



CHRIST CHURCH  
CROUCH END HILL  
LONDON N8 8AX  
**CROSSLINKS**  
JESUS DIED IN YOUR PLACE!

**A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL**



**BIRD'S EYEVUEW OF THE MOUNT OF OLIVES**

**MARCH 2007    ISSUE 7.83**

## Vicar's three minute reflection JESUS DIED IN MY PLACE



The doctrine of atonement is under attack today across the world. But that is nothing new. St. Paul noted that even in the First Century, the preaching of the Cross was regarded as foolishness to many. Today most Muslims around the world respect the person of Jesus, but they reject the cross of Christ and regard atonement as ridiculous. In 1900 German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, regarded the concept of God on a cross as preposterous. He said, "I can accept Jesus as a martyr, but his suffering meant nothing more than that. Even in the last few years, numerous theologians and some clergy/ministers have rejected atonement; one minister referred to it as "divine child abuse." A professor at Union Seminary in New York declared, "We don't need to hear about somebody hanging on a cross, and blood dripping, and all that stuff." And when she made that statement, the interdenominational audience exploded into applause.

**Thanks be to God, our beliefs are not dictated by truth-denying professors and apostate ministers.**

Thanks be to God, our beliefs are not dictated by truth-denying professors and apostate ministers. Our beliefs are anchored in God's holy word. Listen to what the Bible says about the cross and atonement. Listen to what John the Baptist said about Jesus: "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." In First John we read, "Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." St. Paul said it this way to the Corinthians: "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." God hates our sin as a parent hates the malignant tumour that threatens her child's life.

Because God is just and holy and altogether righteous, He could not ignore sin. Sin is a direct challenge to everything God represents. In this world God built on righteous foundations, sin cannot be forgiven and set aside unless somebody pays for it.



Only God was great enough and good enough to make atonement for the sins of the whole world. So God came to planet Earth as a man named Jesus. He became the scapegoat for the sins of the world. He suffered and took my place on the cross. He took your place on the cross. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3: 16)

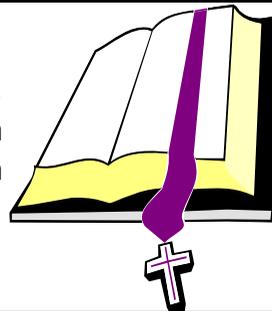
Let's try out a metaphor for atonement. In his book, "On Christian Truth," Harry Blamires suggests that we think of the human race as the passengers aboard a hi-jacked jetliner flying through time. God himself directed its takeoff from the divine control tower. Somehow the Devil managed to get a boarding pass. When the plane reached cruising altitude, the Devil produced his weapons, threatened the pilot, and took control of the aircraft. Thus the plane hopped on fearfully through history from airport to airport until it was caught on the tarmac at Jerusalem, an outpost of the Roman Empire, during the reign of Tiberius Caesar. There the Son of God offered himself as the sole hostage in exchange for the passengers and crew. That is the truth of atonement. The heart of the Christian faith is the declaration that the Son of God died in our place. Jesus took the place of Barabbas on Calvary's cross. He took my place, and He took your place, too. Have you received the gift of atonement offered by Jesus for your sins? If yes, thank God. If not, do not hesitate to write to me. I am waiting to share this great good news with you.

Dele Agbelusi

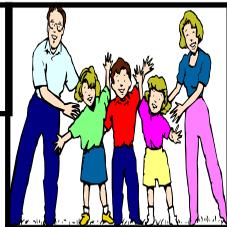
### Memory Verse

**We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to his own  
way; and the Lord has laid on Him  
the iniquity of us all.**

Isaiah 53:6



## THE LORD WILL CARRY YOU and HE WILL BE THERE WHEN IT MATTERS



What is it that makes couples happy? You'll be surprised to find out what it's not! Money, success, health, beauty, intelligence or power have little to do with a couple's subjective feelings of well-being. Research has shown that the level of a couple's joy is determined by each partner's ability to adjust to things beyond his or her control. Happy couples learn to find the right attitude in spite of the conditions they're in. When trials come your way, you have a choice. You can throw up your hands in frustration, give in to self-pity and become mired in resentment and defeat. Or you can raise your hands to God in prayer, search out alternatives, move ahead and ultimately trust the Lord to carry you through. If your hearts are heavy, do what you can to meet each other's needs. Then rely on God to get you through your beyond-belief ordeal. Your capacity to adjust to undesirable circumstances is the real secret to building the happy marriage that you both desire.

Dianne Eble told the story of a couple she knew who took their toddler to the doctor for what appeared to be a virus. "An examination revealed a heart condition requiring surgery. After surgery, the child died. One day a virus, the next day surgery, and then she was gone." She recalled another true story: "A man went into his attic to repair some wiring. When his wife returned home, she found him electrocuted."

These are people of faith, and their faith hasn't spared them the agonies of a world shot through with tragedy. "I asked my husband, 'How do you face the possibility of something terrible happening to us?' His answer: 'The only way is to tell myself I won't go through it alone.'"

Faith tells us that God will be with us no matter what happens. In Isaiah 43:2 we read: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

## TILL DEATH DO US PART

There are white flowers in the bride's hands. In the groom's eyes is the tender glint of promise. The organ music vibrates with joy; the very air in the church celebrates. The vows fill our ears: "I take you to be my wedded husband, my wedded wife. . . to have and to hold, from this day forward, until death us do part."

But today, no one is thinking about death. The bride and groom are young, healthy, good-looking, happy, romantic, ambitious. Death is a discordant note. Don't even think about it! And so they don't think about it. Or talk about it. And sometimes death separates them so suddenly, like a tree split by lightning, that they are torn apart without preparation.

The knowledge that at some point every couple will experience the inevitable separation of death is a fact we must look in the face and act on. Real, bone-deep love will choose to face mortality. Don't dodge the reality. Begin to face your inevitable separation together, now. Prepare on spiritual, emotional and practical levels. Look into each other's eyes, hear it from each other's lips: "Because I love you so much, I want you to be ready to live alone if I die. Let's work on it together. Now."

So, we are back to the Jesus formula again. He is the one who can carry you and who will be there when it matters. That is the reason why we need to deepen our faith in him and walk closer to him. He is the One we need at all times and in all situations. And if he is there with you, you can face any storms.

D.A.

Continued from page 4

Not **if** you pass through the waters. It's **when** you pass through the waters, the rivers, the fire.

It's unhealthy to dwell on what might happen before it does. Whenever that voice whispers, "What would you do if...?", we can remind ourselves that God will be there.

## LIFE BEGINS AT 80- from someone who's been there

I have good news *for* you. The first 80 years are the hardest. The second 80 are a succession of birthday parties. Once you reach 80, everyone wants to carry your baggage and help you up the steps. If you forget your name or somebody else's name, or an appointment, or your own telephone number, or promise to be in three places at the same time, or can't remember how many grandchildren you have, you need only explain that you are 80.

Being 80 is a lot better than being 70. At 70 people are mad at you for everything. At 80 you have the perfect excuse no matter what you do. If you act foolishly, it's your second childhood. Everybody is looking for symptoms of softening of the brain.

Being 70 is no fun at all. At that age they expect you to retire to a house in Florida and complain about your arthritis (they used to call it lumbago), and you ask everybody to stop mumbling because you can't understand them. (Actually your hearing is about 50 percent gone.)

If you survive until you are 80, everybody is surprised that you are still alive. They treat you with respect just for having lived so long. Actually they seem surprised that you can walk and talk sensibly. So please, folks, try to make it to 80. It's the best time of life. People forgive you for anything. If you ask me, life begins at 80.

*Frank Laubach—an Octogenarian*

A four year old girl, hugging a doll in each of her pudgy little arms, looked wistfully up at her mother and said, "Mama, I love them and love them and love them, but they never love me back." !!!

## NOTICE BOARD

### WORSHIP WITH US DURING HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2007

at

**CHRIST CHURCH, CROUCH END HILL, LONDON N8**

#### **Palm Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 am Parish Communion

3.30 pm Service of Seven Lessons and Passion Music

#### **Maundy Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

8.00 pm Holy Communion

#### **Good Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

12.00 – 1.00 pm Open Witness at The Broadway

1.30 – 3.00 pm Good Friday Meditation

#### **Easter Day 8<sup>th</sup> April**

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 am Parish Communion: "Time to get up and run!"

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#### **COMING EVENTS**

15<sup>th</sup> April

Christ Church AGM

21<sup>st</sup> April

Unlock sponsored walk

19<sup>th</sup> April

PCC meeting

5<sup>th</sup> May

Church Training Day

13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May

Christian Aid Week

15<sup>th</sup> July

Church Summer Barbecue

#### **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; Oshodi Funmi and Christo-

bel; Pancham-Beccessar Cynthia; Perrin David; Pounds Mi-

chelle, Nicola & Shushila; Quintyne Angela; Randall Harold;

Redman Byron; Redman Dolores; Springer Valerie; Stock-

well Muriel.

## Bible Study on 1 Corinthians 13 (contd. from February issue)

It is very interesting to observe that 1 Cor. 13 is sandwiched between 1 Corinth 12 and 14. In 1 Corinth 12, Paul's message centres on the life of the congregation and how the gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to individual members to enrich the body of Christ. Chapter 14 takes on where chapter 12 ended. It links the gifts with service and shows that the possession of the gifts carries with it the obligation to use them in the service of God as he directs. Paul also indicates that it is possible to use the gift unwisely. With this background, we can understand why and how Paul dwells extensively on love in Chapter 13. The passage is really saying, you cannot utilize the gifts of the Spirit correctly except you have God's love operating within you, and giftedness is not the measure of maturity, the display of love is. Paul now explains what he means by this love.

The ancient Greeks had four different words we translate love. It is important to understand the difference between the words, and why the apostle Paul chose the Greek word *agape* here. **Eros** was one word for love. It describes, as we might guess from the word itself, erotic love. It refers to sexual love.

**Storge** was the second word for love. It refers to family love, the kind of love there is between a parent and child, or between family members in general.

**Philia** is the third word for love. It speaks of a brotherly friendship and affection. It is the love of deep friendship and partnership. It might be described as the highest love of which man, without God's help, is capable of.

**Agape** is the fourth word for love. It is a love that loves without changing. It is a self-giving love that gives without demanding or expecting re-payment. It is love so great that it can be given to the unlovable or unappealing. It loves even when rejected. Agape love gives and loves because it wants to; It gives because it loves, it does not love in order to receive.

contd. on page 9

## Bible Study on 1 Corinthians 13 contd. from page 8

According to Alan Redpath, we get our English word agony from agape. "It means the actual absorption of our being in one great passion." (Redpath) It can be defined as a sacrificial, giving, absorbing, love. The word has little to do with emotion; it has much to do with self-denial for the sake of another. We can read this chapter and think that Paul is saying that if we are unfriendly, then our lives mean nothing. But agape isn't really friendliness; it is self-denial for the sake of another.

Four more qualities of love: strong, believing, hopeful, and enduring. The best way to understand each of these is to see them in the life of Jesus. We could replace the word *love* with the name *Jesus* and the description would make perfect sense. We can easily say, *Jesus suffers long and is kind; Jesus does not envy . . .* and make it through the whole chapter. We can measure *our* spiritual maturity by seeing how it sounds when we put our name in place of the word *love*. Does it sound totally ridiculous or just a "little" far-fetched?

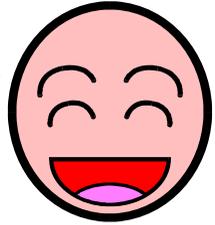
Perfect love is a love that gives of itself to another person then forgets the favour rendered. It is a love that finds something to love in the seemingly unlovable. Jesus Christ is perfect love. When Jesus Christ is the master of our lives, then perfect love dwells within us. Perfect love is a force within that enables us to be sensitive to the needs of others and to desire to fill them. It is a motivating power that enables us to give strength and peace. It is "you" love before "me" love. With a child it says, "I love you and as you grow older, I will constantly be loosening the apron strings so that you can develop into your own person." With parents it says, "I love you and will try to act in a way to make you proud of me." With a spouse it says, "I love you and I want you to be happy and to achieve the fullest stature of your being." Love is not primarily a result, but a cause. It causes people to grow into happiness. It is not primarily a product, but it produces. It produces fulfilled and whole people.

D.A.

# LAUGHTER LINES

## WHO LISTENS?

Two psychiatrists met at their twentieth college reunion. One looked as though he had just graduated. The other appeared weary, worn, and much older than his colleague. The aged one asked, "What's your secret? Listening to other people's problems every day for all of these years has made an old man out of me." The spry-looking doctor replied, "Who listens?"  
American Health, March 1992, p. 79



## INSURANCE POLICY

A very nervous airline passenger began pacing the terminal when the bad weather delayed his flight. During his walk, he ran across one of those life insurance machines. It offered \$100,000 in the event of an untimely death aboard his flight. The policy was just three dollars. He looked out the window at the threatening clouds and thought of his family at home. For that price it was foolish not to buy, so he took out the coverage. He then looked for a place to eat. Airports now carry a good variety of eateries so he settled on his favorite, Chinese. It was a relaxing meal until he opened his fortune cookie. It read: "Your recent investment will pay big dividends."

- Adapted from Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, Paul Tan, p. 440

## HOW TO GET TO HEAVEN

A teacher asked the children in her Sunday school class, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale, and gave all my money to church, would I get to heaven?" "No!" the children answered. "If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the lawn, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get to heaven?" Again the answer was "NO!" "Well," she continued, "then how can I get to heaven?" In the back of the room, a five-year old boy shouted, "You gotta be dead."

World's greatest collection of Church Jokes compiled and Edited by Paul M. Miller

# LAUGHTER LINES

## THOU SHALL NOT

The Ten commandments were the subject of Miss Dixie's Sunday school lesson for five and six year olds. After explaining "Honour thy father and thy mother," Miss Dixie asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat, little Cindy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

World's greatest collection of Church Jokes compiled and Edited by Paul M. Miller

## CONTROVERSY

A ten year old, under the tutelage of a well-prepared Sunday school teacher, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then one day she floored her teacher when she asked, "Which virgin was the mother of Jesus, the Virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

World's greatest collection of Church Jokes compiled and Edited by Paul M. Miller

## HOME SWEET HOME

The teacher gathered her Sunday school group around her and exclaimed, "Well, class, all those who want to go to heaven, raise your hands."

Everyone around the circle raised their hands, except one boy.

"Don't you want to go to heaven, Henry?" asked the teacher.

"I can't ma'am," Henry replied. "My mom wants me to come straight home."

World's greatest collection of Church Jokes compiled and Edited by Paul M. Miller

## STORY OF THE MONTH

There was once a man who worked in a small town as the operator of a drawbridge on a river. A train track ran across the bridge, and the operator's job was to keep the bridge up when no train was coming so that the boats could pass underneath. When a train approached, he was to blow the whistle and let down the bridge.



One sunny Saturday morning, the man brought his seven-year-old son along to work with him. The boy could frolic along the river, skip rocks on the water, chase butterflies, or even try to catch a fish.

Shortly before noon, a passenger train was due to come through the area. The man began to make preparations to let the bridge down so the train could pass safely across the river. As he examined the bridge, he noticed that someone—a small child—had somehow climbed over the guardrail next to the bridge, and was playing at the very spot where the bridge would come down. As he looked closer, he realized with horror that the child was his son. In desperation, he yelled out his son's name, but the sound of the approaching train drowned out his screams. He knew he had to make a quick decision. If he lowered the bridge now his son would die. But if he didn't, all the people on the train would die as the train plunged into the river. He barely had time to think.

As he screamed in agony, the man thrust forward the lever to lower the bridge just as the train arrived. His son died instantly. And as the train passed by, the people just smiled and waved as they passed by the man in the control booth, with his head bowed low, oblivious to what had just taken place.

(Adapted with permission from "To Sacrifice a Son" by Dennis Hensley.)  
Youth Specialties

**Isn't this what God did for us IN Christ Jesus? His Son had to die so that we could escape death!**

# POEMS IN HONOUR OF OUR MOTHERS

## WHAT IS A MOTHER?

A Mother has so many things to do,  
From washing, ironing, cleaning, to tying a shoe.  
She scrubs, she mends, she cooks and sews,  
She bathes the children and washes their clothes.  
When they forget to wash their faces clean,  
And their clothes are the muddiest you've ever seen,  
Who repairs the clothes and scrubs them like new?  
Of course, that is what a Mother will do.

Who becomes the doctor or the nurse when they are ill,  
Applying a bandage or giving them a pill?  
Who becomes a teacher when a child has homework?  
She must never her duty shirk.  
Who becomes a detective to find a toy or a book?  
For missing things she must look and look?  
Who becomes a listener to every heartache,  
To every accomplishment that a child makes?  
Who scolds their children when they are naughty,  
Or reminds them of God when they are too haughty?  
Who tends her family with love and patience, too?  
Of course that is what a Mother will do.

## A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Help me dear Lord, as a mother, I pray  
And bless these hands folded in prayer today;  
May they be ever strong as they guide, as they teach,  
Beings never too far for a child to reach.  
May they never, with selfishness, try to dissuade,  
Nor too quickly punish, nor too slowly aid.  
May they point out the pleasures in laughter and song,  
And may they show, wisely, the right from the wrong,  
So that one day I'll know that I've helped all I can  
To make her a woman, to make him a man.

## POETRY FROM SALLY

We remember Sally on this year's mothering Sunday. She was a wonderful woman who affected people's lives including ours in diverse ways, especially with her warmth, sense of humour, poetry and love. She died in 2005 but her thoughts linger in our hearts. We reproduce one of her poems below. The Agbelusis.

### WHERE WOULD I BE?

Loving Lord where would I be  
without you?

You grant me restful sleep to refresh me.  
You care for me through the hours of the night and  
I thank you for your care of me.

Now it is morning  
and I thank you for this new day.

Pulling aside the curtains, I see the beauty  
of the flowers beneath my window.  
I smile and you are the sun shining across the green grass,  
where there are shadows of the trees,  
no longer bare,  
but wearing dresses of graceful green leaves.

You are my Shadow Lord!  
When I laugh, you are the bells that ring out,  
early Sunday mornings.

When I cry, you are the rain that falls  
to refresh a wilting flower.

When I dance, you are the wings on my feet  
... I am a little bird flying free!

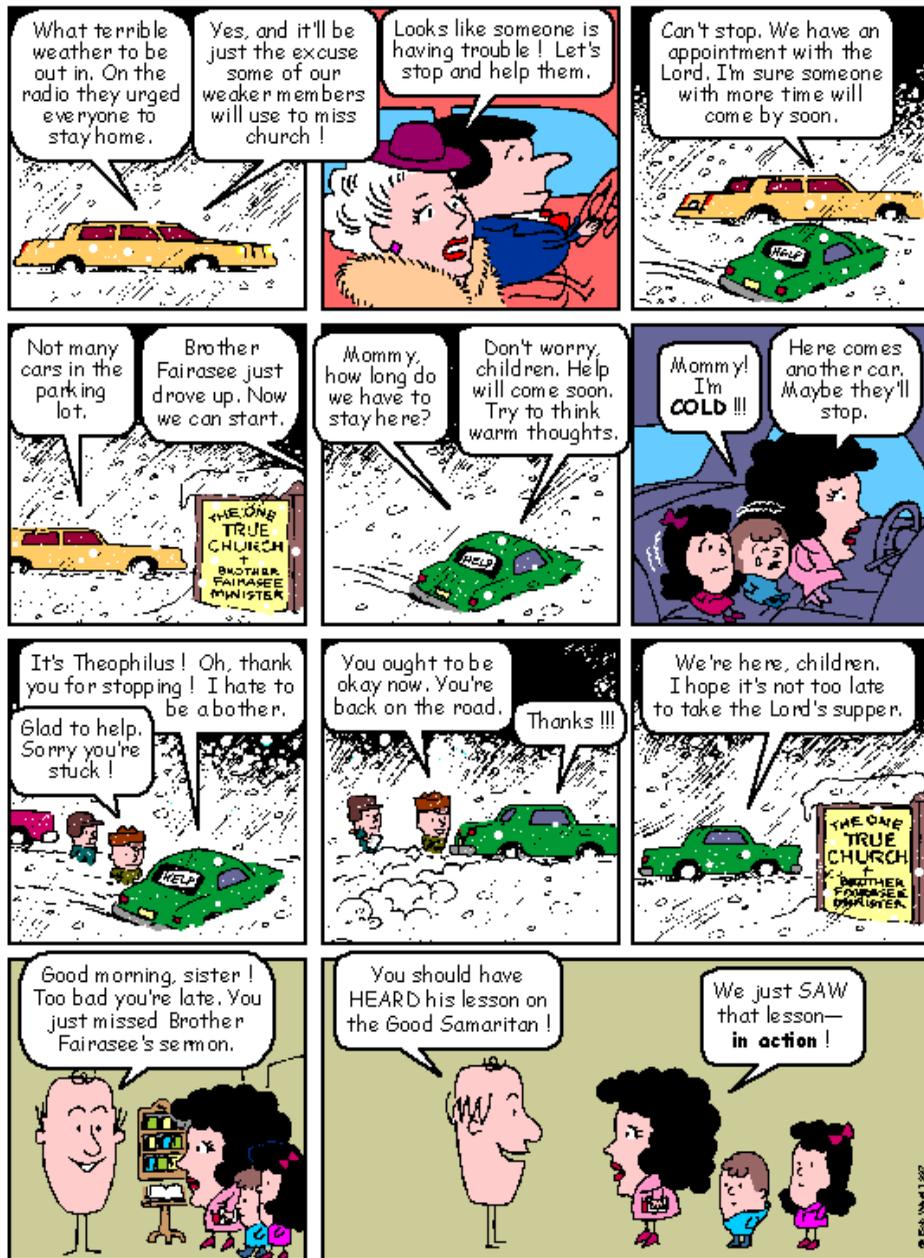
Wherever I am you are there.  
Lord you are so many things.

You are so great,  
I am so small, yet ...  
the wonder of it all is  
Without you Lord  
Where would I Be?

Sally Ruby Roberts (1922—2005)

# THEOPHILUS: Another look at the Good Samaritan

## Practice what you preach!



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/ **6.00pm from 25th 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**)  
- Next Prayer Meetings 19th March, 2nd & 30th April (**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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**Church Wardens:** Peter Green, Charles Murphy

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

**Organist:** Harold Randall

**YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME**

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