



CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX
CROSSLINKS

FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



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Vicar's three minute reflection HOLY SPRIT WE WELCOME YOU



John 14-16 is a wonderful passage that tells us how the Spirit is sent by Christ to continue His work., and how that makes a difference in what's going on around us. The Spirit leads us into Christ's presence and Christ's character, two things that don't pop up on a screen and say 'I'm here'. Then, the Spirit works within us to take on the character that others would recognize as Christ's.

After the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, His disciples were still scared of the authorities of the day and afraid of the future. It was the advent of the Holy Spirit on them that pushed this Body of the Scared past their fears into full contact with the rest of reality, especially with other people who are not aware of Christ, or who hear the Name and yawn.

Regin Prenter rightly observed that "The Holy Spirit does his work by making Christ present among us, and Christ can do his work on earth only by being present in his Holy Spirit .

The Holy Spirit does his work by making Christ present among us, and Christ can do his work on earth only by being present in his Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit works in us to make clear to us what purpose God has in mind for us. He guides us : (1)through Scripture. As we steep ourselves in it, the Spirit that moves it moves us more and more; (2) through circumstances (**Acts 16:10**), bringing about endings and beginnings, opportunities and completions, opening and closing doors to the hallways of life; (3) through other believers, as happened in choosing the first seven deacons (Acts 6), and with the church in Antioch in sending Paul and Barnabas out on their mission (Acts 13); (4) through prayer. Paul speaks of the peace of Christ ruling in our hearts when we pray about our decisions. The Spirit may bring to us an inner peace about our course of action. This peace doesn't fill you with intellectual certainty, but with a **confidence** you can live by. (A feeling of peace, too, can be wrong. If so, the Spirit will use Scripture to eventually cause the peace to be disturbed.)

The Spirit pours faith into us. The tactics will be different from one person to another. **It may be through a sermon, a worship service,**



a youth event, a song, a testimony, an act of kindness, a relationship of love, a struggle of conscience, a brush with disaster or insanity, a steady gradual series of changes, a blissful 'peak experience' moment, a shaken-up charismatic experience, or a whisper calling to you from inside.

The Holy Spirit gives gifts which make the Body work effectively and powerfully. The Spirit is at work moving people to **compassion** for others. Change happens when God's purposes are revealed, and **revealing** is a work of the Spirit.

The Spirit breaks down the old, brings in the new, and brings people together. But the key question is 'why?' Jesus didn't turn over every table He came across, just the money-changers' tables. There's much more to the Spirit's relationship to power and convention than shaking it up. Some people see change happening, and rush to say, 'It's the Spirit, it's the Spirit'. The Spirit brings in the new, yes, but does so **for the Gospel and for the purpose of leading people to follow Christ**. Wherever the Holy Spirit is at work, there is **self-surrender**. That is the purpose and the context for the Spirit's actions. Social barriers come down, but they come down as part of living a transformed life rooted in **God's Kingdom**. True 'Justice' needs the Spirit's work in making inner change, creating a faith commitment to the God of Justice. **Within this context**, the Spirit breaks the old, builds the new, and smashes our walls. Outside of that context, what's happening is not Spirit but mere change: good, bad, indifferent, or complex.

The Holy Spirit has the power to take joy, peace and faith, with which we are filled and energize them until we not only possess hope but actually abound in it. To have an abundance means to have an overflowing amount. One who is filled with hope above and beyond the normal or expected cannot be discouraged or depressed. Hope sweeps away all thought of inferiority and refuses to entertain even a thought of doom or gloom. It stands at the door of the heart and refuses admission to such negative thinking. The indwelling Spirit is God's dynamo. He enables us to do what we are called to do.

Dele Agbelusi

Memory Verse

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)



HOW TO BUILD A WONDERFUL MARRIAGE



I believe every couple desires a wonderful marriage, but not all experience the bliss and joy and companionship marriage brings. Why? Because it takes more than wanting something to actually having it. And that's true with having a wonderful marriage. As authors, Lilo and Gerard Leeds, who wrote the book, *Wonderful Marriage* say, "You don't HAVE a great marriage, you BUILD one — brick by brick, and skill by skill." So, in this edition, we will give you a few tips that will help you to build that wonderfully great marriage. We will share with you a few of the "bricks" and as you read them, think of the biblical principles and scriptures that apply to each of them.

To have a great relationship, you have to start with yourself.

It is not enough to marry the right partner, you need to work to be the right partner.

If you want a relationship to last, you have to focus on what you both have in common, not on what divides you, what you admire in each other, not what you might want to criticize. Notice what you like about your partner — and let your partner know. Encourage each other to become the kind of people you both respect and admire. Bring out the best in each other. Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together. Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves.

Go out of your way to notice the small things you each do to help and support one another — and express your thanks. Show your gratitude for even the small gestures; it's another way of expressing your love. If you both show your appreciation and gratitude for the small acts of kindness, you will find yourselves falling in love over and over again. Happy couples say it is important not only to show your kindness to the world, but also to each other.

Be generous with your hugs and kisses and touches. Don't let your loving ways change once you are married.

Be faithful. Happy couples say they never want to make their partner feel insecure about their love. They never behave in any way to give their loved one reason to doubt their loyalty. If you can't trust each other to remain faithful, it is very difficult to trust each other about anything else. Being faithful is an attitude as much as an action. Staying faithful is a way of saying, "I love you, and I have made a commitment that I'm going to stick with you. I

How to Build a Wonderful Marriage

will stay away from any temptation that might come my way." It is not enough to be faithful. You have to make sure not to give the appearance that you are anything but faithful. That means you never act like you're interested in anyone else romantically. And you don't do anything in public or private that you wouldn't want your partner to see or know about.

Use humour lovingly. If you look at the world and your relationship with an eye to the humour that can be found in even difficult situations, you will find it cuts the tension and promotes warm, loving feelings between you. Sharing laughter is a sign that you trust each other enough to let down your guard. Laughter is, indeed, one of the best love medicines for a great marriage.

When clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives, remember that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there.

Be flexible about each other's habits and temperament. Everyone has some quirks. One person is bound to be neater than the other or more punctual. One of you may need different amounts of sleep. You may have different priorities about how to spend your free time. Look upon these differences as interesting discoveries.

Remove irritants. Small habits can be changed, especially if both of you remember your aim is to make the other happy. Those habits that cannot be changed can often be worked around. Using separate tubes of toothpaste is far easier than fighting about the caps. Many disagreements are easily solved with the right attitude.

When frustration, difficulties and fear assail your relationship, as they threaten all relationships at one time or another, remember to focus on what is right between you, not only the part which seems wrong. In this way, you can ride out the storms.

When clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives, remember that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there.

And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them (Matthew 18:20).

NOTICE BOARD

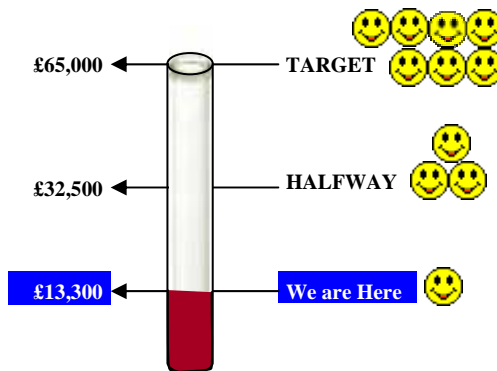
Morriss House Garden Party, 14th June

As many of you may know, Christ Church has had close ties for many years with Morriss House, the Abbeyfield residential home for the elderly at 23 Coolhurst Road. A church member works there, a church member is a trustee, another church member is a resident, and many church members (including Dele) are regular visitors. One of the most enjoyable ways to support the work of Morriss House is to go to the annual garden party, which this year is on **Saturday, June 14th at 2.30 pm**. The entrance charge includes strawberries and cream, and there will be stalls selling home-made cakes, etc., plants, books, and bric-a-brac., as well as a raffle and tombola and lots of games for all the family. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the fun in Morriss House's lovely garden, and the money raised goes into the residents' amenities fund to pay for birthday and Christmas presents, outings, visits by entertainers, etc. So do come and support this worthwhile cause and have a great afternoon out!

Sheila Wheeler

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 £13,300 thus far. We are still counting on your support and prayers to reach our target. It will be nice to be part of the seven smiley faces



BECAUSE OF HIS GIFT

I want to know Christ and the power that raised him from the dead. I want to share in his suffering and become like him in his death. (Philippians 3:10)

Trace the path of this Saviour, the God who swapped heavenly royalty for earthly poverty. His bed became, at best, a borrowed pallet—and usually the hard earth. He was dependent on handouts for his income. He was sometimes so hungry he would eat raw grain or pick fruit off a tree. He knew what it meant to have no home. He was ridiculed. His neighbours tried to lynch him. Some called him a lunatic. His family tried to confine him to their house. His friends weren't always faithful to him.

He was accused of a crime he never committed. Witnesses were hired to lie. The jury was rigged. A judge swayed by politics handed down the death penalty.

They killed him. And why? Because of the gift that only he could give. ETERNAL LIFE.

Confirmation Service, 15th June at 5.00 pm

Please invite your neighbours, friends and family

Healing and Anointing Service: 29th June, 10.30 am

This is the 1st Healing and Anointing service this year. The theme is "Give me no rest". Please continue to pray for the service.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

This month we pray for members of our church family whose surnames begin with A, B, C.

Abdulai Janet; Adebola Ade; Agbelusi Tolu, Bolurin, Sope, Iyabo and Dele; Alvis Daisy; Anand Luke and Renu; Bala, Hassan, Benjamin Janet, Becessar Devin; Becessar-Pancham Cynthia; Bentham Mervin and Anita; Brewer, Steve, Burrell Cecil; Carter Carlene & Jean; Christian Ina, Clarke Joan, Cole Christine, Comer Jason & Emma; Coxall Joan, Crawford Janet.

A GRATEFUL HEART

Thankfulness is a choice we must make and an attitude we must have if we want to live joyfully. In Psalm 107.8 we read " Oh that men would give thanks to the Lord...for His wonderful works to the children of men!" The operative word there that leaves the onus of responsibility with us is '**would**'. If the verse had said 'could', then the ball would be in God's court. We would be free to say 'it's your fault God; if I could give thanks I would. If you hadn't made me so negative.' But the verse says 'would' so the choice is ours. God has given us the capacity to express gratitude. You can choose to be grateful as much as you can choose your diet or your underwear.

The decision to give thanks to God should be one based on reality. We should use our mind to ask the question, 'in my situation, do I have anything to thank God for?'

The classic 1719 novel *Robinson Crusoe* described a man who was shipwrecked . He spent 27 years on a tropical island. His story illustrates this perfectly:

Thankfulness is a decision based in reality. In the list that he wrote, notice the deliberate choices of thankfulness based in the reality he was facing.

Complaint: "I am cast upon a horrible desert island void of all hope of recovery"

Thanks: "That I am alive and not drowned as all of my ship's company was."

Complaint: "I am singled out and separate as it were from all the world to be miserable."

Thanks : "But I am singled out, too, from all the ship's crew to be spared from death. God who miraculously saved me from death, can deliver me from this condition also."

Complaint: "I have no clothes to cover me."

Thanks: "But I am in a hot climate where, if I had clothes, I could not wear them."

A Grateful Heart

Complaint: "I am without any defence or means to resist any violence of man or beast."

Thanks: " But I am cast on an island where I see no wild beasts to hurt me as I saw on the coast of Africa. What if I had been shipwrecked there ?"

Will you get hold of this truth for yourself? Our attitudes are decisions we make about how we are going to think, and those decisions are based in reality. It's not Disney World thinking to choose to focus on the good things in our lives; it's wisdom!

Unfortunately, there is a kind of low altitude life that too many people live. It's an approach that grovels and tries to get by under the radar of hope. It's a cloudy, damp, depressing, ungrateful, unthankful, complaining, negative, sort of living. We have all spent some days there. It's definitely a wilderness.

But here is another kind of living.. It's a high-altitude attitude life, up where the air is clean, the sun is shining and the future is as bright as the promises of God. This life soars above and refuses to focus on the negative. If you have ever flown up there, then you know that's where we want to live our lives. That's where God wants us to live. But we must know that it is a grateful heart that sets the altitude for the kind of living we are looking for. "Finally brethren, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Philip.4:8).

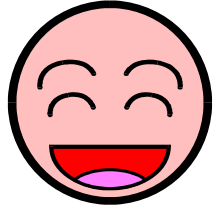
D.A.

Materials used in this article are mainly from the book "Lord, Change My Attitude (Before It's Too Late) by James MacDonald.

LAUGHTER LINES

Happiest Day

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"



Humour

One day Little Johnny and his Uncle Rodney were at the dining room table working on the boy's Social Studies homework. As they looked over the chapter about government, Little Johnny turned to his Uncle and asked, "Uncle Rodney, how many people work in the U.S. government?"

Little Johnny's Uncle Rodney replied without hesitating, "Oh, about half of them."

Sharing God's Goodness

A vicar was once giving a children's talk at the start of Christian Aid Week. Appropriately enough, his subject was 'Sharing God's Goodness'. To illustrate this, he had brought a packet of chocolate biscuits. Having learned that everyone would love a biscuit, he explained that as the biscuits were his, after all he had bought them, he was going to eat them all himself. Suddenly a voice from the back of the church piped up: 'You can, but you'll be sick!'

From Bishop's Brew, An Anthology of Clerical Humour

LAUGHTER LINES

MARRIAGE BLUES

Nest Egg

When a retired woman entered the door with arm-loads of packages, her husband became overly concerned about their financial well-being. He expressed his concern by saying, "With all of these packages I can't help but wonder what's happening to our nest egg." The woman snapped back, "I'll tell you what's happening to our nest egg. This old hen got tired of sitting on it!"

Saturday Evening Post

In Love With You

In exasperation, a middle-aged woman unloaded years of frustration when she told her husband of a recent insight she gained. "The reason our marriage has stayed together all of these years is because we're both in love with the same person--YOU!" -

Winning Walk, Ed Young

Aren't You Glad?

A successful CEO had the opportunity of going to his wife's hometown and meeting her high school boyfriend. The CEO couldn't wait to see what kind of guy his wife dated in school. As it turned out, her old flame had become the night manager of a gas station. After they met, the CEO could hardly wait to get back in the car and hear his wife's reaction. "Well, what did you think?" he asked. She said, "Nothing much." After a long silence he couldn't contain himself. "Honey, aren't you glad you're married to the CEO of a successful company instead of a manager at a gas station?" She responded as only a wife can. "Get this straight. If I'd married Billy Bob, he'd be the CEO of a successful company, and you would be managing a gas station."

From Stories for preachers

STORY OF THE MONTH RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE A FILTHY RAG.

One fine evening a man walked into a fast-food chicken place and bought a nine-piece bucket of chicken. He took his chicken to the park for a romantic picnic under the moonlight with his girlfriend.



Upon reaching into the bucket, however, he received a surprise. Instead of chicken he discovered what was apparently the restaurant's night deposit—nine thousand dollars. Being basically honest—and really hungry besides—the young man brought the bucket back to the store and asked for his chicken in exchange for the money. The manager, in awe of the young man's honesty, asked for his name and told him he wanted to call the newspaper and the local news station to do a story on him. He would become a local hero, an example of honesty and morality that would inspire others!

The hungry man shrugged it off. "My date's waiting. I just want my chicken." The manager's renewed amazement over the young man's humility almost overwhelmed him. He begged to be allowed to tell the story on the news. At this the honest man became angry with the manager and demanded his chicken.

"I don't get it," the manager responded. "You are an honest man in a dishonest world! This is a perfect opportunity to show the world that there are honest people still willing to take a stand for what is right. Please, give me your name and also the woman's name. Is that your wife?"

"That's the problem," said the young man. "My wife is at home. The woman in the car is my girlfriend. Now let me have my chicken so I can get out of here."

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Where to Take It from Here...

It's easy to look good to people who don't know you. Many of us do a good deed here and there, go to church, say the right words, and everyone thinks we're something that we're not. But God sees your heart. (1 Samuel 16:7) It really doesn't matter how much you do or what other people think of you. What matters is what's on the inside. If God were to count our transgressions, who would stand? May God help us to be true to Him in all things.

POEMS FROM THE HEART

THANKSGIVING

As you seek for many blessings when you kneel in prayer,
Don't forget to add your thanks for gifts already there
Great the blessings we receive as each new day unfolds,
Things we often take for granted, precious far than finest gold.
For the dawn and light of day and for the sun's warm glow,
For the silent dew that drops upon the earth below.
For the fresh sweet air we're breathing, for the birds that sing
For the growing trees and flowers and for the crystal spring;
For the golden sands that fringe around the sea so blue,
For the mountains and the hills, the stars and moonbeams too;
For the greatest gift of all, God's well-beloved Son
Who died on Calvary's cruel cross to save a world undone.
Never forget to offer thanks.
Nothing could ever buy
All these many priceless blessings sent from God on high.

Mary Gorrie

TIME TO TRUST

When nothing whereon to lean remains,
When strongholds crumble to dust,
When nothing is sure but that God still reigns-
That is the time to trust.
'Tis better to walk by faith than sight
In this plan of yours and mine,
And the pitch black night when there's no other light,
Is the hour for faith to shine.

ONE MINUTE GOSPEL

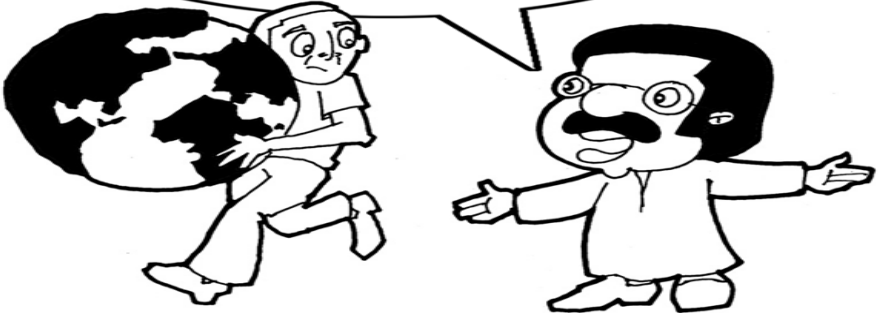
I'M SORRY...BUT I WAS INSTRUCTED NOT TO GIVE THIS TO YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT QUITE READY FOR IT YET!



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Can you trust God sufficiently when there is a delay to your requests?

SON...YOU'VE GOT TO LET GO OF THE WORLD AND THE THINGS THAT ARE IN IT!!!



LORD, GIVE US FAITH

HINDRANCES TO PRAYER:

UNFORGIVING SPIRIT

It is unchristian for a believer to nurture an unforgiving spirit toward someone who has wronged him/her. It does not matter whether the offence is minor or major; deliberate or not deliberate; the person apologizes or refuses to apologize and even adds insult to the injury already done. You may have been treated unfairly and all of your being is crying for justice. You keep playing back the offence in your mind and desire that the individual gets what he/she deserves. You may get the justice you long for but you will miss the blessings of a forgiving spirit and hinder your own prayers to God. Two reasons why you have no option but must forgive someone who wrongs you are:

a) God commands that you must forgive just as He forgave you. He did not plead for justice from the Father when you sinned against Him, rather He pleaded for mercy for you. You must do likewise to others.

b) To maintain your fellowship with the Lord you cannot do it with an unforgiving spirit. This is why God commands us even when we are in the right to take the initiative for reconciliation with the one that wronged us. We do that for our own benefit not necessarily for the benefit of the one that wronged us. Is there someone you are yet to forgive? You are the loser. For further study: Matt. 5:23,24; 6:12, 15; 18:21-35 Mark 11:25, Eph 4:26, 32.

Sunday & Grace Bwanhot

THIS IS FAITH

John Wesley was walking one day with a troubled man who expressed his doubt of God's goodness. "I don't know what I shall do with all this worry and trouble," he said. At that moment Wesley noticed a cow looking over a stone wall. "Do you know," asked Wesley, "why that cow is looking over that wall?" "No," replied his troubled companion. "I will tell you," said Wesley--"because she cannot see through it. That is what you must do with your wall of trouble--look over it and above it." Faith enables us to look over and above every trouble, to God, who is our help.

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

- Sunday - Choir practice in church (**9.30 am**)
- Monday - Baby n' Toddler Group (**10.00 am to 12 noon**)
- Daytime Alpha - West Chapel (**12.30 pm**)
 - Brownies meeting in church (**5.30 pm**)
 - Next Prayer meetings in church - 2nd & 23rd June (**8 pm**)
- Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in church - West Chapel (**7:45 pm for 8.00pm start**)
- Friday - Bible Fellowship in church - West Chapel (**2.00 pm**)
- Scouts meeting in church and hall (**6.00 pm**)
 - Music Team practice in choir vestry (**6.30 pm**)

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

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YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

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