



CHRIST CHURCH  
CROUCH END HILL  
LONDON N8 8AX  
**CROSSLINKS**  
GOOD NEWS OF EASTER

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



# ALLELUIA

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

MARCH 2005    ISSUE 5.61

## Vicar's three minute reflection

# THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS



No person hearing the story of the Resurrection can possibly be any more skeptical of it than were the apostles when they first heard about it. The records show that Jesus had to go to great lengths to overcome their disbelief. Once he ate an impromptu meal of cold fish and honeycomb-the only food at hand-to demonstrate to one diehard doubter that he wasn't a ghost.

It is not difficult to understand the difficulties of the early disciples. It's like one of those world war stories recalled by James Hewitt: "It was June 18, 1815, the Battle of Waterloo. The French under the command of Napoleon were fighting the Allies (British, Dutch, and Germans) under the command of Wellington. The people of England depended on a system of semaphore signals to find out how the battle was going. One of these signal stations was on the tower of Winchester Cathedral.

**The Gospels do not explain the Resurrection; the Resurrection explains the Gospels. Belief in the Resurrection ... it is the Christian faith.**

Late in the day it flashed the signal: "W-E-L-L-I-N-G-T-O-N---D-E-F-E-A-T-E-D- -." Just at that moment one of those sudden English fog clouds made it impossible to read the message. The news of defeat quickly spread throughout the city. The whole countryside was sad and gloomy when they heard the news that their country had lost the war. Suddenly the fog lifted, and the remainder of the message could be read. The message had four words, not two. The complete message was: "W-E-L-L-I-N-G-T-O-N- - -DE-F-E-A- T-E-D- - -T-H-E- - -E-N- E-M-Y!" It took only a few minutes for the good news to spread. Sorrow was turned into joy, defeat was turned into victory! "

So it was when Jesus was laid in the tomb on the first Good Friday afternoon. Hope had died even in the hearts of Jesus' most loyal friends. After the frightful crucifixion, the fog of disappointment and misunderstanding had crept in on the friends of Jesus. They had "read" only part of the divine message. "Christ defeated" was all that they knew. But then on the third day--Easter Sunday--the fog of disappointment and misunderstanding lifted, and the world received the complete message "Christ defeated death!" Defeat was turned into victory; death was turned to life!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the single greatest event in the history of the world. It is so foundational to Christianity that no one who denies it can be a true Christian. Without resurrection there is no Christian faith, no salvation, and no hope. A person who believes in a Christ who was not raised believes in a powerless Christ, a dead Christ. If Christ did not rise from the dead, then no redemption was accomplished at the cross and "your faith is worthless,"

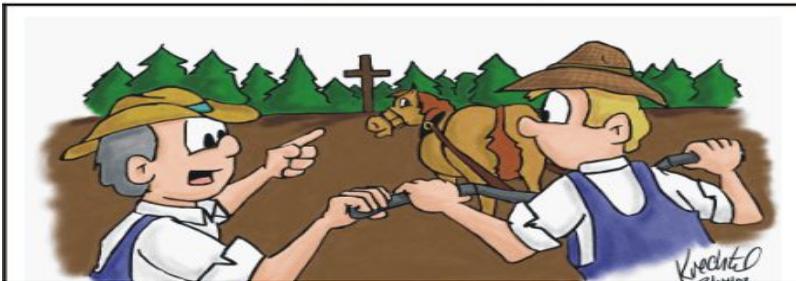
The Gospels do not explain the Resurrection; the Resurrection explains the Gospels. Belief in the Resurrection is not an appendage to the Christian faith; it is the Christian faith. The Resurrection is an ongoing thing because that same power that brought Christ back from the dead is operative within those who are Christ's.

It was Billy Graham who said " The stone was rolled away from the door, not to permit Christ to come out, but to enable the disciples to go in. There is more evidence that Jesus rose from the dead than there is that Julius Caesar ever lived or that Alexander the Great died at the age of thirty-three."

Dele Agbelusi

## Kartoon Knuggets

By Troy Knechtel

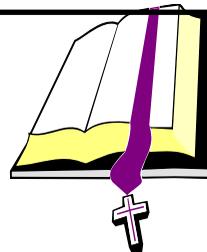


Just focus on the tree, and go straight for it and don't look back.  
"No one, after putting his hands on the plough, and looking back is fit for the kingdom." Luke 9:62

## Memory Verse

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

**Luke 24: 5b-6**



## THE MOTHER OF ALL WEDDINGS !



Joni Eareckson Tada, who was paralyzed in a diving accident as a teenager, draws parallels between her wedding day and Christ's love for his church.

I felt awkward as my girlfriends strained to shift my paralyzed body into a cumbersome wedding gown. No amount of corseting and binding of my body gave me a perfect shape. The dress just didn't fit well. Then, as I was wheeling into the church, I glanced down and noticed that I'd accidentally run over the hem of my dress, leaving a greasy tire mark. My paralyzed hands couldn't hold the bouquet of daisies that lay off-center on my lap. And my chair, though decorated for the wedding, was still a big, clunky grey machine with belts, gears, and ball bearings. I certainly didn't feel like the picture-perfect bride in a bridal magazine.

**How easy it is  
for us to think we're  
utterly unlovely—  
especially to some-  
one as lovely as  
Christ!**

I inched my chair closer to the last pew to catch a glimpse of Ken in front. There he was, standing tall and stately in his formal attire. I saw him looking for me, craning his neck to look up the aisle. My face flushed, and I suddenly couldn't wait to be with him. I had seen my beloved. The love in Ken's face had washed away all my feelings of unworthiness. I was his pure and perfect bride.

How easy it is for us to think that we're utterly unlovely—especially to someone as lovely as Christ. But he loves us with the bright eyes of a Bridegroom's love and cannot wait for the day we are united with him forever.

### TO ALL MOTHERS ON MOTHERS' DAY

Countless times each day a mother does what no one else can do quite as well. She wipes away a tear, whispers a word of hope, eases a child's fear. She teaches, ministers, loves, and nurtures the next generation of citizens. And she challenges and cajoles her kids to do their best and be the best. But no editorials praise these accomplishments—where is the coverage our mothers rightfully deserve?

## E ASTER SURPRISE!

Our three-year-old, Nicole, was as anxious for Easter to come as she had been for Christmas to come. Since my wife was expecting our third child in just a few weeks, many persons were giving us baby gifts since this was our first child in this church. Nicole had picked out a new dress and Mom had given her a new white bonnet. As we stopped at a store to buy her a new pair of shoes to go with her outfit, she once again said, "I can't wait for Easter, Daddy!" I asked her, "Do you know what Easter means, honey?" She replied, "Yes." "Well, what does Easter mean?" In her own sweet three-year-old way, with arms raised, a smile on her face, and at the top of her voice she said, "Surprise!" What better word could sum up the meaning of Easter! Surprise, death! Surprise, sin! Surprise, mourning disciples! Surprise, modern man! He's alive!

James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited

### Easter Tidings

Beautiful are the lily blossoms,  
Enchanting music of the choir;  
Sacred are the Holy Scriptures,  
with the thoughts that they inspire.



Awakened by the Easter message,  
The faith we share;  
May these blessings move us  
At this time of praise and prayer.



Suzanne Ogilvie-Arendse

Those who see God's hand in everything  
can leave everything in God's hands.

## BOUGHT WITH A PRICE - STAR STORY OF THE MONTH

Murmurs rippled through the congregation when Reverend George Thomas placed a rusty old bird cage on the pulpit. The church members weren't used to their pastor using props in his sermons—especially not on Easter Sunday. Sensing the congregation's confusion, Reverend Thomas explained how he had obtained the cage.

It seems that the day before he had been walking through town when he noticed a young boy carelessly swinging the cage around. Thomas noticed that there were three obviously frightened little birds inside the cage. The pastor stopped the youngster and asked, "What have you got there, son?" "Just some old birds," came the reply. "And what are you going to do with them," he asked.



"Take 'em home and have some fun with 'em," the boy said. "I'm gonna poke 'em and pull out their feathers and watch 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time." "But those birds don't belong to you," said the pastor. "They do now," the boy responded. "I found 'em and I can do anything I want with 'em."

"But you'll get tired of playing with those birds, son. What will you do with them then?" "Oh, I've got some cats," grinned the boy. "They like birds. I'll give 'em to my cats."

The pastor was silent for a moment. Then he asked, "How much do you want for those birds, son?" "You don't want these birds, mister," said the boy. "They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing. They ain't even pretty." "How much?" The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "Ten bucks."

The pastor reached into his pocket and took out a ten dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone. The pastor set the cage down, opened the door, and gently coaxed the birds out, setting them free. The congregation listened quietly as the pastor told of his encounter with the boy. Then he told them another story.

Continued on page 15

## **NOTICE BOARD/NEWS BULLETIN**

### **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 20 hours a week - two week-days and Sundays. Please contact the vicar for more information.

### **CELEBRATION OF LOVE**

It was a momentous and joyous occasion as over 25 couples celebrated their loving relationships and renewed their marriage commitment on 5th February at Christ church, Crouch End Hill. This was after a thought provoking and interesting seminar given by the Revd Dele Agbelusi on "how to prevent the love bank going into the red and how to beat marriage busters". The Revd Brian Kyriacou, vicar of All Saints Church Edmonton presided at the service. He and his wife Jenny (married for over 40 years) joined the others in the celebration. Adrian and Sue Ogilvie-Arendse (married for over 47 years) received a gift while Keith and Dolores Van Anderson married less than a year ago also received a gift. There was more than enough to eat and drink after the service.

### **FAREWELL MARY INSKIP**

Christ Church Crouch End family, the family and friends of Mary Inskip had the privilege to say farewell to her remains at a worship service which celebrated the victory of every believer in Christ over death, and the assurance that Mary has been translated to glory. Mary died on 15 February after a long struggle with cancer. She was aged 47.

### **CHURCH ANNUAL QUIZ NITE - 16th APRIL**

### **THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

This month we pray for members of our church family whose surnames begin with T, U, V and W.

Tasker Rosemary, Topping Constance, Topping Roger, Tucker Diana, Tamalu Annette, Watson Granville, Wheeler Sheila.

## “THERE IS NO GOD”- QUOTATION OF A FOOL

Once upon a time a family of mice lived in a large piano. They loved their piano world and the music that often came to them, filling all the dark spaces with sound and harmony. At first the mice were impressed by it. They drew comfort and wonder from the thought that there was someone who made the music. Although this someone was invisible to them, he felt close to them. They loved to think about the Unseen Player whom they could not see.

Then one day a daring mouse climbed up part of the piano and returned in a very thoughtful mood. He had made a discovery which revealed how the music was made. Wires were the secret. He had found tightly stretched wires of graduated lengths which trembled and vibrated. Now the mice had to revise all their old beliefs. Only the most conservative mice could believe any longer in the Unseen Player.

Later, another mouse explorer returned from an expedition with yet a new discovery about the origins of the music. Hammers were the true secret! There were dozens of hammers that danced and leaped upon the wires! This was a more complicated theory, but it all went to show that they lived in a purely mechanical universe. The Unseen Player came to be thought of as a myth.

### **Meanwhile, the Unseen Player continued to play.**

Many people like this family of mice call the Christian faith, and any reference to God in creation a Myth— even though the Big Bang “Theory ” and the “theory” of evolution are regarded as truths. Whatever cannot be explained in scientific, technological and mathematical terms is regarded as a myth. Whereas God, the unseen player continues to play and we humans continue to benefit from progressive revelation. As He shows more and more of His creation to us. Yesterday, it was fingerprint technology that was the toast of forensic medicine. Today, D.N.A. seems to provide “all” the answers. What’s going to come next? God knows and He continues to love us.

**It is the fool who has said in his heart, there is no God.**

## QUOTES

"Christianity is a religion of the open tomb."

Roy L. Smith

"Christianity is in its very essence a resurrection religion. The concept of resurrection lies at its heart. If you remove it, Christianity is destroyed."

John R. W. Stott

"If God raised Jesus from the dead, why didn't God fix him up? Why scars? Why the print of nails that you could feel with your fingers? Can it be that the gospel is saying to us in our waiting: "You will not see Jesus Christ unless you see the wounds"? Somehow we must understand that the resurrected Christ is forever the wounded Christ. Living, but never fixed up. Not bound by death, yet scarred for eternity.

The deaf have a sign for Jesus. Quickly they make this sign many times during their worship: the middle finger of each hand is placed into the palm of the other. Jesus, the one with wounded hands. And when they touch the place, they remember. They hear the name in their own flesh.

John Vannorsdall

"I cannot give in to the devil's principal, deceitful tactic which makes so many Christians satisfied with an "Easter celebration" instead of experiencing the power of Christ's resurrection. It is the devil's business to keep Christians mourning and weeping with pity beside the cross instead of demonstrating that Jesus Christ is risen, indeed."

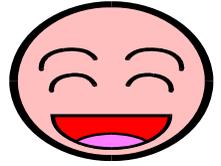
A. W. Tozer

In our quest to reach people for Christ, we must caution ourselves to never compromise the gospel's standards in order to accommodate those people who are not interested in repentance. Billy Graham's sentiments on this concern are most appropriate: "We are dangerously near to saying to the prodigal son, 'It is not necessary to return to your father and home; we can make you comfortable in the pigpen.'"\*

The Christian Persuader, Leighton Ford, 1988

# LAUGHTER LINES

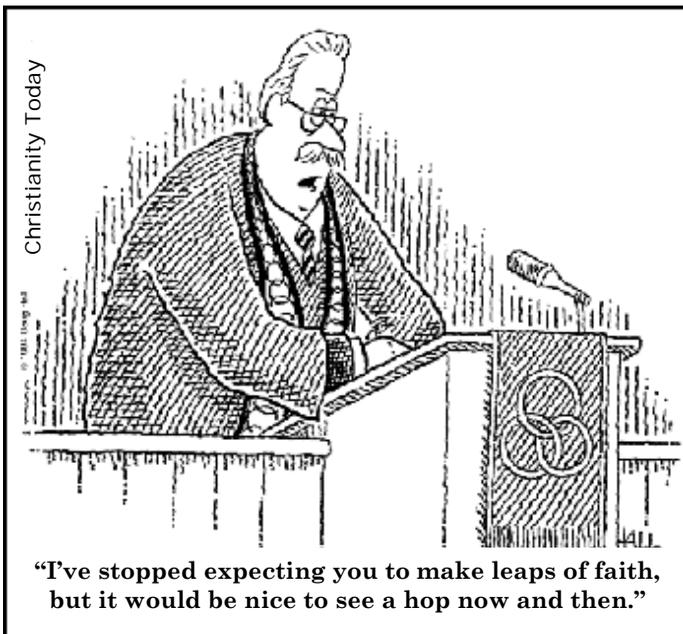
A man went to see his doctor, and when he came home he said to his wife: "I'm very worried. The doctor told me I'd have to take a pill every day for the rest of my life." "So?" his wife replied. Plenty of other people have to take a pill everyday for the rest of their lives". "I know," said the husband, "but the doctor gave me only three pills."



## Buy one get one free

Mum to the little boy: "Be a good boy for nanny. I'm just going to the hospital to have my baby." On return she surprised him with twins. On seeing them he looked up to his mother and said: "Mum, you said you were going to the hospital to have your baby. Did you buy one and get one free?"

submitted by Susan Ogilvie-Arendse



# LAUGHTER LINES



“... as an alternate to cash  
why not Chip and Pin?”

~~~~~

It's only natural that stressed-out people eat more desserts, because "stressed" spelled backwards is "desserts."

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A Texas rancher met up with a Wisconsin dairy farmer. The two men began talking about their land and the milkman told the cattlemen that he operated his business on 125 acres. The Texan scoffed at such a small parcel of land. He said, "Yankee, that ain't nothin'. On my ranch I can get in my truck at sunrise and I won't reach the fence line of my property until sunset." The dairy farmer snorted, "Yeah, I used to have a truck like that."

"Panorama of Parenting," Howard Hendricks, Dallas Theological Seminary,

~~~~~

Betty Traver always tries to instill in her children the need for prayer. Years ago, a perfect opportunity for prayer arose in their 1956 station wagon. They were setting off on an errand when the old clunker refused to start. Seizing the moment, Betty turned to her four-year-old son and asked him to pray. Closing his eyes tightly, he prayed, "Dear Lord, please help this piece of junk start."

\* Christian Reader, July/Aug. 1991

# DAISIES



## DAISIES

There is an old saying 'when you can stand on seven daisies at once then spring has come'. I like daisies with their bright yellow middles and tiny petals. If you look closely, you'll see that not all the daisies in any lawn will be white; some of them are edged with pink. When I was little I asked my mum why and she told me a lovely story to explain why.

Some of them have pink edges to their petals because on that first Easter morning, when Jesus walked in the garden and was seen by Mary and the other women who thought he was a gardener, his bare feet touched just some of the daisies in the grass. And because he still had the wounds in his feet his blood touched the daisies and marked their petals pink.



I love this story and still to this day I feel sorry for the daisies that Jesus didn't touch - because when Jesus touches our lives all things change and spring comes into our hearts forever.

## BIBLE D's

Can you find all the answers to this Bible Quiz? All the words begin with the letter D.

1. A tribe of Israel
2. He spent the night with some lions
3. Where Saul was going when Jesus appeared to him
4. Followers of Jesus
5. These made Joseph unpopular with his brothers
6. A famous king of Israel who played the harp

Answers at the bottom of the page.



How do dinosaurs pass exams?  
With extinction.



My little brother's name is Dad.

Why is that?  
They named him after my father.

What is the main ingredient on dog biscuits?  
Collie flour.



Answers:  
1. Dan 2. Daniel 3. Damascus 4. Disciples 5. Dreams 6. David

## WRONG DIAGNOSIS

Construction worker Patrick Lawler thought he had a toothache. For almost a week, he tried painkillers and ice packs to reduce the swelling. When nothing he did brought relief, he finally went to the dental office where his wife worked. Only after the dentist took an x-ray did Patrick learn the true source of the toothache. He had a four-inch nail in his head.

When the dentists reported their discovery to Patrick's wife, she thought they were joking. But the x-ray revealed the truth. The nail had entered through his mouth, just missing Patrick's right eye.

**A wrong diagnosis only leads to a wrong remedy. In the spiritual realm, unless we recognize the deadly reality of sin, we will never turn to the only solution, which is found in Christ.**

The incident occurred six days earlier. Patrick was working with a nail gun that backfired. Although one of the nails shot into his mouth and embedded itself, Patrick didn't realize it. He merely complained of a toothache and blurry vision, and even tried ice cream to soothe the pain.

After the nail was discovered, surgeons at a Denver hospital successfully removed it through four hours of surgery. Although it is a "pretty rare injury," one neurosurgeon admitted, "this is the second one we've seen in this hospital where the person was injured by the nail gun and didn't actually realize the nail had been embedded in their skull."

A wrong diagnosis only leads to a wrong remedy. In the spiritual realm, unless we recognize the deadly reality of sin, we will never turn to the only solution, which is found in Christ.

## GOD'S BILLBOARD MESSAGE AT GOLGOTHA

### Husband Sends a \$17,000 Apology

After 17 years of marriage, Marianne finally left Larry. "It was a culmination of things," said Larry. "But I am desperately trying to save our marriage."

Marianne left their home in Orlando, Florida, and went to her parents' home in Jacksonville. She changed her cell phone number so he couldn't reach her. Her parents blocked him from entering their gated community, so he sent her five-dozen roses. His goal was to ask forgiveness, to plead for the chance for the two of them to work on their relationship.

When none of those actions brought any response from his estranged wife, Larry took out a full-page ad in the Florida Times-Union on January 25, 2005. The ad read: "I can only hope you will give me the chance to prove my unending love for you. Life without you is empty and meaningless."

The cost of a full-page ad meant that Larry sent Marianne a \$17,000 apology. A relative told Larry that his wife had seen the ad. "She said my wife read the ad and started crying," he said. "But so far I've had no response from her."

After being ignored by the ones he loved, our redeemer God put a billboard on a hilltop just outside Jerusalem. Written in blood, the message says he is willing to pay the ultimate price—giving his only Son—to have a relationship with us.



**After being ignored  
by the ones he loved,  
our redeemer God  
put a billboard on a  
hilltop:**

**I AM WILLING TO  
PAY THE ULTIMATE  
PRICE TO HAVE A  
RELATIONSHIP  
WITH YOU.**

## Bought with a Price (continued from page 6)

One day Jesus and the devil were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, grinning and boasting. "I just caught me a bunch of people down there. Set me a trap! Used bait I knew they couldn't resist! Got 'em all!"

"What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked. "Oh, I'm gonna have fun with them.

**"Jesus paid the price. And on that first Easter Sunday morning, he picked up the cage, opened the door, and set us free."**

I'm gonna teach them how to hurt and abuse each other. I'll teach them how to marry and divorce each other, lie to each other, and kill each other. Oh, I'm gonna really have a good time!" "But those people don't belong to you," said Jesus. "They do now! I can do anything I want with them."

"And what will you do when you get through with them?" asked Jesus. "I'll kill them."

"How much do you want for them?" "Oh, you don't want these people," said the devil. "They're no good. You may love them, sure, but they'll just hate you back. They'll spit on you, curse you, and kill you. You don't want these people." "How much?" Jesus asked. Satan sized up Jesus as if he were crazy and said, "Your life."

The pastor ended his story this way: "Jesus paid the price. And on that first Easter Sunday morning, he picked up the cage, opened the door, and set us free."

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

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5: 1).

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

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

Tel/Fax: 020 8340 1566

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **6.00pm.** Evening worship

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

Monday - Baby n' Toddler Group (**10.00 am to 12 noon** ) -Term time only  
- Brownies meeting in Church ( **5.30 pm**)  
- Prayer meeting 14 March (**8pm**)

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

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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