



CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX
CROSSLINKS
JESUS IS COMING SOON

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



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Vicar's three minute reflection



We live in a world of awesome progress, but paradoxically, of appalling evils. Why? It's a world held captive, deceived into loving its captivity. Jesus Christ will return just in time to keep mankind from entirely destroying himself. At His return, the dead saints will be resurrected, the living saints will be changed 'in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet'. The Messiah will establish His Kingdom on the earth, and the world will finally have peace during His Millennial reign.

Jesus did not leave us in total darkness concerning His return. After warning that no one knows the day and the hour of His return, He gave ample indicators to

**We have become a
people with itching
ears**

steer us out of complacency. He said "The coming of the son of man will be like what happened in the time of Noah. In the days before the flood, people ate and drank, men and women married... People will be involved in their normal activities, not realizing such a momentous event is about to occur! Paul writes that "the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night..." (1Thessalonians 5:2-3). Just when men begin to think they have a hold on society's problems, total chaos and destruction will erupt. To see how close we are to the Day of the Lord let's ask "what were the days of Noah like?"

It was a time greatly influenced by Cain's attitude of indifference and selfishness toward his fellow man. The way of Cain is characterized by idolatry, murder, deceit, selfishness, hypocrisy, immorality and Godlessness. (Read Gen. 6: 5-7). The underlying factor in all these is rebellion against and rejection of God. We, like those of old, have become so used to "everyday" crimes that we fail to realize how much time, money and effort we use fighting them. From multiple door locks on cars and homes to personal identification numbers for credit cards and bank accounts to exterior floodlights and window grills, we take the cost of safety for granted.



We live in a world where unimaginable perversions of yesteryears are now dubbed fashionable today!

Peter reminds us of scoffers coming in the last days who would say, "Where is the promise of His coming? ..." (II Peter 3:4). We are warned to be ready. As Paul says:

" . . . Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober, . . . " (I Thessalonians 5:4, 6, 8).

The world would rather pander to baseless predictions of Nostradamus and his likes than listen to what the Scripture says about the return of the Lord Jesus. We have become a people with itching ears and even in many of our churches, people don't believe that Jesus will return. So why should they bother about being different from others when eternity is not in view. But we are reminded in the Scriptures that, "...There is no difference in the Lord's sight between one day and a thousand years" (2 Peter 3:8) The Lord Jesus who told His disciples that he would return will not fail. He who spoke the world to being and whose name is faithful will do that which He promised He would do.

If Jesus were to return today, will you be ready to receive Him? Or will you ask Him for more time to tidy up your life? Now is the time to make it right with your Saviour. "...Be on your guard, so that you will not be led away by the errors of lawless people and fall from your safe position" (2 Peter 3:17) Maranatha!

Dele Agbelusi

Memory Verse

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

2 Peter 3:10



DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

To enable you appreciate your spouse where it matters



MEN

More self-focused
Needs less intimacy
Fears engulfment
Needs less approval
More independent
Often detached
An attention-getter
Highly competitive
Strong drive for power/money
Respect very important
Often obsessed with sports
Talks mostly about "things"
Less talkative in private
Takes things literally
Language more direct
Less responsive listener
Decisions made quicker
Gossips less
Engages in put-downs
Focuses more on solutions
Less apologetic
Tells more jokes/stories
Less willing to seek help
Boasts about performance
Nags less often
Often intimidates others
Issues orders
Often seeks conflict
Likes to be adored
Fearful of commitment
Sexually jealous of mate
Accepts others more
Thrives on receiving
More polygamous
More sadistic
More sex-oriented
Has fewer close friends
Likes group activities

WOMEN

More other focused
Needs more intimacy
Fears abandonment
Needs more approval
Less independent
Often emotional
An attention-giver
Less competitive
Less important drive for power/money
Respect less important
Sports less important
Talks mostly about "people"
Less talkative in public
Looks for hidden meanings
Language more indirect
More responsive listener
Takes more time to decide
Gossips more
Engages in backbiting
Likes to discuss problems
More apologetic
Tells fewer jokes/stories
Seeks help readily
Boasts less frequently
Nags more often
Seldom intimidates others
Makes suggestions
Tends to avoid conflict
Likes to adore others
Eager for commitment
Emotionally jealous of mate
Tries to change others more
Thrives on giving
More monogamous
More masochistic
More love-oriented
Has many close friends
Prefers intimate encounters

(continued on page 5)

SOME GOLDEN RULES OF LIVING

If you open it, close it.
If you turn it on, turn it off.
If you unlock it, lock it up.
If you break it, admit it.
If you can't fix it, call in someone who can.
If you borrow it, return it.
If you value it, take care of it.
If you make a mess, clean it up.
If you move it, put it back.
If it belongs to someone else and you want to use it,
get permission.
If you don't know how to operate it,
leave it alone.
If it's none of your business,
don't ask questions.
If it isn't broken, don't fix it.
If it will brighten someone's day,
say it.
If it will tarnish someone's reputation,
keep it to yourself.

(continued from page 4)

MEN

Worries less about others
More sensitive to stress
Less trusting
More aggressive
Initiates war
Posture leans back more
Cooler/seductive sexiness
Has more testosterone
Less into dieting
Less concerned about health
Worries less about appearance
Takes more physical risks
Shops out of necessity

WOMEN

Worries more about others
Less sensitive to stress
Often too trusting
Less aggressive
Doesn't make war
Posture leans forward more
Warmer/animated sexiness
Has more estrogen
More into dieting
More concerned about health
Worries more about appearance
Takes fewer physical risks
Often shops for enjoyment.

BIBLE STUDY ON HEBREWS 12:1-13

How To Run The Race With Endurance

God has a race for you to run. God has a purpose for your life. To run this race means to acknowledge that God's purpose for your life is what matters, and to make it your topmost priority to discover and complete this purpose

Of course, you aren't eligible to run a race until you enter it. The bad news is that none of us qualifies for this race by our own previous performance; in fact, we're all disqualified by this means. But the good news is that God says he has already paid the entrance fee for us through the death of his Son . So the issue now is not one of eligibility but of willingness.

This race requires endurance. It is not like a 100 meter dash; it is like a marathon and lasts until you die or Christ returns. The path is not level ground; it leads through all kinds of hills and obstacles.

Most modern western Christians have good stretches in this race, but the fact is that few (including leaders) run consistently and finish well. Why? One reason is that we are children of a culture which has utopian expectations, expects "instant" results, and views dramatic performances as more important than behind-the-scenes consistency.

Because his audience (like most of us) lacked endurance, the author gives them insights on how to develop it. We will look at three . . .

Lay Aside All Excess Baggage (vs 1)

Imagine someone showing up at the starting line to a marathon wearing big boots with laces untied and carrying a pair of suitcases! You say, "Hey, you aren't going to be able to run very far with that stuff!" He responds, "You don't understand; I need this stuff to do my best

I feel more attractive wearing my big boots this way, and I've got food and drink in the suitcases." He can say what he wants, but before long he'll have to make a choice: get rid of the excess baggage or get out of the race.

Many of us are carrying around significant excess baggage, and then wondering why it's so difficult to stay in the race. The author indicates two different kinds of excess baggage:

(Continued on page 8)

NOTICE BOARD

YOUTH WORKER

The church is looking for a Christian youth worker who loves the Lord passionately and is able to work with the church's team to develop our Youth and Community ministry. The applicant is expected to put in 17.5 hours a week - two week-days and Sundays. Please contact the vicar for more information.

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### WILL AID 2006: DON'T PAY THE SOLICITOR!

Nine leading charities have recruited solicitors all over the country who will give their time, for free, to draw up basic wills. In return the will maker is invited to make a donation to a charity, which could be their own parish. Will Aid will run throughout November. Contact Will Aid: 01460 271178 or [www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk).

### CHRISTMAS TIMES OF WORSHIP AT A GLANCE

**10th Dec. (10.30am) - Christingle and Children's Carols**  
**17th Dec. (3.30pm) - Service of 9 Lessons and Carols**  
**24th Dec. (11.15pm) - Christmas Eve Holy Communion**  
**25th Dec. (10.30am) - Christmas Day Holy Communion**  
**31st Dec. ( 11.15pm.) - New Year's Eve Praise and Worship.**

### THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Abdulai Janet, Adeneye Lolade, Adebona Ade, Agbelusi Dele, Iyabo, Bolu, Tolu and Sope; Aiyegbusi Olufunke, Alvis Daisy, Anand Luke and Renu, Angus Graham, Banfield-Nwachi Joy; Benda Nathaniel, Benjamin Janet, Bessar Devin; Beckford Glen; Bentham Mervin and Anita; Billot Natasha; Botterill Allan and Patricia ; Burrell Cecil; Byron Barbara.

## Bible studies on Hebrews 12:1-13 contd. from page 6

**"the sin which so easily entangles us"** - This refers, to sinful attitudes, practices and habits which we believe we can't do without, but which are in fact depleting our energy to pursue God and enmeshing us in other sins as well. Read Rom. 13:12-14

**"every encumbrance"** - This probably refers to things which, while not necessarily wrong in themselves, must nevertheless be jettisoned because God has shown us we have an inordinate attachment to them

If you're finding it difficult to stay in the race, the first thing you should check is what you're carrying. Is it possible that you are asking God to give you more power to carry excess baggage when he is calling on you to "lay it aside?"

### **Maintain A Proper Mental Focus (vv. 2-4)**

There are all kinds of distractions which will grab your focus and convince you to quit if you let them. These could be:

- Circumstances over which you have no control: "Look how rough my situation is! No one can be expected to serve God and grow in this environment!"
- Contradictory feelings: "I feel so defeated, so unmotivated. God will have to change my feelings before I can go on."
- Longstanding personal problems : "I have been deeply damaged by wrong choices and relationships in the past. I can't possibly be useful to God in this state; I need to drop out of the race until I am more healed."
- Invalid comparison with others: "Look how far ahead they are! What's the use of running since I'll never be able to catch them?"

Choosing and maintaining a proper mental focus involve not only identifying and turning away from wrong mental foci (above), but also developing the habit of focusing on Christ (vv.2). The Greek word means just this: looking away from everything else in order to concentrate on the proper object of your attention.

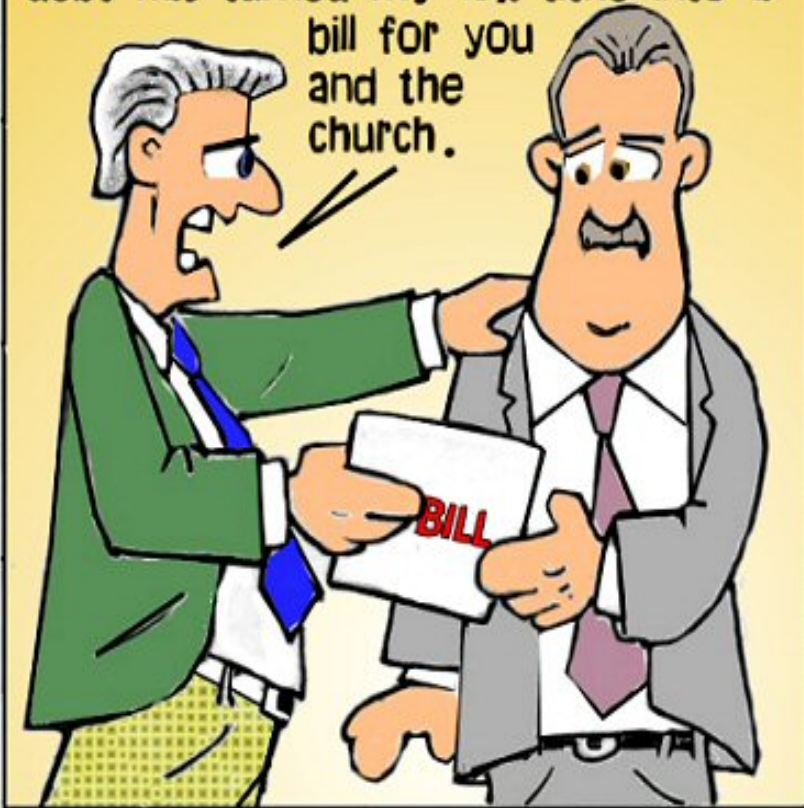
"Fixing your eyes on Jesus?" does not mean visualizing a picture of him in your mind— a practice which is increasingly popular in Christian circles, but it is more akin to the New Age idea of creating your own reality through mental imagery than anything biblical.

(continued on page 14)



# THE BACK PEW - Jeff LARSON

Pastor, my current level of personal debt has turned my 10% tithe into a bill for you and the church.



Bring to the storehouse, 10% of what you EARN not 10% of your net worth.  
**Malachi 3:10**

## Food For Thought for Remembrance Sunday

If we who prayed in war for peace  
Forget in peace to pray,  
How dare we think of those who died  
That we might live today?

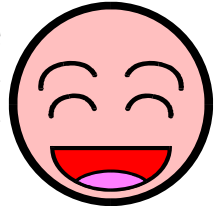
Francis Gay (sent in by Vera Freeburne)

# LAUGHTER LINES

## Empty Glass

A lively elderly man asked his less cheerful friend why he always had to see the proverbial glass as half-empty. The pessimist quickly corrected his upbeat friend. "I don't always see the glass as half-empty. Most of the time, it's completely empty."

Houston Chronicle, April 27, 1995, p. 17D



## Family Vacation

It was a typical vacation. The kids were complaining, fighting, and whining. Dad was holding his own until his burning fuse finally hit dry powder. He was tired of having his seat kicked by these cranky kids who were ruining his time away from work. The car pulled to a screeching stop, and the father pulled out his two delinquent sons for their woodshed experience. As he shoved them back in the car he warned them that they better not make a sound for the next thirty minutes. From their back seat cellblock the boys got the message and remained quiet. After thirty minutes had passed, one boy asked if was all right to talk now. The father sternly replied, "Yes. What do you want to say?" The little boy started, "Well, when you spanked us back there, my shoe fell off, and we left it in the road."

Parenting Isn't for Cowards, James Dobson, 1987, p. 118-119

## Empty Head Remedy

Six-year-old Molly complained to her mommy that her stomach hurt. Realizing it was lunch time, Mom told Molly, "Your stomach is empty; you'll feel better after you put something in it." Later that evening the pastor came over for a visit. During the conversation he mentioned he had a headache. Molly piped up with the solution: "That's because it's empty. You'll feel better once you put something in it."

Christian Parenting Today, Nov./ Dec. 1991, p. 93

# LAUGHTER LINES

## Love Is Blind

As the daughter brought in her date to meet her parents, the mother was terrified by the young man's tattoos, long hair, beard, earring, heavy boots, and overall rough appearance. In concern, she pulled her daughter aside and asked, "Honey, is he nice?" The girl was taken aback by such a question from her mother. She said, "Of course he's nice. If he wasn't nice, why would he be doing five thousand hours of community service?"

Houston Post, Sept. 11, 1992, p. E-15

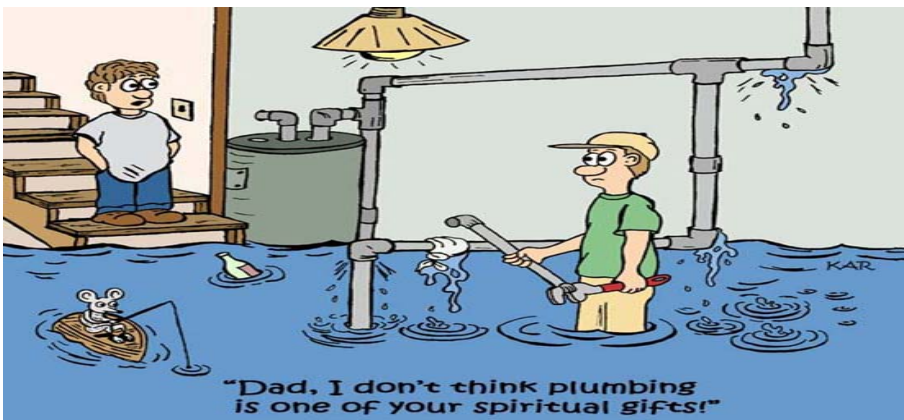
## Singing from the Heart

In the middle of the soloist's number at church, my young grandson, Chandler, tugged on my sleeve and whispered, "She can't sing very well, can she?" Knowing that the woman had a deep love for the Lord, I said, "Chandler, she sings from her heart. That's what makes it good."

He nodded thoughtfully.

Several days later as he and I were singing along with the car radio, Chandler stopped and said, "Nana, you sing from your heart, don't you?"

—Barbara McKeever, Urbana, Ohio. *Christian Reader*, "Kids of the Kingdom."



## STORY OF THE MONTH

### -Of Prayer and the Empty Chair-

Brennan Manning tells the following story of an old man who was dying of cancer.

The man's daughter had asked the local priest to come and pray with her father. When the priest arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows and an empty chair beside his bed.



The priest assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit. "I guess you were expecting me," he said.

"No, who are you?"

"I'm the new associate at your parish," the priest replied. "When I saw the empty chair, I figured you knew I was going to show up."

"Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?"

Puzzled, the priest shut the door.

"I've never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man. "But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At the Sunday Mass I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it always went right over my head..."

"I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day about four years ago my best friend said to me, 'Joe, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here's what I suggest. Sit down on a chair, place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because he promised, 'I'll be with you always.' Then just speak to him and listen in the same way you're doing with me right now."

"So, Father, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful, though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm."

(continued on page 13)

## -Of Prayer and the Empty Chair-

The priest was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old guy to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the rectory.

Two nights later the daughter called to tell the priest that her daddy had died that afternoon.

"Did he seem to die in peace?" he asked.

"Yes, when I left the house around two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me one of his corny jokes, and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange, Father. In fact, beyond strange—kinda weird. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on a chair beside the bed."

### **Where to Take It from Here...**

John, who was known as the beloved disciple, wrote twice in his Gospel of the time that he laid his head on Jesus' chest in a moment of intimacy. (John 13:23, 25; 21:20) It was a special memory for John, one that assured him that he was indeed a "disciple whom Jesus loved."

Brennan Manning writes, "The Christ of faith is no less accessible to us in his present risenness than was the Christ of history in his human flesh to the beloved disciple." We can have the same kind of relationship with Jesus that John did.

Do you have that kind of relationship with Jesus? Are you and Jesus so close that you can converse with him as you would with a friend? Do you know that he loves you passionately and that he is interested in you and wants to listen to everything that you have to say? Can you lay your head on his chest and feel his heartbeat?

That's the kind of relationship that Jesus wants to have with you.

Youth Specialties

## Bible Studies on Hebrews 12:1-13 contd. From page 8

Jesus is the example of what it means to run with endurance. He has gone before us into every kind of suffering we'll encounter and endured it victoriously. When you're sunk in self-pity, consider what he endured (vv. 3,4) and why he was willing to endure it (read v. 2). There is great educational and motivational value in studying the life of Jesus. His example will rebuke our self-pity and inspire us to keep on keeping on.

**"the perfecter of our faith"** - Even more important than his example, though, is his role as sustainer, his availability to strengthen, sustain and thereby perfect our faith.

### **Benefit From God's Training Program (vs 5-13)**

If I want to complete a marathon, I must be willing to undergo training. In fact, I must cooperate with a very extensive training program, that would seem in many ways irrelevant to the race. By cooperating with this frustrating and sometimes agonizing training program, I would gradually become hammered into shape for a marathon. God is committed to hammering each of us into shape to run his race. And to that end he has a training program designed for each of us individually. He calls this training program "discipline" (v. 7a), and he is constantly doing just this with all Christians through all sorts of experiences akin to suffering which He sovereignly allows us to experience. Read vv. 5-10. The author does not focus in this passage on how God disciplines/trains us, but rather on how to benefit from it. He reminds us of three keys to benefiting from God's training program.

**Remember His discipline is evidence of God's love**, not of anger or neglect. Read vs 5-10. How often we need to remember this!

**Remember discipline is painful now; its reward comes later.**

Some of us have reacted to pain as the ultimate evil for so long that we have virtually no capacity to take it. We are spiritual wimps, and God is very patient to be willing to teach us toughness in this area. Remember your response to discipline is the key to its effectiveness in your life. Read vv. 5,12,13. This is why some Christians become ever more mature under God's disciplinary hand, while others never grow up. Do you want to be able to say with increasing conviction: "I am more like Christ than I was a year ago, and I am more at peace because of it. "

D.A.

## Quotable Quotes on Friendly Advice.

- The true function of a preacher is to disturb the comfortable and to comfort the disturbed.  
Chad Walsh, Leadership, Vol. 3, no. 2.
- Get a friend to tell you your faults, or better still, welcome an enemy who will watch you keenly and sting you savagely. What a blessing such an irritating critic will be to a wise man, what an intolerable nuisance to a fool!  
Charles Spurgeon, Leadership, Vol.3, no. 2.
- The current popular notion that judging others is in itself a sin leads to such inappropriate maxims as 'I'm okay and you're okay.' It encourages a conspiracy of moral indifference which says, "If you never tell me that anything I'm doing is wrong, I'll never tell you that anything you're doing is wrong."  
Elisabeth Elliot Gren, Leadership, Vol.3, no. 1.

### LET US PRAY

Lord, let me never lose a sense of dependency upon You.  
Help my realization of where I am weak  
open the way for Your power to flow.  
Let my using of Your strength become instinctive.  
May I allow You to complete every victory for me.  
May I find gains in areas which once defeated me completely—  
and then hold on to those gains.  
Lord, let me keep that sense of being united with You.  
I know that You go ahead of me to remove obstacles not yet  
imagined.  
Lord, please go with me into every challenge  
I ask in the name of Jesus Christ Your Son and my Saviour.  
John Woolley



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

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

Tel/Fax: 020 8340 1566

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **5.00pm.** Evening worship

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

- Monday - Baby n' Toddler Group (**10.00 am to 12 noon** ) -Term time only  
- Brownies meeting in Church (**5.30 pm**)  
Prayer meeting 6th & 20th November, 4th & 18th Dec. (**8pm**)
- Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in the Hall (**7:30pm**)
- 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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**Vicar:** Revd Canon Dele Agbelusi

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

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**Organist:** Harold Randall

**YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME**

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