodness? Feel free to share this with your friends.

Dele Agbelusi

Look up at all the stars in the night sky and hear your Father saying "I carefully set each on in its place. Know that I love you more than these! Sit by the lakes edge, listening to the water lapping the shore and hear your Father gently calling you to that place near His heart.

CONFESSIONS OF A TRUE PARENT

I used to be a perfect parent. I had strong opinions about the best way to raise a happy, healthy, well-mannered child. I vowed that my children would appear well groomed and clean at all times. disciplined by firm, fair, and consistent parenting techniques and they would always, always, be well behaved in a restaurant. And when they were older, I would instill a sense of self-confidence and mutual respect by showing them that I valued their opinions and by treating them as equals. My ideas were so straightforward and simple that I couldn't understand why other parents couldn't be as perfect as I was. **Then I had children.**

I used to think that any mother whose child was dressed in mismatched clothes and had Kool-Aid stains around his lips before eleven o'clock in the morning was obviously an unfit parent who spends all day talking on the phone . My opinion changed when my daughter turned 2 and decided that she no longer wanted to wear clothing in public.

One minute she would be fully dressed, innocently sucking on a pacifier in her stroller. The next, she'd be waving at strangers wearing only a diaper and a pair of red patent leather shoes. The first few times this happened I put her clothes back on—only to have them flung at me again two seconds later. After several days of struggling to keep her fully dressed, I finally decided that it would be less stressful and much faster if she just started out naked when we left the house.

I also used to think that parents who let their children watch cartoons instead of doing enriching activities together like reading lacked self-discipline and motivation. This was before I began daydreaming about how great it would be if my 4-year-old son stopped making big messes around the house and did nothing but watch TV. I could picture the peacefulness of it all. There would be no toys to pick up, no plasticine to peel out of the carpet, and no crayons to remove from nostrils. Besides, I figured if he got really hooked on a few afternoon PBS programs,

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My Resignation As An Adult



I have decided I would like to accept the responsibilities of a 6 year-old again.

I want to go to McDonald's and think that it's a four star restaurant and then be able to afford a movie

I want to sail sticks across a fresh mud puddle and make a sidewalk with rocks and bask in the sun.

I want to think M&Ms are better than money because you can eat them.



I want to lie under a big oak tree with a drippy ice cream cone and run a lemonade stand with my friends on a hot summer's day.

I want to return to a time when life was simple. When all you knew were colors, multiplication tables, and nursery rhymes, but that didn't bother you, because you didn't know what you didn't know and you didn't care.

All you knew was to be happy because you were blissfully unaware of all the things that should make you worried or upset.

I want to think the world is fair. That everyone is honest and good.

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QUOTABLE QUOTES

Holy Spirit Like a Moving Sidewalk

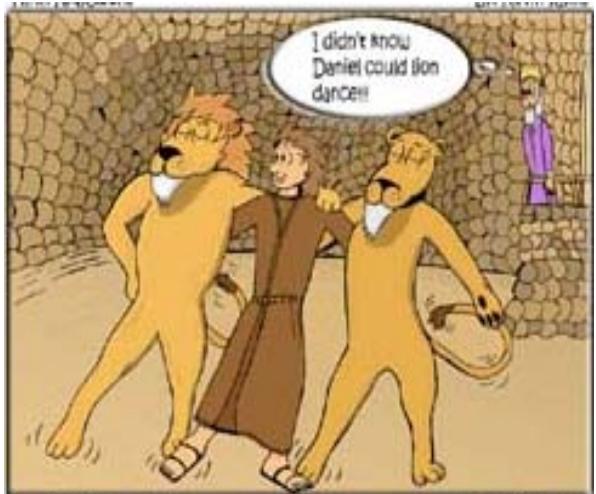
One day I was in an airport rushing to catch a plane. I was sweating and puffing when I looked to my right and saw a man walking half as fast as I was, but going faster. He was walking on a moving sidewalk.

When we walk in the Spirit, he comes underneath us and bears us along. We're still walking, but we walk dependent on him.

Tony Evans

I will sustain you

Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all you who remain of the house of Israel, you whom I have upheld since you were conceived, and have carried since your birth. Even to your old age and grey hairs I am he who will sustain you; I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you. Isaiah 46: 3-4



Nothing is too hard for our God

Absolute confidence in the One who matters

During an earthquake, the inhabitants of a small village were very much alarmed, but they were at the same time surprised at the calmness and apparent joy of an old lady whom they all knew. At length one of them, addressing the old lady, said, "Ma'am, are you not afraid?"

"No," said the woman, "I rejoice to know that I have a God who can shake the world." -- Charles Haddon Spurgeon

I might even have time to do things like put on a real pair of shoes with laces or finish a complete thought.

Before I had children I was going to be a good, health-conscious parent. My family would only eat organic produce and dairy products, fresh fruit, yeast-free bread, and un-medicated free-range turkey. Sugar would never, ever touch their lips.

I changed my mind when I brought my daughter to the grocery store for the first time by myself, and she refused to bend her legs so she could fit into the front seat of the shopping cart. "If you get in the cart Mommy will give you part of the nice candy bar she has in her purse," I whispered desperately in her ear.

This tactic worked well until she had eaten all of the candy. Then she decided the trip would be much more interesting if she got out of the cart and flung all of the food off of the shelves as she ran down the aisles. So I did what any other modern, educated mother would do: I desperately started tossing junk food into the cart. She ate the box of mini donuts in the dairy aisle and munched on fistfuls of caramel corn in the produce section. The Tootsie Pop sucker gave me just enough time to get through the register, out the door, and back to my car.

As I loaded bags full of empty boxes and wrappers into my trunk, it occurred to me that the only obstacles keeping me from being a perfect parent were my children.

I once vowed that my son would never play with toy weapons. That didn't seem to stop him from turning just about everything into a gun. One day my son made a gun out of a banana and shot the cat. He was deeply disappointed when the cat didn't stop what it was doing, clutch its chest, and fall down on the floor.

And how was I supposed to know, when I vowed to never lie to my children, that my 5-year-old daughter would begin asking me questions about the reproductive process long before I was ready to tell her?

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I finally compromised by discussing a few key facts, using the animal kingdom as an example. I thought I handled the subject honestly and tactfully—until she began to walk up to everyone who came to our home and ask, "Do you have a uterus?" If they unwittingly answered yes, she'd demand to know what size it was, where it came from, and if she could take a look at it.

Now, when my children and I go out in public, I want to stop people and let them know I am really a good parent. I want to tell them that my son is eating a Popsicle for breakfast because he is going through a phase where he will only eat blue food, and I'm running out of options. He has a dirty dishtowel tucked into the back of his shirt because he thinks it's a cape and today he wants to be Batman. I want to explain that my daughter is wearing her bathing suit with a pair of cowboy boots because she thinks the leather tassels go great with the pink netting on her skirt.

When I yell things like "Because I'm the Mommy and I said so!" I want people to know that what I really mean is "I can understand your desire, but it is my duty as a concerned mother to constantly look out for your best interest." Sometimes I wonder how it would feel to appear in public with two orderly, quiet children with immaculate faces and clean clothes. I could shop without anyone repeating "Can I have a big pretzel now, Mommy?" every three seconds like some sort of hypnotic mantra. Maybe I could even stop to look at something—or enter a store, get only what I actually need, then leave! But I have a feeling my life wouldn't be nearly as exciting.

Now, when I see a mother whose child is happily meandering behind her, eating a Twinkie and wearing wrinkled dinosaur pajamas and a pair of swim fins, I no longer think she's an unfit parent. I know she's just doing the best she can.

My Resignation as an Adult

(from page 9)

I want to believe that anything is possible. I want to be oblivious to the complexities of life and be overly excited by the little things again.

I want to live simple again. I don't want my day to consist of computer crashes, mountains of paperwork, depressing news, how to survive more days in the month than there is money in the bank, doctor's bills, gossip, illness, and loss of loved ones.

I want to believe in the power of smiles, hugs, a kind word, truth, justice, peace, dreams, the imagination, mankind, and making angels in the snow.



I want to live simple again. I don't want my day to consist of computer crashes, mountains of paperwork, depressing news, how to survive more days in the month than there is money in the bank doctor bills, gossip, illness, and loss of loved ones.

So...here's my checkbook and my car-keys,
my credit card bills and my 401K statements.
I am officially resigning from adulthood.

And if you want to discuss this further, you'll have to catch me first, cause...

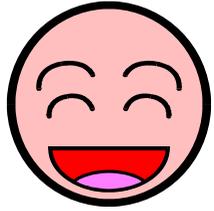


TAG, YOU'RE IT!!

LAUGHTER LINES

Thou shall not expect perfection of each other.

After encountering considerable trouble communicating with his wife, the husband concluded the poor old gal was losing her hearing. On a mission to prove his point, he conducted a personal hearing check. While she sat on the other side of the room with her back to him, he quietly asked, "Can you hear me?" There was no response. He then moved a little closer and repeated his question. Again, no response. The self-proclaimed audiologist got even closer and asked the same question. With no reply he took his test to the back of her chair and asked, "Can you hear me now?" To his total surprise, she responded with a twinge of irritation, "For the fourth time, yes!" * Our Daily Bread, Special Edition, Day 24



Is this your desire- To eat Your cake and have it?

A Sunday school teacher was telling the story of the rich man and Lazarus. There sat Lazarus outside the rich man's gate covered with sores and begging for food.

Passing by without even seeing Lazarus was the rich man. But then they both died and Lazarus went to Heaven, while the rich man found himself in less desirable circumstances, which the teacher described most graphically.

When she had finished, she asked the children, "Now which would you rather be the rich man or Lazarus?" One little fellow answered, "I would like to be the rich man until I die and then Lazarus afterwards."

LAUGHTER LINES

Prayer with an accent.

As song leader for my church in New Hampshire, I was preparing for Sunday. I planned on playing my guitar, but my electronic tuner was missing. "Maybe I left it in the car," I thought.

Heading to the garage, I asked the Lord out loud to help me find my "tuner." Nothing was on the back seat of the car, but when I reached under the front seat out rolled a can of tuna.

My husband followed my laughter to the garage. "Honey," I said, "The Lord definitely heard my prayer--New England accent and all." -- Sandy Pastor, Pelham, New Hampshire. Christian Reader,

Honest Confession

The boss, who had caught Calvin gazing out the window, barked, "Why aren't you working?" Without thinking, Calvin blurted, "Because I didn't see you coming."

Meet the Future of Sunday Morning Mega-Church Credit card Offertories and bar code attendance

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STORY OF THE MONTH SMART AND WORLDLY -WISE

A ridiculous story has been making the rounds lately. Many of you have heard it, but I wonder if you have caught its religious significance. It is about a pilot and three passengers, a boy scout, a priest, and an atomic scientist and a plane that develops engine trouble in mid flight. The



pilot rushes back to the passenger compartment and exclaims, "The plane is going down! We only have three parachutes, and there are four of us! I have a family waiting for me at home. I must survive!" With that, he grabs one of the parachutes and jumps out of the plane. The atomic scientist jumps to his feet at this point and declares, "I am the smartest man in the world. It would be a great tragedy if my life was snuffed out!" With that, he also grabs a parachute and exits the plane. With an alarmed look on his face, the priest says to the boy scout, "My son, I have no family. I am ready to meet my Maker. You are still young with much ahead of you. You take the last parachute." At this point, the boy scout interrupts the priest, "Hold on, pastor. Don't say any more. We're all right. The world's smartest man just jumped out of the plane wearing my knapsack!"

A lot of people think they're pretty smart. In reality, they're a lot like 'The Smartest man in the World'. They jump out into the world without parachutes. They think they know it all and have all they need to live happy and fulfilled lives, to keep them from crashing and burning. What they actually have is a knapsack. The only parachute that will ultimately save is the Gospel of Christ. All other ways are false and lead to death. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

A lot of smart people haven't learned how to make wise decisions. They act impulsively, without thinking. The result is sometimes the same as what happened to the Smartest man in the World—death.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL FOLLOW?

Here is a question every leader of people asks himself/herself at one time or another. When Jesus looked out over the masses who followed him, I wonder if He asked himself this same question. As He counted, in His mind, the healings and considered all who he helped, I wonder if he pondered how many would come after him. Of course they would follow him to the next miracle. They would follow Him to the next free dinner. They would be there to hear him preach again, but would they follow him all the way to the cross.

People are fickle. Have you noticed this? It doesn't take much to turn their heads. You can spend all your energy helping them and teaching them, but when something/someone flashier comes along, off they go. It's no wonder we are likened to sheep in the scriptures. Sheep are wanderers. If the shepherd is not watchful, his sheep will simply wander off. They don't mean to leave the shepherd really. They just find a patch of grass that is greener and so off they go.

I look at the ministry of Jesus and I am dumfounded at the throngs of people he could gather. So many on the sea shore that he would have to launch out on a boat to talk to them. Thousands were there the day he multiplied the little boy's lunch. They pressed against him. They cried out to him from the edges of the crowds. They climbed into trees to see him. They tore the roof off of houses to get to where He was at. Yet I believe he had one question in His mind every time he saw them press in. "How many will follow?"

Each time you get in front of the group you minister to, do you ask yourself this question? How many will follow me? How many will live the way I teach? How many will stay strong to the faith? How many will be saved? Can you imagine how Jesus must have felt when He looked down from where He hung on the cross

(continued on page 18)

How many people will follow?

and saw only a very small handful of people? I suppose, if it was me hanging there and I saw only John, Jesus' mother and a couple of others, I would feel like a total failure. I would go back in my mind to all of those who I had helped and I would wonder where I went wrong. What could I have done differently that would have enabled them to "Make it".

When I look back over my years of ministry, I see the faces of many people whom I reached out to, yet off they went for greener pastures. I tried my best. I gave it everything I had. I preached my guts out. I counselled until late in the night. I made myself available to them. I loved them. I helped them heal. I blessed them. Yet today, they are gone. Well that's enough about people who are fickle. That's enough about the unthankful. And that's enough about the (Please excuse me for this one.) knuckleheads who are too stubborn to get saved. Now let's talk about the ones who followed.

Let's talk about John. He's a breath of fresh air. He's a blessing to a hardworking leaders heart. When nobody else shows up, he's there. When everyone else has run off, he stays right there with you. He's your right arm. He's your strength. He is why you hang there in your moment of agony. He is why you sacrifice yourself.

How many will follow? There's no telling. Maybe thousands. Maybe only one. If there are thousands, wow. If there is one, wow again. The fact of the matter is, we are not to judge the harvest. We are not to number the people. When we do these things, we are adding up our own successes. Just ask King David. He found that God will not share His glory with anyone.

How many will follow, should not be what get us up in the morning... or the thing that drives us or encourages us. How many will follow has nothing to do with your ability or your burden. It has to do with that person and their desire to live for God. Try as you may, you cannot make their decisions for them. You cannot live for God for them. And you cannot follow for them. You can only lead. So Lead! Lead strong! Lead fearless! Lead faithful!

By James Smith

SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU LAUGH AND...THINK



This little light

When my husband and I taught 2 and 3 year-olds in Sunday school, a Bible verse we helped them memorize was Psalm 56:3, "When I am afraid, I will trust in you." Our preschool son, Mark, was one of our pupils. One stormy night, as lightning flashed and thunder boomed, the electricity suddenly went off. "I'm not afraid," Mark assured us as we groped in the dark for candles and matches. Expecting him to quote the Bible verse he recently learned, I proudly prompted him, "And tell us why you aren't afraid." "'Cause I've got my flashlight." -- Ann Beck

Eternal smoke

A concerned church member asked his pastor, Rick Warren, if he would go to hell for smoking. Dr. Warren answered, "No, but you'll smell like you've been there." - Encouraging Word, Rick Warren

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 16th July in the church (**8pm**)

- Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in the Hall (**7:30pm**) -On recess till September 12

- 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

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Lay Preachers: Richard Mercer, Iyabo Agbelusi

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YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

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