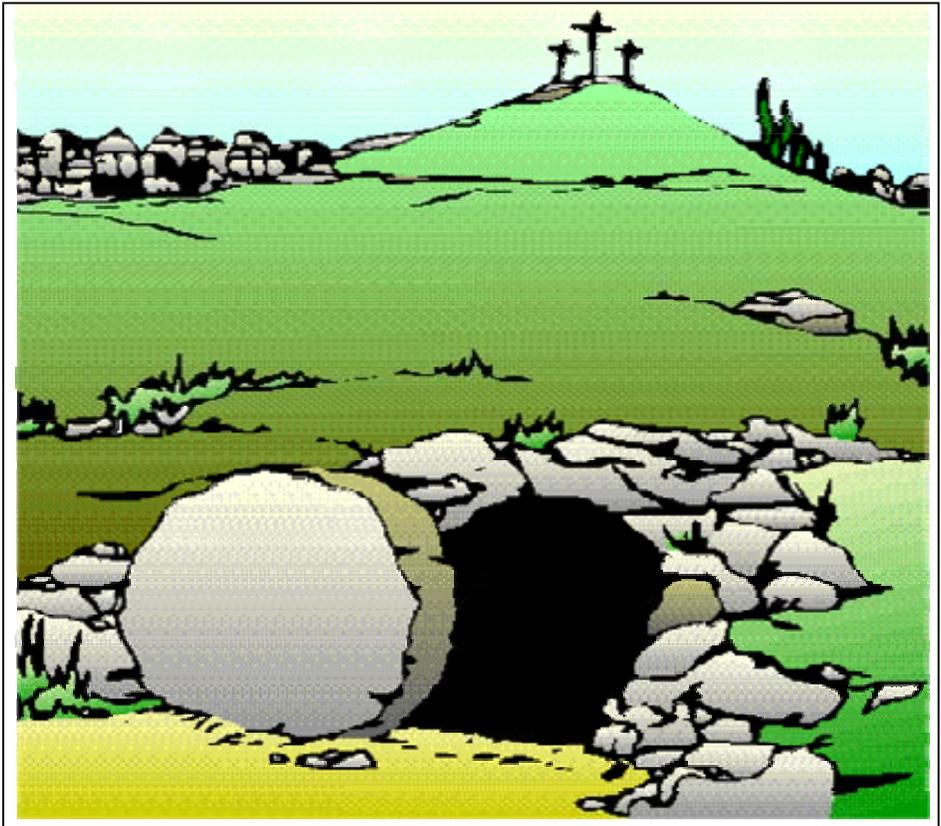




CHRIST CHURCH  
CROUCH END HILL  
LONDON N8 8AX  
**CROSSLINKS**

BEHOLD THE RISEN CHRIST!

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



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

**MARCH 2008    ISSUE 8.94**

## Vicar's three-minute reflection Behold the risen Christ!



A story is told about an incident in a city church, one Sunday morning after the Gospel had been read and the minister was about to begin the sermon. Suddenly a stranger seated in the pew stood up and interrupted the service. "I have a word from the Lord!" he shouted. Heads whipped around, and ushers managed to escort the man into the street before he could elaborate further on just what "word" he had been given.

It is somewhat reassuring to realize that the first Christian sermon ever preached did not register high on the Richter scale. When the women came back from the cemetery on Easter morning, they brought with them word of an empty tomb and astonishing news: "He is not here but is risen! All Christian preaching begins here, and all Christian sermons are reverberations of this Easter news, first announced by the women to the apostles. The response? The translations differ; you can take your pick. The words seemed to them like "an idle tale," "empty talk," "a silly story," "a foolish yarn," "utter nonsense," "sheer humbug." Why? The women have come with a revolutionary announcement, "He is risen!" so why did the apostles dismiss the first news of Easter with a wave of the hand? Some have suggested that this initial Easter proclamation was poorly received because the messengers were women. "From women let not evidence be accepted," reads the Mishna, "because of the levity and temerity of their sex." The gender of the speakers may be part of the reason for the apostles' indifference, but not all of it. After all, the women were confirming a message that Jesus himself had already told the disciples. Maybe the news of Easter was simply too overwhelming for them to believe.

One suspects, however, a deeper and more complex reason for writing off the women's proclamation. Like the Emmaus Road travelers in the story that follows, the disciples are "slow of heart to believe." They are not just indifferent to the news of Easter; they are resistant. Perhaps a clue can be found in what the disciples are called in this story. Initially Luke tells us that the women told the news of resurrection to "the eleven," but later he changes their title to "the apostles," to those who are sent.



If the Jesus story ended on Friday, then the disciples can simply be "the eleven," and after the appropriate rituals and a season of mourning, they can go back to life as it was. If the story ended on Friday, then they can be "the eleven," alumni of Jesus' school of religion, students of an inspiring though finally tragic teacher. In short, if the story ends on Friday, we can close out the Book of Luke.

But if the news of Sunday is true, they must become "apostles," those sent to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. There will be arrests and shipwrecks and outpourings of the Spirit and persecutions and Gentiles and stonings and miles of weary travel. If we believe the news of Sunday, then the scary truth is that the story is just beginning and we will need a Book of Acts with the Spirit of Christ and the apostles as its main actors.

When someone has accepted Christ their first duty is to share it with others. In a way, I should not refer to this as a command because it makes it sound like we're going to be forced to do something distasteful. You may feel this way about witnessing, but the Bible always presents it as something that is so exciting you can't avoid it. If you have truly accepted Christ as your Saviour and are not just going through the motions of being religious, you will have a desire to share the good news. Tell others about what Christ has done for you. The final command does not come from an angel but from Jesus. In verse 10 he tells them, "Be not afraid." People are afraid of many things and one of them is death. If you do not believe in God, death holds no promises. Maybe you'll get a glass coffin like Lenin, but chances are no one will have more than fleeting memories of you a few decades after you are gone.

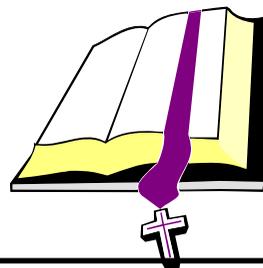
Jesus Christ not only conquered death, he also promises to resurrect everyone who believes in him. This is a very comforting promise.

Dele Agbelusi

### Memory Verse

**Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee.**

**Luke 24:5b-6**



## IS THIS REALLY, REALLY YOU?

Please read slowly



Don't be fooled by me. Don't be fooled by the mask I wear. For I wear a thousand masks-masks that I am afraid to take off-and none of them is me. Pretending is an art that is second nature with me, but don't be fooled.

I give the impression that I'm secure, that all is sunny and unruffled with me, within as well as without; that confidence is my name, and coolness is my game; that the waters are calm, and I'm in command and I need no one. But don't believe it. Please don't. My surface may seem smooth, but my surface is my mask - my ever-varying and ever-concealing mask. Beneath lies no smugness, no coolness, no complacency. Beneath dwells the real me-in confusion, in fear, in loneliness. But I hide this; I don't want anybody to know it. I panic at the thought of my weakness being exposed. That's why I frantically create a mask to hide behind, a nonchalant sophisticated façade to help me pretend, to shield me from the glance that knows. But such a glance is precisely my salvation-my only salvation. And I know it. It's the only thing that can liberate me from myself, from my own self-built prison walls, from the barriers I so painstakingly erect. But I don't tell you this. I don't dare. I'm afraid to.

I'm afraid your glance will not be followed by love and acceptance. I'm afraid that you'll think less of me, that you'll laugh, and that your laugh will kill me. I'm afraid that deep down inside I'm nothing, that I'm just no good, and that you'll see and reject me. So I play my games-my desperate pretending games-with the façade of assurance on the outside and a trembling child within. And so begins the parade of masks, the glittering but empty parade of masks. And my life becomes a font.

I idly chatter with you in the suave tones of surface talk. I tell you everything that's really nothing-nothing of what's crying within me. So when I'm going through my routine, don't be fooled by what I'm saying. Please listen carefully and try to hear what I'm NOT saying...what I would like to be able to say... what for survival I need to say, but I can't say. I dislike the hiding. Honestly I do. I dislike the superficial phoney games I'm playing. I'd really like to be genuine. I'd really like to be genuine, spontaneous, and me; but you have to help me. (contd. on page 5)

## Is this really, really you? (from page 4)

You have to help me by holding out your hand, even when that's the last thing I seem to want or need. Each time you are kind and gentle and encouraging, each time you try to understand because you really care, my heart begins to grow wings-very small wings, very feeble wings, but wings. With your sensitivity and sympathy, and your power of understanding, I can make it. You can breathe life into me. It will not be easy for you. A long conviction of worthlessness builds strong walls. But love is stronger than strong walls, and therein lies my hope. Please try to beat down those walls with firm hands, but with gentle hands, for a child is very sensitive, and I AM a child.

**WHO AM I? YOU MAY WONDER. I AM SOMEONE YOU KNOW VERY WELL. FOR I AM EVERY MAN, EVERY WOMAN, EVERY CHILD...EVERY HUMAN YOU MEET.** (Anon)

Can we take a cue from this revelation and endeavour to create a loving, nurturing environment in the home and in the church-where others can find a home in our hearts and in the bosom of our Lord Jesus? In fact, the consensus of almost all experts in the field of marriage and family relations and child development is that creating such a warm, caring, supportive, encouraging environment is probably the most important thing you can do for your family

There is only one person who can help you to be you. Only one person who will love you in spite of your failures. That person is Jesus. Jesus knew about Judas and he knew about Peter, and he did not change the situation, neither did he stop loving them. In the same way, Jesus knows exactly what you will do to hurt him. Yet he loves you unconditionally and will forgive you whenever you ask him. Judas couldn't understand this, and his life ended tragically. Peter understood, and despite his shortcomings, his life ended triumphantly because he never let go of his faith in the One who loved him. Jesus is waiting to receive you. Will you run into His hands?

Dele Agbelusi

If you have personal concerns about this article and would like to discuss further, please write to The Editor, Family Column, The Vicarage, 32 Crescent Road, London N8 8AX.

## PRAYERS FROM THE HEART

Gracious Father,  
we pray for your holy Christian Church.  
Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace.  
Where it is corrupt, cleanse it.  
Where it is in error, direct it.  
Where it is superstitious, rectify it.  
Where anything is amiss, reform it.  
Where it is right, strengthen and confirm it.  
Where it is in want, supply its need.  
Where it is divided and torn apart,  
heal the divisions, O holy One of Israel. Amen

William Laud (1573-1645) Archbishop of Canterbury

Grant us, O Lord Christ,  
to desire to have you as our Saviour,  
not in the next world, but in this;  
that you will change all that is within us,  
as you helped the blind to see and the lame to walk;  
that you may form in our hearts  
your humility and self—denial,  
your love of the Father,  
the desire of doing His will  
and seeking only his honour;  
so that the kingdom of God may be in us now,  
and our possession forever. Amen.

William Law (1686-1761)

Teach us, O Lord,  
to fear you without being afraid;  
to fear you in love,  
so that we may love you without fear;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—————  
O merciful Lord Jesus,  
do not forget me, as I have forgotten you.

Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

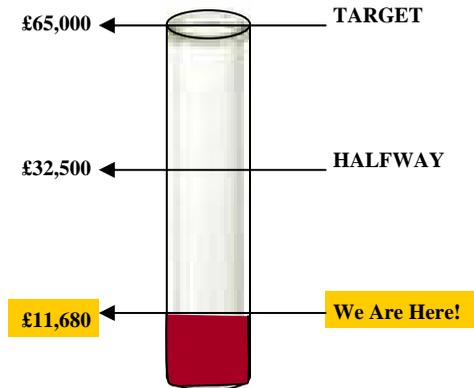
## NOTICE BOARD

### CHURCH AGM

The Church Annual general Meeting will take place on 30th March at 12noon after the morning service. There will be light refreshment afterwards.

### UPDATE ON CHURCH RENOVATION APPEAL

We thank God and all of you who have contributed to the Church Renovation Appeal. We have not reached our target yet but we have every cause to thank God for what He has provided through your generosity. Our Target is £65,000 and we have raised £11,680 thus far.



### Farewell to our Beloved Sue

In gratitude to God for His assurance of eternal life to all those who sleep in Christ, we announce the translation of Sue Ogilvie-Arendse to the throng of the Church Triumphant. She peacefully passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> February and a farewell service was held in her honour on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2008. We continue to uphold Adrian, her beloved husband and friend for close to fifty years. Sue was aged 80 and she was an active member of Christ Church.

### THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

This month we pray for members of our church family whose surnames begin with O, P, Q, R, S, T  
Ogilvie-Arendse Adrian; Osibona Adebusola; Oshodi Funmi and Christabel; Owusu Jennifer; Pancham-Becessar Cynthia; Perrin David; Quintyne Angela; Randall Harold; Redman Byron; Stockwell Muriel, Topping Roger and Constance, Tucker Diana; Turner Carol.

## ARE YOU WEAK AND HEAVY LADEN?

Are you weak and heavy laden  
Are you cumbered down with care  
Does the weight upon your shoulders  
Seem like more than you can bear?

Do you struggle with life's burdens  
As you travel on life's road  
Do you tend to bend and buckle  
Under such a heavy load?

My friend, just think of Jesus  
How He suffered and He died  
For our sins and our transgressions  
He was whipped and crucified.

Imagine how He stood the pain  
It cut right to the bone  
The anguish that He must have felt  
Up there, so all alone

Each strap that lashed across His back  
Brought pain beyond belief  
While soldiers laughed and scorned Him  
How He prayed for some relief.

A crown of thorns was laid to rest  
Upon His weary head  
While angry crowds cried crucify  
He suffered and He bled.

My friend, just think of Jesus  
He was such a wretched sight  
They bound Him to a rugged cross  
He died without a fight.

The nails were driven through His hands  
He moaned in agony  
Yet, He would do it all again  
He'd give His life for me.

(continued on page 9)

## Are you weak and heavy laden? ( from page 8)

Are you weak and heavy laden?  
So my friend, just think of Jesus  
When you grumble and complain  
You'll see Him there on Calvary  
The place where He was slain.

That lowly figure on the cross  
Will slowly come to life  
You'll see the anguish in His eyes  
The torment and the strife.

You'll see the sweat upon His brow  
The burdens that He bore  
All the things that bring you pain  
Won't matter anymore.

Marilyn Ferguson

## How unique is the death of Jesus (continued from page 15)

If God is the person on the central cross of Calvary, then man must stand in awe and adoration. To think that he loved us enough to suffer all of that for sinners such as we are!

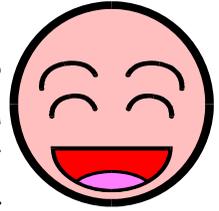
Without a doubt, the greatest reason for Jesus' death being different from all other deaths in history is the fact that his death lasted but three days. He rose again! All other men died and stayed dead. Indeed, Jesus raised a few from the dead but they all died again. On Good Friday we watch him die as one of three on crosses. We need this experience of death with him, for if we die with him we shall also live with him when he rises on Easter. So, this is not only a remembrance of the world's most unique death, but it is an occasion for our dying to self and sin, and an assurance that because Jesus lives, all who believe in Him shall live forever with Him in eternity. To them, physical death becomes a gateway to eternity.

D.A.

# LAUGHTER LINES

## SIMPLE DEFINITION OF AN ANTHEM

A farmer who lived on the Great Plains had never travelled to a city of any size, but one day a church choir trip allowed him to do just that. When he got home, his wife asked him what he saw and what he learned. He told her all about it, including the fact that their group had attended church on Sunday in a large congregation which has a really big choir. "They sang an anthem," he told her.



"What is an anthem?" she asked.

"Well," he replied, "you know we sing hymns here at home. If I were to say to you, 'Martha, the cows are in the barn, Amen,' that would be a hymn. But if I were to say, 'Martha, Martha, Martha, the cows--the big cows, the little cows, the black cows, the red cows, the green cows, all the cows, all the cows, all the cows-- are in the barn, the barn, the barn, the barn, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen,'-- THAT would be an anthem!" (1) That's as good a definition of an anthem as I've heard.

## DANGEROUS CROWD

Three-year-old Shawn accompanied his dad to church on Easter Sunday. The father wanted his son to understand the meaning of Easter, so he tried to explain the significance of the cross which hung at the front of the church. He said, "Jesus died because people nailed him to the cross." The little boy's eyes widened as he scanned the church. He asked his dad, "You mean these people?"

\* "Understanding the Times: the 90s," Lee Strobel, Seeds Tape Ministry, Oct. 4, 1992

# LAUGHTER LINES

## IMBECILE

A very difficult man in the parish had a row with the Vicar. In spite of the provocation, the Vicar controlled his temper and again and again answered him mildly. This seemed to make the man even more angry and he finally produced his last insult. "If I had an imbecile son," he said, "I would send him into the Church as a clergyman." The Vicar quickly replied with: "I can only say how pleased I am that your father did not have the same view."

Bishop Ronald Brown

## DO YOU READ THE BIBLE?

Young Robert was playing in the cupboard under the stairs when he discovered a dust-covered Bible.

"Mummy, is this God's book?" he asked.

"Yes, dear," she replied

"Then why don't we send it back to him? We never use it."

## FOR BETTER, FOR WORSE...

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?"

"Sixteen," the boy responded.

His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?"

"Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up like the Bishop said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

From A Box of delights

~~~~~

"There was a little Chinese girl at school today," announced my son proudly. "Does she speak English?" "No" came the reply, "But it doesn't matter because she laughs in English."

## Story of the Month

### A VISION OF JESUS

Author and speaker Brennan Manning tells the story of a woman who visited her priest and told him that when she prays, she sees Jesus in a vision.



“He appears to me as real as you are standing here right now, Father,” said the woman. “And he speaks to me. He tells me that he loves me and wants to be with me. Do you think I’m crazy?”

“Not at all,” replied the priest. “But to make sure it is really Jesus who is visiting you, I want you to ask him a question when he appears to you again. Ask him to tell you the sins that I confessed to him in confession. Then come back and tell me what he said.”

A few days later the women returned.

“Did you have another vision of Jesus?” the priest inquired of her.

“Yes I did,” she replied.

“And did you ask him to tell you the sins that I confessed to him while I was in confession?”

“Yes I did,” the woman answered.

“And what did he tell you?” asked the priest expectantly.

“He said...‘I forgot.’”

Jesus graciously forgives and forgets our sins when we confess them to him. Scripture assures us of this: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us” (1 John 1:9); and “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions...and remembers your sins no more,” says the Lord (Isaiah 43:25). Once God has forgiven our sins, they are gone forever, separated from us “as far as the east is from the west” (Psalm 103:12; Hebrews 8:12). This is one of the goodies that comes with the Easter package. Do you want to experience the joys of sins forgiven? Go to Jesus in humility and surrender your life to Him.

## EASTER POEMS FROM JOANNA FUCHS

### WITHOUT EASTER

Without Easter,  
there would be no hope of heaven.  
Without the hope of heaven,  
there would be no repentance,  
no personal transformation,  
no attempt to follow biblical principles.  
Without Easter,  
the world would be in chaos  
and darkness.  
Jesus' death and resurrection  
means we can be reborn,  
to live better, to do better,  
to shine light into the shadows.  
Hallelujah!  
Happy, Happy Easter.

### IF NOT FOR EASTER

If not for Easter,  
the chaos of this world  
would be all there is  
and all there ever would be.  
If not for Easter,  
the unfairness of life  
would drive us to despair.  
But God sent His Son  
to give eternal life  
filled with peace, happiness  
and unimaginable blessings  
to those who choose Him.  
All we have to do is choose Him.  
Happy, Happy Easter!

**OUR DAY TIME ALPHA WILL COMMENCE ON 31st MARCH 2008  
AT 12.00 NOON. WE ARE STILL OPEN TO PARTICIPANTS.  
PLEASE CONTACT THE VICAR FOR REGISTRATION.**

## HOW UNIQUE IS THE DEATH OF JESUS?

### How Was Jesus' Death Different?

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. (John 19:17-18)

On Good Friday we often forget that there were three crosses on Calvary, a criminal on each side of Jesus. These two men died just as much as Jesus died. Jesus could not have been any more dead than they were. Why then do we Christians make so much of the Cross of Jesus? How is

Jesus' death different from all other deaths? Was Jesus' death different because he suffered? No, because the two men crucified with Jesus suffered equally with him. Was Jesus' death different because he was innocent of the charge against

**"Immediate Occupancy." That is the way it is with the Cross. It is for immediate acceptance. You can enter the home of God right now. There is no waiting to enter the Kingdom.**

him? Indeed, Jesus was innocent of any wrongdoing. But, there were others throughout history who were put to death even though they were innocent of wrongdoing...

Was Jesus' death different because he was a martyr to the cause of God? Indeed, he was a martyr, but, there were others in history who died as martyrs to good causes. We think of the first Christian martyr, Stephen. Like Jesus, he died at the hands of his enemies and, when he died, he prayed for their forgiveness.

One reason for Jesus' death being different is that his death was planned. Jesus always referred to his death as being in accord with the Scriptures. God had it in mind from the time that Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden. Because the cross was planned, the death of Jesus was voluntary. The cross was no accident. Jesus was not the victim of his environment.

(continued on page 15)

## How unique is the death of Jesus (from page 14)

In Gethsemane, he confirmed the will of God to be his death and then nothing could keep him from obeying. Just before he died, he gave a shout of victory, "It is finished!" The work of salvation, the plan of salvation from the time of Adam, was at last completed, finished.

In the second place, Jesus' death is different because it had a purpose. The cross was a place of sacrifice. His death was an offering for sin. No other death had this meaning or purpose. For some years now, we have been emphasizing the love of God to the exclusion of the other side of God, his justice and holiness. When we sin, we deeply offend and grieve God. We have denied this in recent years, but at the same time we have been experiencing the judgment of God in terms of crime, wars, and political corruption.

He offers us mercy and full forgiveness, but many of us prefer to go our merry way of sin. Modern man needs to be asked, "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?" What a tragedy that God opens his arms to us and we refuse to come! God sends no one to hell, but by refusing mercy and life, we send ourselves to perdition.

Jesus' death was different because of the person on the cross. Two were only men. In the middle there was a man also, but more than a man. The nail that pierced the hand of Jesus went through to the hand of God. The spear thrust into the side of Jesus went through into God's. The Father felt the pain of the cross just as much as the Son. It is not enough to say that God the Father required the penalty for sin. You have to go on and make the next statement: God, in Christ, paid it.

Now I see how horrible sin is. I see what sin does to God - it puts him on a cross. A spiritual song asks, "Were you there when they crucified my Lord ... Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble ..." From this time on, I cannot ever again sin lightly. I must hate and detest sin with a passion. I cannot do that to the One who loved me and gave himself for me. (concluded on page 9)

Motto /Text for the year  
"I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES  
ME STRENGTH" *PHIL. 4:13*

### **FINDING OUT ABOUT ...CHRIST CHURCH?**

Tel/Fax: 020 8340 1566

We are a family of men and women, boys and girls who are trying to live for God in a world that has largely chosen to ignore Him.

We believe that it is God's world and that He has given the answer to all human problems in Jesus Christ.

As a body of believers, we offer to all who come regular opportunities for worship and service that point the way to God as our strongest resources in all aspects of life.

We will be pleased to welcome you to any of our activities. You will find a warm welcome at Christ Church.

#### **Times of worship and fellowship are shown below:**

**Sunday** - **8.00am.** Holy Communion ( Book of Common Prayer)  
- **10.30am.** Main service with Crèche facilities

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

- **6.00pm.** Evening worship

#### **ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK**

Monday - Baby n' Toddler Group (**10.00 am to 12 noon**) -  
- Daytime Alpha in church (West Chapel) (**12.00 noon**)  
- Brownies meeting in Church (**5.30pm**)  
- Next Prayer Meetings 31st March, 21st April in church (**8pm**)

Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in church (West Chapel) (**7:45pm for 8pm start**)

Friday - Scouts meeting in church and hall (**6.00pm**)

Enquiry/Counselling/Prayer helpline - please phone 020 8340 1566

**Editorial Board:** Iyabo Agbelusi, Grace Macauley, Dele Agbelusi

**Voice Edition:** Sheila Wheeler, Peter Green, Dele Agbelusi

**Vicar:** Revd Canon Dele Agbelusi

**Church Wardens:** Peter Green, Charles Murphy

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

**Assistant Organist:** Pavla Bockova

**YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME**

**PLEASE WRITE TO THE EDITOR, CROSSLINKS,  
THE VICARAGE, 32 CRESCENT ROAD, LONDON, N8 8AX  
E-MAIL: christchurchN8@aol.com**