



CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX
CROSSLINKS
JESUS - GOD WITH US

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



For to us a child is born... and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father... Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.

DECEMBER 2005/JANUARY 2006 ISSUE 6.69

Vicar's three minute reflection

GOD BECAME MAN



And the Word became flesh."

We hear those words so easily that they are lost on us. We quickly associate them with the baby in Bethlehem's manger, and rightly so, but then we dismiss them without being startled or shocked or even mildly surprised. "The Word became flesh," the gospel writer says, and we yawn in agreement.

Some of the Greeks, the learned people during John's time, didn't yawn. They were appalled at such

a thought. It wasn't that God could not have become flesh, but why? By their way of thinking, the flesh was bad and the body was evil.

One of the striking features of the Gospel of John is the way it depicts the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Like the disciples we are left to ask, "Who is this, that wind and sea obey him? Who is this who feeds the multitude on a couple of loaves and a few fish?" But in the Gospel of John, there's never a doubt who Jesus is, because he tells us. Usually he does so with a statement that begins with the words, "**I am.**" Put him in a situation and he will clarify who he is and what he has come to do.

You can put him in the desert surrounded by people who are chronically unsatisfied, and Jesus says, "**I am the bread of life.** Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35).

You can put him in the midst of people who are confused, people who ask, "Who are you, Jesus? What makes you different from all the other gurus, rabbis, and religious leaders?" And Jesus says, "**I am the gate for the sheep.** Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture" (10:7, 9). It is an act of self-definition. You can put him at a graveside, amidst grief-stricken people, and Jesus says, "**I am the resurrection and the life.** Those who believe in me, even though

"No, God has not revealed himself in any religion, including Christianity. He has revealed himself in his Son."



they die, will live" (11:25).

Or put him in the midst of people who feel disconnected by life's difficulties, and Jesus says, "**I am the vine**, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing" (15:5).

Theologian Karl Barth at Princeton in 1963 during his Princeton Lectures was asked by a student : "Sir, don't you think that God has revealed himself in other religions and not only Christianity?" Barth stunned many who were present when he thundered, "No, God has not revealed himself in any religion, including Christianity. He has revealed himself in his Son."

JESUS IS NOT A HERO OF OUR FAITH. JESUS IS OUR FAITH. We cannot afford to lose sight of what is at the very heart of our faith and that is the proclamation of Jesus Christ, crucified, resurrected, and triumphant forevermore. Jesus said: " I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the father except through me." (John 14:6)

I know that I run the risk of sounding like a certain Sunday School teacher you may have heard about. One morning after church, a member asked her little son, "How was Sunday School?" He answered, "Oh, all right." The mother persisted, "Just all right? Who was your teacher?" The little boy replied, "Well, I don't know but she must have been Jesus' grandmother. Jesus was all she talked about." If I sound like Jesus' grandmother in this article, so be it. Happy Christmas. Dele Agbelusi

Memory Verse

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:12



PSALM FOR CHRISTMAS



Praise God for Christmas.

Praise Him for the Incarnation
for Word made flesh.

I will not sing of shepherds watching flocks
on frosty night or angel choristers.

I will not sing of stable bare in Bethlehem or lowing oxen,
or wise men, trailing distant star
with gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Tonight I will sing
praise to the Father
who stood on heaven's threshold
and said farewell to His Son
as He stepped across the stars
to Bethlehem
and Jerusalem.

And I will sing praise to the infinite eternal Son
who became most finite a Baby
who would one day be executed for my crimes.

Praise Him in the heavens.

Praise Him in the stable.

Praise Him in my heart.

-- Joseph Bayly in Psalms of My Life. Christianity Today, Vol. 33, no. 18.

THE SIGNIFICANT QUESTION IN LIFE

The significant question in life is this: DO YOU KNOW JESUS? It is not, are you a religious person?

There are all kinds of religions. Some are helpful. Some are not. Some are down right dangerous.

The question is not, do you go to church? Going to church is good. The person who has been crucified with Christ will be part of his body. There is no exception to that rule. But going to church without coming to (knowing) Christ is a sterile exercise that will leave you perpetually spiritually dissatisfied.

THE SIGNIFICANT QUESTION contd.

Knowing Christ, however, opens up a new dimension to life. Then the creeds and the liturgies that seemed so lifeless before become means of Grace. Hymns that once fulfilled only the function of marking time before the sermon become sweeter as their message comes alive in our hearts. A transformation takes place—a transformation that occurs under no other circumstance.

How does it happen? How does one come to know Jesus as more than a great person of history, but as the Living Lord? A simple desire to know him and him alone as the Author of our salvation is all it takes. And when you invite Him into your heart, He comes. Simply invite Him by saying from your heart:

**"Lord Jesus Christ,
I trust you as my
Saviour and my
Lord."**

**Come into my life
and be my Lord,
my Saviour and my
friend.**

"Lord Jesus Christ, I trust you as my Saviour and my Lord."
Come into my life and be my Lord, my Saviour and my friend.

If you have prayed this prayer and you want to know more about your new-found relationship, write to me, Dele Agbelusi
32 Crescent Road, London N8 8AX and I will be glad to walk alongside you in your walk with Jesus. D.A.

SOME PEOPLE SAY -

**" We will not influence our children in matters
of religion."**

BUT WHY NOT?

**The ads will! The Press will! The Radio will!
The movies will! The T.V. will! The neighbours will!
The politicians will! The forces of evil will!**

SHALL WE IGNORE OUR OWN CHILDREN?

May God forgive us if we do. Francis Gay

- submitted by Vera Freeburne

NOTHING BUT STYLE

Once a man attended a fair and saw another man leading a fine, well-groomed horse. He asked, "Is that a saddle horse?" The other replied, "No, sir. This horse will buck off a saddle. Nothing can stay on his back."

"Is he a driving horse, then?" the man asked. "No, he was hitched up once to a cart, but he made kindling wood of it," was the reply.

"Well, what is he good for? Why is he here?" the man asked. The answer was, "Style, man, style. Just look at the picture he makes." The man went on to say, "Once I was in a church building and saw people clad in fine clothes coming into the morning service. I asked the preacher, 'Are those people workers in the church?' 'No,' he answered sadly. 'Do they visit the sick and minister to the poor? Do they attend other services of the church?' 'Never,' he answered.

"There's that horse," I said to myself. "Nothing but style."



Don't settle for substitutes
It's tacky when choosing a Santa..
it's FOOLISH when choosing a Savior.
John 14:6

DUMBER THAN A COW?

One year when Christmas Day came on a Sunday, a farmer decided to go to church. (Like some people, he thought he was fulfilling his religious obligation by going to church twice a year--at Christmas and Easter!) The sermon that day was preached from the text, "The ox knows his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel does not know, my people do not consider" (Is. 1:3). Here Isaiah is saying that man is dumber than the animals. After church the farmer returned home and stood among his cows. One of them began to lick his hand--a practical demonstration of the sermon he had just heard. Strong man though he was, the farmer began to weep as he thought, "God did much more for me, and yet I never thanked Him. My cow is far more grateful than I am. What do I ever give her other than grass and water?"

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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**Healing and Anointing Service**  
29th January 2006 @ 10.30am

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**Worship with us this Christmas (December 2005)
at Christ Church Crouch End Hill, London N8**

Sunday 18th December

10.30am: Morning Prayer
3.30pm: Christmas Carols and Nine Lessons

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

11.15pm: Carols/Midnight Holy Communion

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

10.30am: Parish Holy Communion

Saturday 31st December

11.15pm : New Year's Eve Praise and Worship

Sunday 1st January 2006

10.30am: Morning Prayer

8.00 am all Sundays: Holy Communion Service (B.C.P.)

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

This month we pray for members of our church family whose surnames begin with C, D, E, F

Carr Sarah; Christian Ina; Clarke Joan; Coke Tania; Cole Christine; Collins Marion; Coxall Joan; Crawford Janet; Davies Genevieve; Edwards Paul and Andrea; Evans Beverley; Farthing Jenny; Faulkner Emma; Forsdike Jack; Freeburne Vera; Furlong Rosalind.

10-MINUTE BIBLE STUDY - (PHILIP.3:10)

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. (Philip. 3.10)

Philippians 3:4-14 is a powerful text in which the apostle Paul begins by talking of his attainments in the secular and religious world. He had social and religious position, but he counted them as nothing compared to knowing Christ.

Verse 10 contains 4 parts.

I want to know him: Paul had been struck down on the road to Damascus. He had seen Jesus and heard Him speak. He spent several years in the desert, obtaining by direct revelation, the gospel he had preached. At some point he was caught up into heaven and saw things that were unlawful for him to utter. And yet he did not feel that he really knew Christ. I believe that throughout scripture we see a progressive revelation of Jesus. He is shown from the time He was born as a baby until he speaks with power and majesty from the throne of heaven. The scene at the transfiguration gives us a glimpse of His Deity. When Peter, James and John came down from the mountain, they viewed Jesus a little differently. When I try to comprehend Him, I realize that I really don't know Him, I certainly know Him better than I used to, but I really don't know Him completely. No matter how much I learn of Him, there will always be more to learn. When I read of Him in the Scriptures, I get a glimpse and a glimmer of Him and yet I know that the writer has just scratched the surface. How can a mere man, even with inspiration, describe God who spoke the world into existence from nothing? How can He describe a Creator who makes man from the dust of the earth? Most of all, how do we describe God who robes Himself in mortal flesh so that He could die on a cross to reconcile His fallen creation to Himself? We often, try to "put God in a box." Because He answered prayer in a particular fashion in 1950 doesn't mean that He must do it the same way in 2005. Perhaps He'll chose to answer my prayer in a different way, just to show me a different aspect of Himself.

(Continued next page)

Philip 3.10 contd.

The power of His resurrection:

Jesus told His disciples to wait until they had been endued with power after the Holy Ghost had come upon them. This power came upon them as a fallout of His resurrection. The power that raised Jesus from the grave is available to believers in Christ to enable them become living witnesses of the life, death, resurrection and return of Jesus Christ. Do we know this power in relation to Christ and His Holy Spirit?

And the fellowship of sharing in His suffering:

Suffering is not a popular theme that arouses our emotions, but it is a necessary theme. What Paul is saying is that "If I want to know Him, I must choose to suffer with Him." It has often been said, "No Cross, no crown." Paul had certainly suffered for the gospel. He was imprisoned, beaten, shipwrecked, betrayed and forsaken. We read in Acts where the apostles counted it joy to suffer for the name of Jesus. Peter tells us that "If we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him." Jesus said in Luke 14:27 "And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." I'm certainly not looking for suffering, but I can't run from it either. I get very concerned about popular themes that substitute power and prestige for the suffering of the cross. The next time you hear someone preaching about using the gospel to get rich, ask yourself this question. *Will I use the cross to obtain the riches of this world, or will I use the cross and all its sufferings to obtain the riches of the world to come?*

Becoming like him in his death.

The will of the Father and the glory of God were all that matter to Christ as he died on the cross. Jesus had his eyes and heart set upon the victory beyond his cross. Is that what really matters to me? In summary, I can simply say with Paul "I haven't reached there yet." "I'm pressing on towards the mark to the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Yes I know Him, but there is still much more to know of Him.

Dele Agbelusi

LAUGHTER LINES

PITY THE POOR MINISTER!

PITY the poor minister.

If he jokes, he is not putting things spiritual first.

If he doesn't, he stays aloof from the rank and file.

If he is scholarly, he preaches above the heads
of his congregation.

If he isn't, he's said to be a bit stodgy.

If he conducts popular services, he is advertising himself.

If he is orthodox, he is not enterprising.

If he is a good pastor, visiting his people, he's a gossip.

If he stays in his study, he's neglecting his flock.

If he's good, he's over-pious.

If he's bad—well, you might have known!



The Friendship book by Francis Gay
submitted by Vera Freeburne

SURPRISE CHRISTMAS GIFT!

A middle-aged woman posted her Christmas wish list on the refrigerator for her husband to read. Rather than list certain items of desire, she simply requested "something that will make me look sexy and beautiful." When Christmas rolled around she expected to open a package with some fancy lingerie inside. To her surprise, he gave her an exercise bike instead.

* Reader's Digest, Dec. 1992, p. 28

SILENT NIGHT

A little boy and girl were singing their favorite Christmas carol, "Silent Night." The boy concluded the rendition with the words, "Sleep in heavenly beans." His sister quickly corrected him: "It's not beans, it's peas."

- Illustrations for Biblical Preaching, Michael Green, ed., 1989, p. 57

**The most important part of Christmas is
the first six letters**

LAUGHTER LINES

WHAT?

Admiring a handsome brooch worn by an acquaintance, my friend's mother-in-law asked - "Anniversary?" "No", was the reply "Quarrel".

submitted by Suzanne Ogilvie-Arendse

I did not realize just how closely my 18-month-old toddler had been listening to Christmas carols until she picked the peas off her plate, threw them on the floor, and said with an excited smile, "Peas on Earth."

-- Margaret Nix Windley, Portsmouth, Vir. "Kids of the Kingdom," Christian Reader.

A Christmas Gift

A guy's wife was nagging him hard for a four-wheeler but still he bought her a beautiful extravagant diamond ring for Christmas. The husband's friend was amazed at his decision and asked him in secret, "Why couldn't you buy a car instead of the diamond ring?" The husband smiled and answered, "Fake cars are not easy to find."

STAR - RATS

At a rehearsal for a Sunday school Christmas tableau, the teacher carefully lined up four little 'cherubs'. Each carried a huge cut-out letter. As they stood side by side, the letters would spell out "STAR". A slight mix-up occurred, and those present in the church auditorium nearly fell out of their pews as the four little performers took their places - in reverse.

Parish pump

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus.
- 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) You are Santa Claus.
- 4) You look like Santa Claus.

Parish pump

**Jesus is not to us as Christmas is to the world,
here today and gone tomorrow.**

BEWARE, MRS JONES MAY HAVE SOMETHING ON YOU

Lawyers should never ask a witness a question if they aren't prepared for the answer. At the start of a trial, a Southern small town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grand motherly, elderly woman to the stand. He approached her and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know me?"

She responded, "Why, yes I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a young boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you will never amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you."

The Lawyer was stunned! Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, "Mrs. Jones do you know the defense attorney?"

She again replied, "Why yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheats on his wife with three different women. One of them is your wife. Yes, I know him."

The defense attorney almost died.

The judge asked both counsellors to approach the bench, and in very quiet voice, said,

"If either of you morons asks her if she knows me, I'll throw your sorry faces in jail for contempt."

Anon

Search me , O God, and know my heart today!
Try me, O Saviour, know my thoughts I pray.
See if there be some wicked way in me;
Cleanse me from every sin, and set me free.

POEMS AND QUOTES

MY GOD YOU ARE ALWAYS THERE

YOU'LL ALWAYS BE THERE!

When I try not to remember.

When I can't seem to forget,

I think of the trees and music or Somebody new I've met.

I think of someone made happy by something I might have said,

and I think how warm and cosy I feel as I snuggle down my bed.

I imagine that it's winter, when the snow is on the ground, and I listen for snowflakes falling,

but they never make a sound.

My imagination tells me I can hear a blackbird sing, that the daffodils are blooming, OH! It really must be SPRING.

In the spring I still remember, tho' perhaps I never tell

and in summer, autumn, winter I remember **YOU**—so well!

Sally Ruby Roberts (1922 - 2005)

DECEMBER 25TH

Early Christians wisely decided to celebrate the birth of Christ on a day that was already a recognized holiday, December 25. Celebrating on this day would keep them from suspicion and danger. The Romans called December 25 "The Birthday of the Unconquered Sun" because it was so close to December 21, the winter solstice. For Christians it became "The Birthday of the Unconquered Son."

-- Robert C. Shannon, 1000 Windows, (Cincinnati, Ohio: Standard Publishing Company, 1997).

MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

All we could ever imagine, could ever hope for, He is. .. He is the Prince of Peace whose first coming has already transformed society but whose second coming will forever establish justice and righteousness. All this, and infinitely more, alive in an impoverished baby in a barn. That is what Christmas means--to find in a place where you would least expect to find anything you want, everything you could ever want.

-- Michael Card in The Promise. Christianity Today, Vol. 37, no. 15.

HELP IN TIME OF NEED

YOU ARE NOT HOME YET

After serving as a missionary for forty years in Africa, Henry C. Morrison became sick and had to return to America. As the great ocean liner docked in New York Harbor there was a great crowd gathered to welcome home another passenger on that boat. Morrison watched as President Teddy Roosevelt received a grand welcome home party after his African Safari. Resentment seized Henry Morrison and he turned to God in anger, "I have come back home after all this time and service to the church and there is no one, not even one person here to welcome me home." Then a still small voice came to Morrison and said, "You're not home yet."



THE EMOTIONS OF CHRISTMAS

One of the emotions of Christmas is **wonder**. The Scripture paints a picture of a baby being born, angels heralding the birth from the heavens, and shepherds kneeling in stunned amazement, listening to the heavenly chorus. Their **wonder** should be no surprise because their silent night had been split with the glorious presence of God. The world of man had been invaded by the Word of God. All the hopes of all ages had been fulfilled in this one spectacular night, yet it happened so differently from what humanity expected. Another great emotion is **joy**.

"**Joy** to the world, the Lord has come." How vividly that song expresses our emotions at Christmas. Mary felt joy over Jesus. The angels felt **joy** over Jesus.- "We bring you good news of great **joy**." they said. Why? Because this One whose birth they heralded was to become the Saviour of the world. To realize that God loves us enough to become what we are so we can become what he is—that brings **joy**. To realize that this Jesus whose birth we celebrate is One who can meet every need and satisfy every longing of our soul— that brings **joy**. Do you have this joy in your heart and life? - This Jesus? Let him be born in your heart today, and have a wonderful, joyful Christmas. D.A.

THINK ON THESE...

INDEPENDENCE

Independence is a coveted and protected norm in America today. Little kids want to do things without the interference of adults; adults do things and frown at anyone who gives an unsolicited advice; seniors, who can barely walk even with a cane in hand, drive around or walk to the grocery store to pick up a few items. **Dependence** is an admission of weakness or worse: failure all together. In this culture where every one has to be a winner and not just a winner but number one, there is hardly room for **dependency**. If this is true, and it certainly is, does it not explain why Christianity is becoming more 'irrelevant' in the west today? Christianity is a religion of **dependency** from start to finish. **Dependence** on Jesus Christ and His death for you, **dependence** on the controlling work of the Holy Spirit, **dependence** on the Bible, **dependence** on prayer to God who alone grants our needs; **dependence** on others in the body for fellowship; etc. The more a believer is influenced by the '**independent**' culture, the more likely that individual will think of Christianity as a factor of his/her effort, thereby minimizing the need for **dependence** on the Holy Spirit, Bible, Prayers, fellowship; etc. May God deliver us from the culture of '**independence**' when it comes to spiritual matters, Amen!

Sunday and Grace Bwanhot

CHRISTMAS ISLAND

In the Indian Ocean there is a Christmas Island; an almost lost, isolated speck of land. There is another Christmas Island, an equally isolated speck of land almost lost in the Pacific Ocean. Christmas is always an island; an island of hope in a world of despair, an island of love in a world of indifference, an island of giving in a self-centred world. Come to Christmas Island!

-- Robert C. Shannon, 1000 Windows, (Cincinnati, Ohio: Standard Publishing Company, 1997).

... He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.

Roy L. Smith in Lutheran Witness

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

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- Monday - Baby n' Toddler Group (**10.00 am to 12 noon**) -Term time only
- Brownies meeting in Church (**5.30 pm**)
- Prayer meeting 9th, 23rd January, 6th and 20th February (**8pm**)

Wednesday - Bible Fellowship in the Hall (**7:30pm**)

Wednesday - Home Group 17 Coleridge Road N8 8EH (**10:00 am**)

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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YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

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