



CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL

LONDON N8 8AX

CROSSLINKS

GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



**DANIEL ENJOYING THE CARE OF THE LIVING
GOD IN THE DEN OF HUNGRY LIONS**

OCTOBER 2006 ISSUE 7.78

Vicar's three minute reflection

Daniel in the Den of Lions



There is a false assumption that to "get ahead" in this world one must conform to the sinful practices of the world. We perceive that people have the power to hire or fire us; to break our hearts; to slander us; to make our lives generally miserable. We tend to forget that the power to obey God and stand for Him comes from a settled understanding that God is really in control.

If you grew up going to Sunday school, then the chances are you know the story of Daniel in the lion's den well and even if you come from a non - Church background, the chances are that you, like most people, somehow managed to hear it. Now we must remember where Daniel is. He is in the heart of a mighty Kingdom! The major world power of his days! He is surrounded by might and majesty and impressive buildings. But where does Daniel focus his attention? He focuses on Jerusalem, a defeated lowly pile of rubble. Surely it would be better and easier for Daniel to forget about that place? After all Babylon is where the future is, isn't it? But not for Daniel, he is focused on Jerusalem, the city of God, the city from which God would one day send his deliverer. Daniel remembered and looked forward to God's promises and purposes. He prayed with these in mind.

Our God has not changed. Never believe the lie of Satan. God is not a killjoy and a sadist. He wants you to enjoy life to the fullest.

The New Testament picks up and uses the idea of Babylon and Jerusalem. Babylon stands for human existence with humanity at the centre, the city stands condemned by God. Jerusalem on the other hand stands for human existence with God at it's centre and God in control. Daniel was focused on the latter. So here we have this man Daniel, both a faithful servant of God but also an exceptional administrator. There was a great conspiracy against him, in the manner of his faith, worship and life. Daniel was a man of purpose who never forgot that he belonged to the Lord.



He was a man of faith who would not compromise his belief in the Almighty God even in the face of imminent death – in a lions' den. Daniel was a man of prayer who had formed the habit of taking everything to this caring God in prayer. However, because of Daniel's steadfastness, he was thrown into the den of lions to be mauled by them. The result of being steadfast to his faith in God and a refusal to heed the king's edict not to pray to the living God, landed Daniel in the den of lions.

You see this seemingly hopeless situation, this condemnation of the man who seemed to be Israel's hope in a foreign land, ends up having a very different outcome to what Daniel's enemies expected.

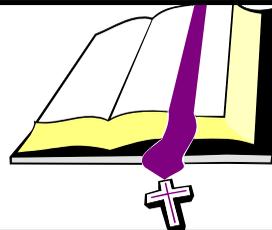
Daniel's enemies had not taken God into account and The Lord was to use Daniel's ordeal for quite a different purpose than that intended by his detractors. God brought Daniel out of his ordeal and look at the result in Daniel 6: 25 - 27... Then King Darius (a pagan king) wrote to all the peoples.../ *issue a decree that ...people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For He is the living God and He endures for ever; His kingdom will not be destroyed, His dominion will never end. He rescues and He saves; He performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the Lions.*

Our God has not changed. Never believe the lie of Satan. God is not a killjoy and a sadist. He wants you to enjoy life to the fullest, but it is life with a purpose. He will not withhold anything good from you. He wants you to glorify His name in all circumstances because He is faithful. Right now, He wants to be your Guide, Friend, Provider and Comforter as you walk along this transient earthly road. Will you trust Him?

Dele Agbelusi

Memory Verse

To you alone, O Lord, to you alone,
and not to us, must glory be given
because of your constant love and
faithfulness. Psalm 115:1



TEN WAYS TO KEEP YOUR MARRIAGE HEALTHY AND HAPPY



1. Commit "till death do us part"—you have made a vow to God and to another much-loved human being. *Make the vow with each other not to let the word "divorce" be a part of your vocabulary or even your inner thoughts, or it will start eroding away at your marital relationship.*

- Dream together—look forward to things. Be loyal to your mate at all costs. Care more about what your mate thinks of you than what your friends do.

2. Develop a common spiritual commitment.

- Pray for your mate regularly. Pray together regularly. Worship together.

3. Want what is best for your lifemate.

- Focus on what's right with your mate, not what's wrong with him/her. Work as a team—rely on each other's strength. Serve your mate.

4. Spend time with model couples who have been happily married ten to twenty years longer than you.

- Develop a relationship with a personal mentor to help you when times are tough, giving you wise counsel. Spend time with peer couples that have healthy, happy marriages.

5. Understand that no marriage is perfect and no partner is perfect. Give grace to be different.

- No one wants to fail. Your mate is doing the best he/she can at the moment. Don't take all emotional explosions personally. Sometimes your mate just needs to let off steam! Let the relationship breathe. A couple needs time together and away. When things get tense, you may just need a few hours or days away.

6. Find time to communicate—walking on the beach, telephoning, travelling together.

- Communicating your heart: —Listen to your mate's heart, not just to words. —Let your mate vent emotions without feeling you have to "fix it!"

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Ten Ways to Keep Your Marriage Healthy and Happy

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Settling differences: —Don't pout; stay and talk it out.
—"Clarify" your concerns if you don't like to "confront."
—Listen carefully. Allow the other to complete his/her thoughts without you interrupting, moving off the subject, or waiting impatiently to make your point.

7. Develop common interests.

- Enjoy hobbies and friends. Do fun things together—concerts, plays, picnics. Travel together whenever you get a chance.

8. Get to know your mate at the deepest level possible.

- Study your mate—what turns her/him off and on sexually, nonverbal signals, foreplay, moods, cycles, etc. Know precisely what your mate needs from you.

9. Avoid:

- Negative kidding—saying negative things you don't really mean that secretly hurt and do serious damage to one's confidence and one's natural love;
- Conditional love—basing love on actions of any kind;
- Waiting for your mate to meet your needs before you will meet hers/his;
- Talking negatively about your mate's parents.

10. Be romantic, not just sexy.

- Splurge occasionally.
- Do small things which communicate "Thinking only of you... Thought of you while I was away... You are the centre of my universe!"
- Talk with a loving, caring, tender tone in your voice, not an angry, harsh, bitter tone.

The above thoughts are excerpts from a small booklet entitled, "Making the Most of Your Honeymoon Year" by Bobb and Cheryl Biehl. Unfortunately this book is no longer in print.

WHEN YOU PRAY...

This month we are speaking on "how we should pray" - a directive in Matt. 6:6: "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

There are a lot more difficult commands in the Bible than being asked to pray in secret, and we try hard to observe them. The command to pray in secret is easy to obey but our ego encourages us to 'blow our trumpets' so that others can see how 'spiritual' we are and give us the respect that is due to us. Certainly, praying publicly is okay and there is a time for that. For the most part, however, Christians today hardly spend much time in private prayer. The quality and quantity of time you spend alone with God in prayer determines to a large extent one's true spiritual level. We should avoid going to the extreme of praying in our closets and not joining other believers in corporate public prayers. We need a healthy balance between the two formats. Are you satisfied both with the quantity and quality of time you spend alone with God? Do you need to spend more time with Him? Then set up an appointment with God to meet with Him daily bearing in mind the new time you have purposed in your heart.

Sunday Bwanhot

Our lord assumes that you will pray because you are a believer. Even sermon making, incessant and taxing as an art, as a duty, as work, or as pleasure, will harden and estrange the heart by neglect of prayer from God. The scientist loses God in nature. The preacher may lose God in his sermon.

D.A.

It is a great thing to be a believer, but easy to misunderstand what the New Testament means by it. It is not that we believe Jesus Christ can do things, or that we believe in a plan of salvation. It is that we believe Him; whatever happens we will hang on to the fact that He is true. If we say, "I am going to believe He will put things right," we shall lose our confidence when we see things go wrong.

Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)

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 at least ten hours a week - One week-day and Sunday. 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).

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday, 22nd October, 2006

**Healing and Anointing Service at 10.30am. Come and share in the blessings from the God who cares.**

**Do not forget to bring your friends along to share with you in God's abundant resources.**

Sunday, 29th October, 2006

**Confirmation Service at 5pm. You cannot afford to miss this time of great fellowship with the Bishop of Edmonton, those who are declaring their faith in Christ publicly, and the family of Christ at Christ Church.**

**Remember, Confirmation service is only once in a year!**

### THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

This month we pray for members of our church family whose surnames begin with R, S, T, W.

Randall Harold, Redman Byron, Redman Dolores, Springer Valerie, Stevens Paul and Sue, Stockwell Muriel, Tasker Rosemary, Thomas Claudia, Topping Roger and Constance, Tucker Diana, Turner Carol, Tumalu Annette, Watson Granville, Wheeler Sheila, Wharton Nikki.

## BIBLE STUDY ON PSALM 73:1-7, 13-18

### Why do the wicked prosper?

The seventy-third psalm mirrors the life of faith for everyone who is honest enough to allow his or her faith to be pushed to the limit. It begins with a simple, Sunday School outlook which lifts up the clear virtue of a good God who is good to good people. We all like that sort of thing, and quickly say "Amen" to that. It doesn't take long at all for the psalmist to "grow up" and realize that the simple theology of a good God smiling on good people doesn't hold much water. Just because that's what most preachers tell us doesn't mean that's the way it is in the real world. No wonder so many believers barely make it through at a time of crisis.

This psalm is about faith that goes into crisis. We deceive ourselves if we think that faith is some kind of automatic protection from spiritual crisis. People with great measures of faith have faced agonizing periods in their lives when the most important things they believed and hoped for were denied. Having much faith only means that the crisis challenging that faith can be that much more overwhelming. Think of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

What was the faith crisis of the psalmist? It is one common to many today. He presumed that his goodness and honesty would be the premiums that would regularly pay off nicely in the form of dividends that make life comfortable. But it didn't work out that way. He built his faith upon the notion that good things happen to good people and bad things happen to bad people. But it wasn't happening. We don't know if this happened over a long period of time, or if he woke up one morning and it hit him. He looked around him and it sunk in that his wicked neighbours were getting along famously. They had the very things that this man lacked, and it made him angry. He was rightly angry for two reasons: He should be living the good life, and They shouldn't! Listen to his own words: "I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

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## Bible Study on Psalm 73:1-7, 13-18

They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from the burdens common to man;" (vv3-5) And then, like a knife that is turned back onto oneself, he despairs, "I've been stupid to play by the rules; what has it gotten me? A long run of bad luck, that's what— a slap in the face every time I walk out the door." (The Message, vv. 13-14, ).

The psalmists tell it like it is. When it appears as though God has let them down, they say so. When they're getting what they don't deserve, and not getting what they do deserve, they speak up! Woe to us when we come across those syrupy Christians for whom life is always just wonderful. "Spiritual exhibitionists," that's what they are. Their faith keeps them right up there on the mountaintop, and they never experience the deep valleys, the dark shadows of doubt and fear. They make us feel like we must have gotten our faith at Tesco or Sainsbury's.. Thank God that the psalmists weren't like that. In this case the faith of the psalmist has been severely trampled on. And he cannot hold back the pain and sadness that he feels.

The psalmist discovered that in the time of crisis, when the old rules don't apply and things don't happen the way they're supposed to, the wrong thing to do is to run off in three directions with a burst of energy and greater determination to make it right. No, that would compound the crisis. The thing to do is to take a step back and re-examine the situation. The thing to do is to create the right context to begin to feel the gentle tug of God's hand directing you to the surface and to safety. Listen once more to the psalmist, to the wisdom that he speaks in the middle of his crisis: "If I had said 'I will walk on this way,' I would have been untrue to the circle of your children. But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I perceived their end" (vv. 15-17). "... **until I went into the sanctuary of God.**"

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# LAUGHTER LINES

## Floral mis- arrangement

A businessman wanted to send a floral arrangement to a friend who was opening a new branch office. His friend called later in the day to thank him for the considerate gesture but was a little confused about the accompanying card which read, "Rest in Peace." The businessman apologized for the mix-up and quickly called to chastise the florist. The florist tried to console the executive. He said, "That's nothing. Somewhere in the cemetery there's a bouquet with a note reading, 'Good luck in your new location.'"



## Bargain Hunting

While shopping for a new automobile, the hard-working gentleman grew weary of an overly zealous and optimistic car salesman who kept pitching the idea that this new car was "only \$29,995!" The frustrated potential car buyer replied, "Sir, that's a lot of only."

*Reminisce, July/Aug. 1994, p. 64*

## Does this paint a picture of you?

Many people are like the woman who had been bitten by a dog and was advised by her physician to write her last wishes, as she might succumb to hydrophobia. She spent so long with pencil and paper that the doctor finally remarked something about how long the will would be. "Will!" she snorted. "I'm writing a list of the people I'm going to bite!"

*Stories for Preachers*

## Busted

A woman pulled up to a red light behind another car. The driver of the car in front of her was talking on his cell phone, and shuffling through some papers on the seat beside him.

The light turned green, but the man didn't notice.

*(continued next page)*

# LAUGHTER LINES

## Busted (continued)

The woman began pounding on her steering wheel and yelling at the man to move. The man still didn't move.

The woman went ballistic inside her car, ranting and raving at the man, pounding on her steering wheel and dashboard.

The light turned yellow. The woman blew the car's horn repeatedly, as she yelled and screamed curses at the man.

The man finally noticed the commotion. He looked up, saw the yellow light, and accelerated through the intersection just as the light turned red.

The woman was beside herself, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection. As she was still in mid-rant she heard a tap on her window and looked into the face of a very serious looking policeman.

The policeman told her to shut off her engine and step out of the car. The red-faced woman obeyed, speechless at what was happening.

The policeman then arrested the woman and took her to the police station where she was booked and placed in a cell.

After a couple of hours the woman was escorted back to the booking desk where the original officer was waiting with her personal effects.

The policeman handed her the bag containing her things, and said, "I'm really sorry for this mistake. But you see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn and screaming and cursing. Then I noticed the \*Choose Life\* special license plate holder, the \*I am born again\* bumper sticker, and the chrome plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk. Naturally I assumed that you had stolen the car. Have a blessed day!"

Sheep Laughs Christian Humour

## Bible Study on Psalm 73 contd. (why do the wicked prosper?)

Something happened in that experience of coming into the presence of God that turned everything around. Before then his thoughts were turned in on themselves. You know what it's like when your mind races and you argue with yourself about why things shouldn't be the way they are. The psalmist was becoming miserable because he couldn't get out of himself. It was at that point that he did a very smart thing. He went into the sanctuary of the Lord, and something happened that made all the difference in the world. He experienced a renewal of mind and spirit that put him back on track once again. I'm not sure that we typically appreciate the impact it can have on us when we enter into the temple of the Lord. Yes, I realize that our regularity at worship puts us at risk of falling into a routine habit that dulls us to the dynamism of stepping into the presence of God. On the surface of things, it seems innocent enough. We "go to church." We take our seat in the pew (probably the same one we've been sitting in for many years). We expect to see the same faces in the choir. The prayers of the minister sound familiar. The hymnbook we hold as we sing shows the same years of use that our faith has had. On the surface of things, we shouldn't expect much from going to worship. But how wrong we can be!

For in that moment, when faith has the opportunity to become the primary voice we hear, something can happen in our lives which is like stepping out of a dark room into a bright, sunny day. We can come in cross and disturbed, and leave feeling hopeful and inspired again. We probably can't explain what happened to us in the sanctuary, but we are living proof that something happened between God and his people that left a profound impact on some. Meaning has come back into their lives. The resolve is there to put energy into a faltering marriage. Forgiveness begins to bleed into a troubled relationship between a disappointed father and his angry son. It will be different for different people.

(continued on page 13 )

## Bible Study on Psalm 73 cont. (why do the wicked prosper?)

But it's universally true that miracles happen when God meets his people in the sanctuary of the Lord.

The psalmist also experiences a transformation because he has surrounded himself in a sea of faces of fellow pilgrims who bring their same questions and doubts. He knows he is in good company, for they too have had their faith tested and are needing to know that God can deal with them as well. He looks out on the faces of those who have come with him into the sanctuary of the Lord, and in their faces, he sees the tender face of God. Because they are there together, he sees God among them. And he can no longer be angry and distraught.

The psalmist made a life-changing discovery as he went into the temple that day. Others have made it before us, and we can make the same discovery. **They have discovered that the only faith they can count on is not one that tries to unravel the mysteries of life with logical explanations, nor one that comes with pet answers to life's most difficult questions.** They have discovered that the only faith they can count on is one which enables them to experience God unencumbered by the need to have logical explanations and pet answers. We can't say why good people suffer and the wicked thrive. We can only testify that when God's faithful people come into his presence in the sanctuary of the Lord, the pressing need for an explanation doesn't seem to matter much any more

D.A.

**When you accept the fact that sometimes seasons are dry and times are hard and that God is in control of both, you will discover a sense of divine refuge, because the hope then is in God and not yourself.**

Charles Swindol

## STORY OF THE MONTH

### Unlimited Resources



A young man went away from home to embark in a modest enterprise. His capital was small, but it represented the earnings of many years. He had won the esteem of his employer, and, as he was about to leave, the merchant said to him, "Don, if you ever get into a tight place, let me know of it. I will be glad to help you." For awhile the young man prospered; then came a misfortune. This was followed by others in such rapid succession that he began to see before him bankruptcy and ruin. He thought of his old employer, and at last resolved to write to him and ask for help. He had not the courage to ask for the whole amount, but hoped the small sum he asked for would enable him to somehow retrieve his fortunes. He waited eagerly for an answer, but no answer came. He knew that the merchant was at home, and that he was not a man who ever procrastinated about what he intended to do. Don's heart grew sick. Tomorrow his creditors would seize upon his goods. There seemed to be no way of escape. As he sat wrapped in his gloomy thoughts, the door opened and his old employer stood before him.

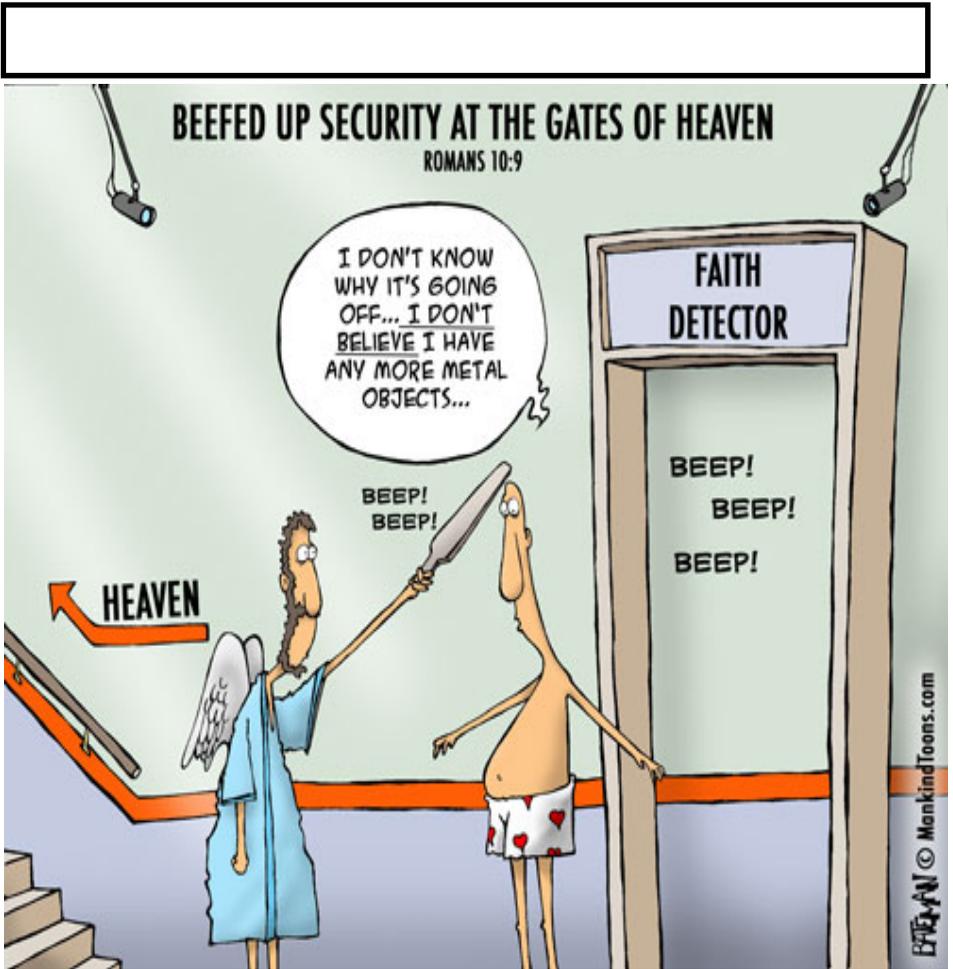
"My boy," he said, "I received your letter, and while you said you wanted money, I made up my mind that you needed me. I have been to see your creditors, and they understand that my entire fortune is behind you."

**God doesn't  
always give his  
loved ones what  
they ask, but he  
never fails to  
supply their  
needs.**

His friend had kept his promise, but he had answered in a way that the petitioner had not dared to hope. Brother, if your Lord has given you exceeding great and precious promises, do not allow yourself to fear that

he will not fulfil them. God doesn't always give his loved ones what they ask, but he never fails to supply their needs.

Adapted from Stories for Preachers



**That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)**

### **Walk the Talk**

To many Christians, Christ is little more than an idea, or at best an ideal--He is not a fact. Millions of professed believers talk as if He were real and act as if He were not. Our actual position is always to be discovered by the way we act, not by the way we talk.

A.W. Tozer

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 16th Oct., 6th Nov., 20th Nov.(**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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