

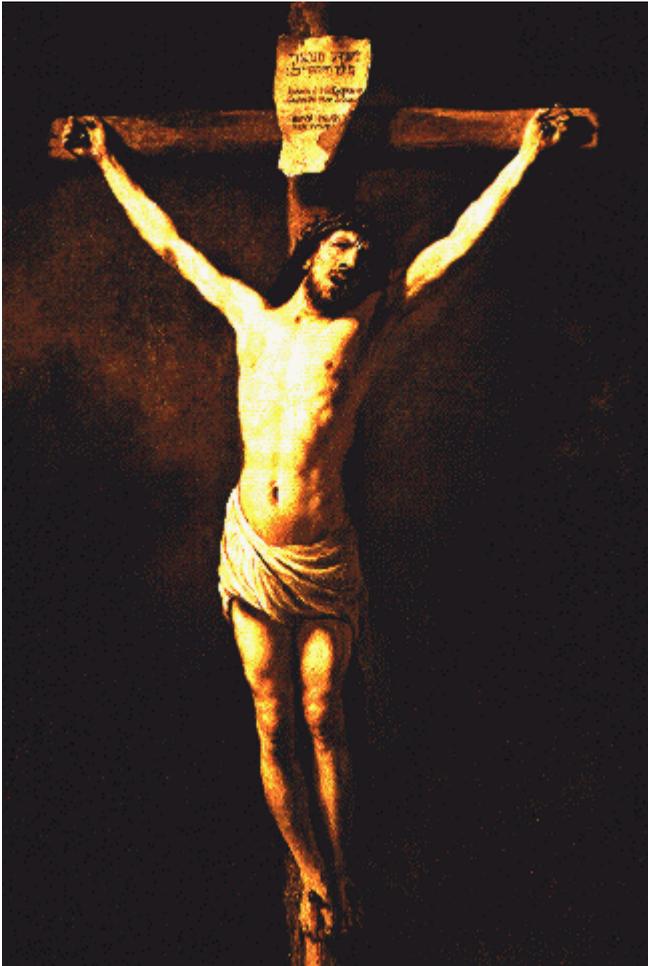


CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX

CROSSLINKS

HE DIED IN YOUR PLACE

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



MARCH/APRIL 2006 ISSUE 6.72

Vicar's three minute reflection THE ETERNAL PRICE FOR MY SINS



The claims of Jesus gives us insight to His person and what He came to do. His utterances give us a glimpse to His ministry, His mission, His life and His death. It is very significant that when the Gospels were written, a disproportionate amount of space was devoted to the last week of Jesus' life on earth. Luke gave a quarter of his volume - Mathew and Mark about a third and John as much as a half. And the reason for this emphasis is not far fetched. The death of Jesus was central to His mission and person.

On various occasions, He predicted his death, saying that "the Son of Man must suffer many things ... and ... be killed" (Mark 8:31; 9:31). He saw His death as inevitable and that His mission could only be completed by His death.

God himself in Christ bore the judgement we deserved, in order to bring us the forgiveness we do not deserve.

So the church is right to choose the cross as its symbol for Christianity. According to John Stott "It could have chosen the crib in which the baby Jesus was laid (as an emblem of incarnation), or the carpenter's bench (affirming the dignity of manual labour), or the boat from which He taught the people, or the towel with which He washed and wiped His disciples' feet (as symbols of humble service), or the tomb from which He rose again, or the throne He occupies today (representing his sovereignty)..."

Why then is this relentless emphasis on the Cross?

The Cross of Christ is the only basis on which God forgave sins. While forgiveness may be a plain duty to man, it is the profoundest of problems to God. God is left in a very difficult position, where He has to reconcile His holy love, with His justice, and He resolved this divine dilemma on the cross. For on the cross when Jesus died, God himself in Christ bore the judgement we deserved, in order to bring us the forgiveness we do not deserve. The death of Christ on the cross also reveal the character of God to us.



“But God demonstrates His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8). His death on the cross gave a final blow to the work of evil. The early Christians knew this. They spoke of victory in Christ Jesus. The Jews regarded *Christ crucified* as a **stumbling block**; perhaps this is better understood as an *offense* or a *scandal*. The Greeks regarded *Christ crucified* as **foolishness**. But God did not respond to the polling data. He kept to His gospel, because for those who believed it (**both Jews and Greeks**), *Christ crucified* is **the power of God and the wisdom of God**.

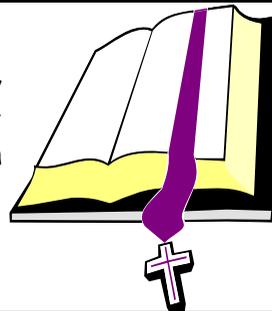
Let every pulpit rightly say, “**we preach Christ crucified!**” I read about A strong church which once inscribed these words on an archway leading to the churchyard. Over time, two things happened: the church lost its passion for Jesus and His gospel, and ivy began to grow on the archway. The growth of the ivy, covering the message, showed the spiritual decline. Originally it said strongly, **we preach Jesus Christ crucified**. But as the ivy grew, one could only read **we preach Jesus Christ**, and the church also started preaching “Jesus Christ the Great Man” and “Jesus Christ the Moral Example” instead of Jesus Christ crucified. The ivy kept growing, and one could soon only read, **we preach**. The church eventually even lost Jesus Christ in the message, preaching religious platitudes and social graces. The church had become another social gathering, all about ‘we’ and not about Christ. My we never lose sight of the Cross of Christ for on it he died to buy us back from the slavery to sin and death.

Dele Agbelusi

Memory Verse

But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53: 5



LOVE AND AFFECTION



I repeatedly refer to love and affection separately whenever I speak. That's intentional—because love and affection are *not* the same thing.

Love is a biblical mandate and is foundational to a successful marriage. I'm convinced every reasonably healthy person is equipped to love others the way God designed. You choose to love someone else by putting their needs above your own. It's a commitment of your will.

Affection, however, is a step beyond love. Affection takes the loving relationship between a man and woman in marriage into the deeper realm of tender expressions that result in feelings of closeness, passion, and security. Affection takes work because it requires knowledge of what makes the other person tick. You show affection when you perceive and appreciate what your spouse needs and meet those needs in a way he or she can understand. Affection results in marital contentment, intimacy, satisfaction, anticipation, and joy all wrapped into one package.

- **Affection isn't sexual**, but it naturally leads to sexual satisfaction. **Affection isn't time**, but it requires time to accomplish. **Affection isn't communication**, but without communication there can be no affection. **Affection isn't romance**, but it typically involves romantic spontaneity, creativity, and fun. Moreover, when affection is present in your relationship, you just know it. If you don't feel it, you probably don't have it. Here's my definition of affection:

Affection is the kind of love that leaves you feeling close, safe, and cared for. In marriage, you feel the passion, and the loving acts become person specific. Affection is also important between parent and child. An affectionate family makes a child feel close, safe, and cared for as well. Affection must be an ingredient in all healthy personal relationships, including those with friends and extended family.

The Bible describes love in terms of action, not feelings. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast,

WHAT I THINK OF MY MOTHER . . .

4 years of age - My Mommy can do anything!

8 years of age - My Mom knows a lot! A whole lot!

12 years of age - My Mother doesn't really know quite everything.

14 years of age - Naturally, Mother doesn't know that, either!

16 years of age - Mother? She's hopelessly old-fashioned.

18 years of age - That old woman? She's way out of date!

25 years of age - Well, she might know a little bit about it.

35 years of age - Before we decide, let's get Mom's opinion.

45 years of age - Wonder what Mom would have thought about it?

65 years of age - Wish I could talk it over with Mom!

it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a NIV).

I like to say (though it may be grammatically flawed) that affection is "**love as actions**" —actions that leave your spouse feeling really good about you and your marriage. Affection is one of the out-workings of love: Love is the commitment and the action, and affection is the safe, secure feeling that results. Strong marriages thrive when both the *behaviour of love* and the *feelings of affection* are present. **This "love as actions" is what moves you the eighteen inches from your head to your heart:**

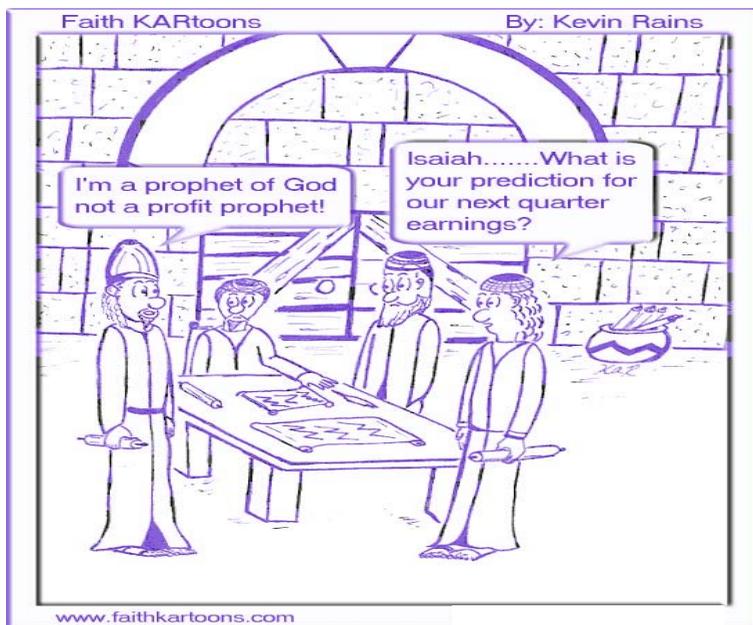
- **Love is patient.** Affection is empathetic.
- **Love is kind.** Affection is tender.
- **Love is not rude.** Affection thoughtfully apologizes for its words.
- **Love is not self-seeking.** Affection rubs the back of a discouraged spouse.
- **Love does not delight in evil.** Affection carefully and privately uncovers sin and helps the person back onto his feet.
- **Love never fails.** Affection under-girds and confirms your unfailing love for your spouse.

From the book, *Starved for Affection* by Dr Randy Carlson, Tyndale Publishers

WHEN TO CALL YOUR MINISTER

There are many times in our busy lives when we need to call a Physician. Just as it would be unthinkable to have need of a doctor and not call him (or on him). Similarly there are many occasions when we need to remember to call our parish priest. Contrary to all the rumours, a priest is not clairvoyant! You need to help him be able to perform his duties. Let us look at a short list of times you need to call your priest.

- When you're admitted to the hospital
- When your doctor gives you bad news
- When your doctor gives you good news
- When a loved one is ill and needs prayer
- When you're too ill to come to Church
- When you feel sad or depressed
- When your pastor's sermons make you think
- When a loved one is in trouble
- When you are in trouble
- When no one is in trouble and everyone is well
- When you just feel great and need to tell someone. DA



NOTICE BOARD

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HORNSEY
LENT COURSE 2006
Theme: FALLING BACKWARDS ON GOD**

Every Wednesday
From 8th March to 5th April
Venue: Christ Church Parish Hall
Time: 7:45pm (Tea/Coffee) 8pm Start

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

29 th April	Unlock sponsored walk
30 th April	Christ Church AGM
10 th May	Swearing-in of Churchwardens, Christ Church Cockfosters
11 th May	PCC meeting
14 th -20 th May	Christian Aid Week
17 th June	Away Day, venue to be arranged
16 th July	Church Barbecue and Church Family photograph (this is to replace the one on our notice board taken in 2000).

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Watch this space for news about our
next Alpha and Marriage Courses

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

This month we pray for members of our church family whose surnames begin with O, P, Q, R, S.

Ogilvie-Arendse Adrian & Susan; Onwuchekwa Godwin;
Osibona Adebusola; Opara Jepta; Pancham-Beccessar
Cynthia; Perrin David; Pounds Michelle, Nicola & Shushila;
Quintyne Angela; Ramsay Malcolm; Randall Harold; Redman
Byron; Redman Dolores; Room Terry; Sharif-de-Groot Aaltje;
Springer Valerie; Stevens Paul & Sue; Stockwell Muriel.

STORIES BEHIND GREAT HYMNS (1)

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

Horatio Gate Spafford was born in North Troy, New York, U.S.A. on October 20, 1828. After his education in New York, he established a law practice in Chicago in 1856. Within a short time he became very famous for the excellent manner in which he handled cases in court. Lind University then appointed him Professor of Medical Law. Under him, that department of Medical Law became the medical college of Chicago. He was a Presbyterian and a Sunday School teacher in the Presbyterian church. He was also a Director and Trustee for the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Chicago. He travelled far and wide, visiting England, Scotland and many other countries of the world.

By 1870, Spafford had not only established himself as the most popular lawyer in Chicago, but had also become very rich. He had a large estate in Chicago, on the shore of Lake Michigan. Unfortunately a fire disaster occurred in 1871 which almost wiped out the city of Chicago. The great estate of Spafford was burnt down in that fire. Spafford expected his Christian friends in Chicago, whom he had helped in their times of need to give him some financial assistance, but they all turned their backs on him. He therefore became disappointed and decided to move with his family to Europe. Due to an unexpected business call, he had to stay behind in Chicago while he sent his wife and four, *daughters* across the sea to Europe on a ship - the S.S. Villa du Havre in November 1873. He promised to join them later.

On 22nd November 1873, the ship conveying his family to Europe was struck by an English ship called the Locheran and within thirty minutes their ship sank. Mrs. Spafford survived the shipwreck but their four children drowned.

On 1st December, Mrs. Spafford with the other survivors, landed at Cardiff, Wales. She then sent a telegram to her husband with this message "Saved alone".

(continued on page 9)

Shortly after receiving the news of the death of his four daughters, Horatio Spafford left by ship to join his wife in Europe. On his way, he got to the spot on the seas where his four daughters had died. He then started meditating about their death. It was while doing so that the words of this hymn came to him. The words were like a message to him that despite all that he had lost in the Chicago fire disaster and at the spot where he stood, Christ being with him, he could still say; "It is well with my soul".

This hymn and its refrain of triumph, believed by some scholars to have been written by Horatio Spafford in commemoration of the death of his children, has become a favourite worldwide. As one goes through the first stanza of this hymn, one cannot but discern the great grief of the writer especially in the second line which says "When sorrow like sea billows roll".

The Spaffords returned to Chicago after the death of their daughters. However, due to the unsympathetic attitude of their Christian friends in Chicago during the periods of their bereavement, they later decided to leave Chicago and settle in the holy land. In 1881, they arrived in Jerusalem, with a group of friends with common interests and there established an American colony. Horatio Spafford lived the rest of his life in that colony, in Jerusalem where he died on October 16, 1888. (**Horatio G. Spafford**, 1828-1888)

Adapted from Great Hymns inspired by Sorrow and Trials © Rev S. M. Leigh

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul...

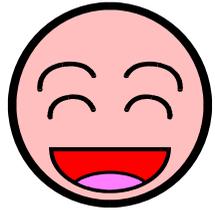
The rest of this song can be found in most hymn books.

LAUGHTER LINES

FOR WEEKEND USE ONLY!

Someone said to Joseph of Arimathea, "That was such a beautiful, costly, hand-hewn tomb. Why did you give it to someone else to be interred in?" "Oh", said Joseph, "He only needed it for the weekend."

From A Bundle of Laughs, J John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books.



BY HIS GRACE

When Brother Martin died and went to heaven, he was met at the front gate by one of God's Messengers. , who let him know that he needed one hundred points to make it in through the pearly gates. "You tell me all the good things you've done, and I'll give you points according to your deeds. When you reach one hundred, I'll swing open the gates." "Okay," Ted reported, "I was head usher at First Baptist for fifty years." "That's wonderful," said the Messenger, "that's worth two points." "I was married to the same woman for almost sixty-five years and never cheated on her." "Remarkable," the messenger declared, "here are three more points." "Only three?" Ted frowned. "How about this? I started a soup kitchen in the inner city and worked in a homeless shelter." "Terrific, and here are two more points." Ted's eyes opened wide, and he yelled, "Two points! At this rate the only way I'll get into heaven is by the grace of God!" "Come on in!" said the Messenger. Only by God's grace can you enter.

Adapted from The World's Greatest Collection of Church Jokes, Paul Miller

LONG SERMON

The Sunday sermon had gone on and on. The little girl, who really had been trying to behave herself, knew that after the sermon, there was still the offertory to go, and probably a final hymn. She began to grow more and more restless. Then she had an idea! Leaning over toward her mother, she whispered quietly into her ear, "Mommy, do you think maybe if we just went ahead and gave him the money now, he will let us go?"

LAUGHTER LINES

MOSES REVISITED

Nine year old Joey, was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

"Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked, somewhat alarmed.

"Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

WISHED I HAD KNOWN

A man placed some flowers on the grave of his dearly departed mother and started back toward his car when his attention was diverted to another man kneeling at a grave. The man seemed to be praying with profound intensity and kept repeating, "Why did you have to die? Why did you have to die?"

The first man approached him and said, "Sir, I don't wish to interfere with your private grief, but this demonstration of pain is more than I've ever seen before. For whom do you mourn so deeply? A child? A parent?"

The mourner took a moment to collect himself, then replied, "My wife's first husband."

Submitted by Richard Mercer

THE RUGGED CROSS—EMBLEM OF SHAME

Other religions have symbols which suggest beauty and light: the six-pointed star of Judaism, the crescent moon of Islam, the lotus symbol of Buddhism. But the Christian symbol is a cross - a sign of savage brutality, an instrument of capital punishment. Alone among the world's religions, the symbol of Christianity is: an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame.

We would rather keep our churches pure and clean than be reminded of the human cruelty and messy ugliness which are represented in the cross.

Paul called the cross a "stumbling block" and a "folly" (1 Corinthians 1:23), and so it has always been. It is hard to comprehend that God Himself would come to our world and be put to death in such a way. **We shrink back from the thought, but the essential truth remains: take away that blood-soaked cross of suffering and shame, and all our faith is in vain.**

A Roman crucifixion was more than a mere execution. It was an elaborate ritual meant to defeat the mind and shatter the spirit even as it destroyed the body.

First, there was the scourging. Jesus was stripped naked and tied to a post. The whip they used on Him was made of leather and for extra pain, small nails were embedded into the tips of the thongs. They whipped Him nearly to death, and His blood was flowing like rivulets from His wounds.

Then came the mockery, the sore abuse and scorn. Because Jesus was charged with being a king, they put a robe on Him and drove a crown of thorns into His scalp. When the mockery was done, they dragged Jesus out to the city street and tied the short beam of the cross to His back. The long beam was waiting for Him at Calvary. So bitter was to be His defeat that He would carry His own instrument of death to the place of His execution. As the cross dropped into the ground, a searing, excruciating pain ran through Jesus' body. Now, began the slow ordeal of helpless, agonizing death. (continued on page 14)

ARE YOU BORN A CHRISTIAN?

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 beautiful girl named Lucy 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 Lucy why she is a Christian.

"Well, I was brought up knowing and loving Jesus. My mom is a Christian, and my dad is a Christian, so I am a Christian."

The teacher is now angry. "That's no reason," she says loudly.

"What if your mom was a moron, and your dad was a moron. What would you be then?"

She paused, and smiled. "Then," says Lucy, "I'd be an atheist."



crosswalk.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL COLLECTIONS

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.

Noah built an ark, which the animals came on to in pairs.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.

The Egyptians were all drowned in the desert. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten amendments.

Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

Submitted by Richard Mercer

THE RUGGED CROSS—EMBLEM OF SHAME

But this was no ordinary execution. This was a divine drama, a moment of eternity come to earth. The sky began to darken. The birds of the air stopped singing; the flowers began to fold back into their buds. The people looked up in confusion and fear. Something was wrong! All of nature was upset! All of nature was involved in the event at Calvary.

But then, out of the darkness came a voice - not a soft or timid voice, but a loud cry. Not a sigh of defeat but a shout of victory: "It is finished! [It is completed]! Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit!"

A cry of victory. The victory of the cross. It is a mystery, a stumbling block, a folly. An emblem of suffering and shame is now a symbol of triumph. An instrument of death becomes the ultimate affirmation of life. Think now for a moment about what this victory means, this victory of the cross. Why did Jesus endure all of this, and why do we endure hearing it today?

It is, first of all, a victory over sin.

Without the cross, Christianity would be just a set of demands no one could fulfil, since no one is free from the sin which put Jesus Christ to death.

Who among us is holy and perfect? None. But now our sin is no longer a barrier. Now we no longer need rely upon our own devices to bring ourselves to God, since by the grace of the cross, God has brought Himself to us.

Many people do not understand this, and it leaves them in great spiritual sorrow. They are tragically burdened by their sin and sorely afflicted by their suffering.

If only they could accept the gift of victory which Christ won for them on the cross! If only they could turn their sin and sorrow over to Jesus - they would find that His yoke is easy and His burden is light! Let all of us accept this victory today! After everything He has endured for us, nothing about our lives could be too heavy for Him to carry.

The victory of the cross is also a victory over the world.

... the cross
must always be
at the centre of
our Christian
faith.

The Rugged Cross—Emblem of Shame (from page 14)

The Romans were sure they had defeated Christ as they watched Him die on the cross. They didn't realize that their world was dying even as Jesus died, and a new world was being born. If only we could see the new world which Christ has begun at Calvary! If only we could see that despite all appearances to the contrary, the future belongs to God and His Christ!

The victory of the cross is so complete that it even marks victory over death. Here we find our greatest fears, yet even in death, God has the final Word! The cross which is an instrument of death is also the ultimate proof of life.

If we could just grasp this, we could truly live our lives from beginning to end in fullness and grace. We would live with the song, "O grave, where is your victory; death, where is your sting?". What strength and confidence is ours by Christ's victory over death! This is freedom in its deepest sense - freedom bought and paid for by the victory of the Cross.

I learned in my boyhood church that the cross must always be at the centre of our Christian faith. Take it away, and you destroy the church and all it stands for. Take away the cross, and you take away the victory of the cross Christ has given each of us.

This will always be a stumbling block and a folly, even to many Christians. We want to hear about blessings and promises. But those blessings and those promises came at a price. We celebrate an Easter religion, but we must live in a Good Friday world. Has the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross been appropriated by you? Have you invited Him into your heart? Now is the time to do it. If you asked Him in, He will come and make something beautiful of your life.

I will be glad to hear from you if this is your decision and will send you a little booklet "First steps in the Christian faith".

Write to Dele Agbelusi. 32 Crescent Road, London N8 8AX. Or email me on christchurchn8@aol.com

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 (from 26th March)

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 20th March, 3rd & 24th April (**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

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Church Wardens: Peter Green, Charles Murphy

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Organist: Harold Randall

YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

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