



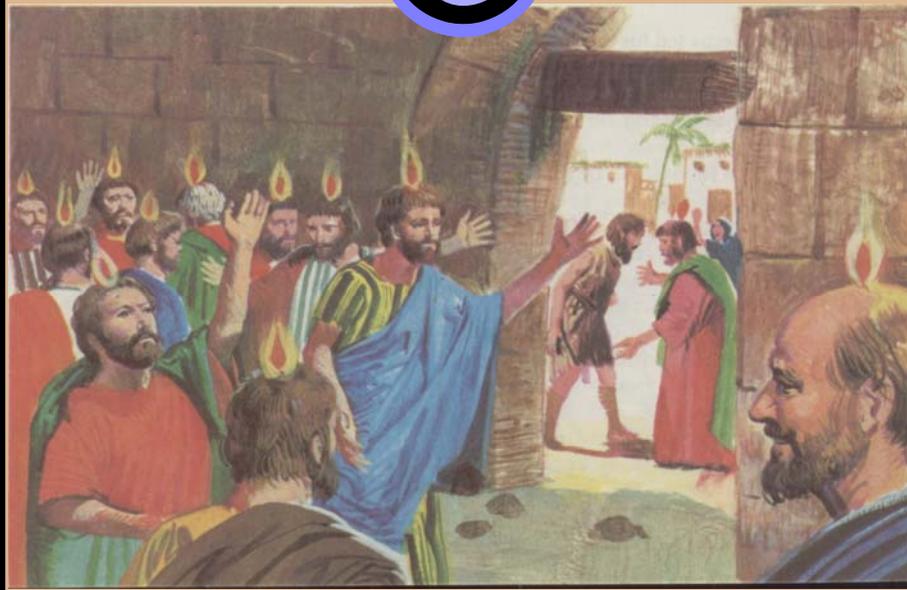
CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL

LONDON N8 8AX

CROSSLINKS

COME, COME HOLY SPIRIT COME

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



MAY/JUNE 2005 ISSUE 5.63

Vicar's three minute reflection THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU.



The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. He draws us into the presence of Christ, creating such a relationship between us and Jesus Christ that to speak of being in union with Him would not be blasphemous.

When people say that God is dead or is a remote being who has fled the scene, God responds in Jesus the Christ, a bodily being in full solidarity with us, and in the Holy Spirit; Someone who stretches between people, places and times to lead us forward in a renewed relationship with God and one another. This is basic to what it means to believe in Christ. Any belief in a dead god or a remote god is a belief in another god entirely.

This is a matter of great difference between a Christian and a Muslim. To a Muslim, God doesn't stoop to indwell in His followers; Allah is beyond that. God is not just Totally Other, but separate. When a Christian speaks of the Spirit 'indwelling', it means being in close relationship, and close relationship demands that you reveal not just will and message, but something of your very self. Islam has no room for a God that reveals himself that way. Christians believe that the heart, the character, and the love of God is revealed to us in creation, in the covenant with the Jews, and then definitively in God's Son, Jesus Christ. Getting us to grasp this is the job of the Holy Spirit.

I must admit that I cannot explain God or His Spirit in human terms. However, I believe that when you try to solve the mystery of the Trinity by scientific and rational means, it may drive you loony, or you may eventually find yourself on the edge of the cliff of heresy (teaching lies about God). But God has not left us in the dark. We know what matters most: what the Spirit is doing with us here in this time and place, and what Jesus and the Scriptures say about Him. Christ is the Holy Spirit's message, Christ's Kingdom is the Spirit's mission, and in any case, the Spirit's primary job is to bring us Christ and to bind Christ's believers together as Jesus' Body among the living.



It appears from what Jesus says in John 16 that the presence of the Spirit is something better, at least in some ways, than having Jesus alive in our midst, even in a resurrected form.

The Spirit is able to work within minds and through people's activities, in the everyday realm everywhere, throughout the centuries. Jesus does what could only be done by a bodily being who is in the Spirit, while the Holy Spirit does what a bodily being can't do by itself. (Whatever the task is, all of God's Persons are at work in the task somehow.)

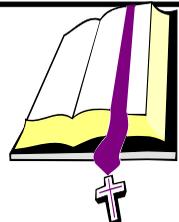
The Holy Spirit gives gifts to the believers in Christ. He is free to give and to take the gift back and to give it again; He is in full control over the gift. You're not responsible for the gifts you don't have, only for the gifts God gave you. So don't feel guilty, and don't let others make you feel guilty about what you do not have. Your job is to use the gifts you have and to be part of the community of support for those who have other gifts. Because they are given to all who believe, gifts are not proof that someone is more 'spiritual' than others, or that someone is 'saved'. There may be an openness to a particular gift, but there may not be an openness to the Giver, nor to those who may be built up by the gift's use.

Gifts don't make us superhuman. They're given to humans as they are, or perhaps as God is leading them to become. The gifts are given to each person individually, but they are given because that person is a part of the Body of believers in Christ- part of a redeemed creation in the Kingdom of God. The gifts will be given as needed until that Kingdom is fully in place, at which time partial things such as the spiritual gifts will no longer be needed. because we'll have the full knowledge of all that the Lamb of God has done for us.

Dele Agbelusi

MEMORY VERSE (John 16:13)

But when he, the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears and he will tell you what is yet to come.



FAMILY TIPS

Professor Nick Stinnett, chairman of the Department of Human Development and the Family at the University of Nebraska, headed a research project to "discover what makes families strong." Their team observed and interviewed three thousand strong families in South America, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, South Africa, and the United States. From all of this research they concluded that strong families have six main qualities:



1. Family members are committed to the family
2. They spend time together
3. They have good family communication
4. They express appreciation to each other
5. They have a spiritual commitment
6. They are able to solve problems in a crisis.

Strong family ties don't just happen--they take work!

Insight for Living Newsletter, Charles Swindoll, I, Sept. 1991

PARENTAL IMPACT

Dorothy Law Nolte noted, "If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn. If a child lives with hostility, he learns violence. If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy. If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty. If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence. If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate. If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice. If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself. If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to love the world."

Children Live What They Learn," Dorothy Law

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

FAMILY TIPS

LOVE AND AFFIRMATION

Henry was 73 years old when he moved into a rest home. Since the death of his wife two years earlier, Henry had been extremely lonely. After unpacking his belongings, Henry walked to the activities room, where many of the other residents were gathered. Everyone in the room was either talking, reading, playing cards, or watching television. Suddenly Henry felt nervous about trying to make new friends at his age. He wasn't sure he had made the right decision.

As he stood in the doorway surveying the room, Henry was startled by a gentle tap on the shoulder. He turned to find a small woman staring up at him. Even though she must have been 85 years old, she had a kind face and was attractive. She said nothing but continued to stare at Henry.

Finally, Henry said, "Good day, madam. My name is Henry." With a sparkle in her eye, the elderly woman said, "Henry, you look just like my fourth husband."

"I do?" Henry asked. "Tell me, how many husbands have you had?"

Smiling broadly, the woman replied, "Three."

Needless to say, the woman made Henry's day.

No matter how old you are, it still feels good to be wanted. Maybe you can give someone the gift of affirmation today. All kinds of lonely people need a tap on the shoulder and a reassuring smile.

Mark Twain once said, "I can live two weeks on one good compliment." Affirmation is a powerful act of grace that spreads God's love and leads to life. Let's build each other up and look for people around us every day who need a little encouragement and kindness (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

THE "U" IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God even stuck U in the name of His Son.
And each time U pray, you'll see it's true
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U
You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.
Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?



The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.
When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Now go into the world and tell them it's true
That the love I have shown is not just for U."
So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?
It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know,
But it all starts with U.

Parish Pump

FAITH IN CHRIST

A twelve-year-old boy became a Christian during a revival. The next week at school his friends questioned him about the experience. "Did you see a vision?" asked one friend. "Did you hear God speak?" asked another. The youngster answered no to all these questions. "Well, how did you know you were saved?" they asked. The boy searched for an answer and finally he said, "It's like when you catch a fish, you can't see the fish or hear the fish; you just feel him tugging on your line. I just felt God tugging on my heart."

James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited

NOTICE BOARD

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Parish concluded its AGM on Sunday, 24th April.

PCC members from April 2005 are :

Charles Murphy, Peter Green, Grace Macauley, Sheila Wheeler, Richard Mercer, Mervin Bentham, Emma Faulkner, Iyabo Agbelusi, Granville Watson, Pat Meadows, Luke Anand, Vera Freeburne.

Church Wardens: Peter Green and Charles Murphy

Sidespersons:

Roger Topping, Sheila Wheeler, Janet Benjamin, Elizabeth Jackson, Vera Freeburne, Emma Faulkner, Jim Jenks, Jasmine Green, Beverley Evans, Janet Abdulai, Lisa Miller, Granville Watson, Luke Anand, Mervin Bentham, Janet Crawford, Pat Meadows, Iyabo Agbelusi, Desiree Lukomona, Tolu Agbelusi, Nathanier Benda, and Uniformed Organisations.

Winners of the 2005 Quiz Nite held in the church hall on 16th April 2005. Congratulations!



QUOTES

Jesus told us that we will be known by our fruits. The fruits he spoke of were acts of love and a Godly character, not specific manifestations. There are so many gifts, and so many ways to put them to use for the church and its mission, that no one gift, no one sign, and no one calling defines us. The Giver does. If you look at any one gift that way, you're putting a limit on the sovereign Spirit in a way that Scripture never does. The gifts bear the fruit.

A PRAYER

Lord, let me find my strength in You. When I am weary, give me rest. When I feel overwhelmed, let me look to You for my priorities. Let Your power be my power, Lord and let Your way be my way, today and forever Amen

Forgiveness is not an emotion. Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart.

Corrie ten Boom

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Carr Sarah; Christian Ina; Clarke Joan; Coke Tania; Cole Christine; Collins Marion; Coxall Joan; Crawford Janet; Davies Genevieve; Dow Douglas; Edwards Andrea; Edwards Paul; Evans Beverley; Farthing Jeannette; Faulkner Emma; Forsdike Jack; Freeburne Vera; Furlong Rosalind; Gallagher Denise; Gardiner Stephen and Bridget; Goldson Barrington and Sharon; Greaves Sonia; Green Peter; Green Jasmine; Green Rosanne; Greenaway Catherine; Gregory Teresa.

SALLY ROBERTS' POETRY CORNER

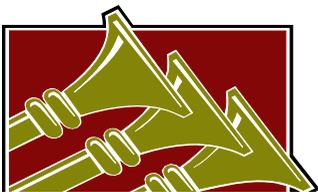
WHERE CAN I FIND YOU?

I find you in quickness Lord,
I look upwards and see the sky,
it was there yesterday, today and it will be there tomorrow.
The sun shines in all its glory and
I see Your face smiling down on me.
A gentle breeze rustles
to see that all is well in my little world

I hear You in the laughter and delight of a little child and
see You in the beauty and innocence of a new born babe
Who else could perform such a miracle?
I feel your love for me in the help
You send by someone, to do the things
I am unable to do myself
Without You Lord, I am nothing

I thank you all day long for even the smallest thing
Thank You Lord for giving me the eyes to see
the ears to hear of your many wonders.
I have so little to offer, but what I do have,
I share, lovingly and willingly with You and for You
Where do I find You Lord? Everywhere

Sally Ruby Roberts (1922- 2005)

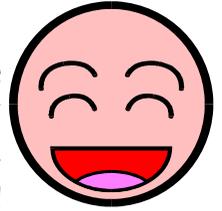


**Because Jesus lives, I can
face tomorrow.**

LAUGHTER LINES

A TASTE OF HELL

A missionary who had been several years in India was returning home and brought with him a supply of chutney of which he had become fond. A fellow passenger was interested in the entirely new food and was invited to partake. He helped himself liberally, then with great emotion with the tears running down his face, enquired, "You are a missionary, aren't you?" "Yes," was the reply. "And I suppose you believe in hell fire?" "That is so," replied the missionary. "Well, then," said the victim, "you are the first missionary I ever knew who carried samples around with him."



Anon

PAID IN FULL

A wealthy but eccentric man called his pastor, his doctor, and a political friend to his deathbed. He told them he disagreed with the conventional belief that you can't take your money with you when you die. He said, "I'm taking mine!" He pulled out three envelopes and handed one to each of the gathered trio. He explained how the envelopes contained \$30,000 in cash, and he wanted each man to throw an envelope in when they lowered his casket. At the funeral all three men did as their dead friend had requested. Upon returning from the cemetery, the pastor's conscience got the best of him, and he confessed to the doctor and politician, saying, "I needed the money for our church so I took out \$10,000 and threw \$20,000 into the grave." The doctor then came clean and admitted to taking \$20,000 for costs he had incurred at his clinic. The politician was appalled at their dishonesty. He pridefully said, "I'm ashamed of you gentlemen. I threw in a cheque for the full amount."

* Saturday Evening Post, March/ April 1992, p. 28

LAUGHTER LINES

DIVINE DIRECTIONS

One day I decided to take my three children to an ice skating party in a nearby town, but after several wrong turns and stops to ask directions, I pulled over to the side of the road and suggested we all ask God to help us find the rink. When we finally arrived, we were nearly an hour late. The following week, as we got into the car to go skating again, my five-year-old son exclaimed, "Mom, let's pray now and save time!"

Pegi Tehan

HOW FAR DO WE GO?



FORGIVENESS IS A VERB

In his book *Unexpected Blessings*, Cameron Lee includes a story related to him by a friend, involving the death of the friend's baby sister.

"During the third month of my sister's life, she became very ill with pneumonia. ... My parents took her to the hospital and had her placed inside an incubator. The doctor who was in charge monitored my sister for several hours and then sent her home with a prescription. ... The next morning my father was suddenly awakened by the uncomfortable realization through the entire interruptions from jumped out of the check on the baby. could remember of morning was lifting body and shaking it move. But it laid in motionless and dead.

... they needed to forgive the doctor. According to my mother, this was the most difficult thing for her to do.

The medication prescribed to my sister was too strong for her, which caused her to lose all control of her muscles. ... Several of our relatives suggested that my parents sue the doctor. However, after much consideration, prayer, and advice from my grandparents, they decided not to take legal action. Rather, they received the conviction from God that they needed to forgive the doctor and express that to her in letter form. According to my mother, this was the most difficult thing for her to do, yet after obeying the Lord she felt an overwhelming sense of freedom and peace within her heart

Four months following the death of my sister, I became incredibly ill with pneumonia. ... The doctor who had been in charge of my sister ... asked my father if he would allow her to take on my case. (continued on page 13)

FORGIVENESS IS A VERB

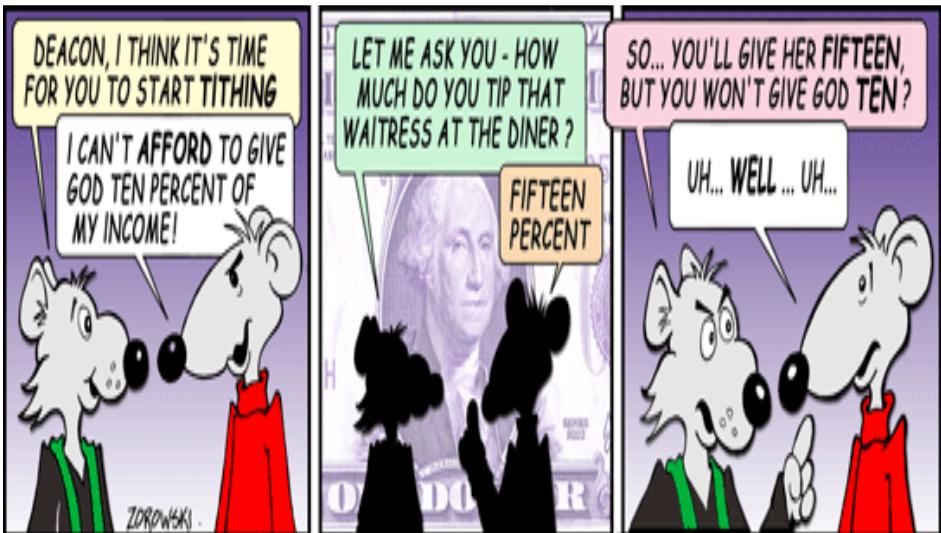
(from page 12)

Everyone was completely flabbergasted. My father said he needed some time to think it over. As my parents went to the Lord in prayer, they were convicted that this was an ultimate test of their forgiveness. They felt an overwhelming sense of peace that God was in control and that this would eventually become a powerful testimony. They agreed to let the doctor take on my case.

The next few days were incredibly tense and filled with many moments of uncertainty. However, by the fifth day, I had come out of intensive care and was on my way to a full recovery. On the day of my discharge, the doctor pulled my father and mother aside, and with tears running down her face, she expressed sincere gratitude for the forgiveness and grace they had extended to her.

Adapted from Cameron Lee, *Unexpected Blessing* (Intervarsity, 2004) pp.130-132

Are you a cheerful giver?



LOST IN WONDER, LOST FOR WORDS (II)

(the first part of this article was in the April issue of Crosslinks)

The Hebrews of the Old Testament were so overcome by God's greatness that they would not speak his name aloud. They took the vowels out of his name, leaving only four unpronounceable consonants: YHWH. They felt that God was so great that man should not speak his name in vain. All that Moses was allowed to see of God was his backside. To look at the glory of God was to have one's eyes burned out and blinded. Isaiah was confronted by God in the temple and cried out, "Woe is me! I am a sinner, a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips" (Isaiah 6:5). Even in the New Testament with Jesus as God-in-the-flesh, utter reverence was necessary. When the risen Christ confronted Saul on the Damascus road, his presence was so overwhelming that Saul was blinded for three days.

To recapture a sense of wonder and awe in our worship does not mean we must become more formal and ritualistic." It does mean, however, that we must allow the Holy Spirit to rekindle in our hearts a genuine sense of amazement at the goodness and grace of God.

"For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor?" A question which dumfounded Paul and led him to sing, "O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable are his ways!" An impossible question. A question with no answer, a question which led Paul to worship, lost in wonder, love, and praise because he remembered the wonderful things God had done for him - and for you and me as well.

But there was another question. a second impossible query, still another interrogative with no answer: "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" God had asked it of Job long centuries before and now Paul asked it of himself. Job had not been able to answer that question either. (contd. on p.15)

LOST IN WONDER (continued from page 14)

All he did was to confess his humanity before God's divinity and surrender himself in adoration. That was all Paul could do as well, and he did it with a magnificent confession of faith: "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen." Paul answered his second unanswerable question by confessing the holiness and greatness of God and his own utter dependence upon him.

That is where worship that is full of wonder, love and praise always leads: to the awareness of God's holiness and our dependence. When we truly worship, we become aware of God's holiness. We recognize that God is complete, that "from him and through him and to him are all things." One of the best loved hymns is "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!" The third stanza reminds us that, "Only thou (God, that is!) art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love, and purity." When we become aware of these differences, as did Job and Paul - then we discover that we can never repay God for his goodness to us. All we can do is confess and surrender to him in adoration.

Paul was a man lost in wonder, love, and praise, and all he could do was to pass that sense of wonder, love, and praise along to others. That's all we can do, as well; but if we do, it will be enough. That is exactly what God wants us to do.

(The end)

D.A.

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.

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 23rd May and 6th June (**8pm**)

Wednesday - Alpha Programme/ 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

Editorial Board: Iyabo Agbelusi, Grace Macauley, Dele Agbelusi

Vicar: Revd Canon Dele Agbelusi

Church Wardens: Peter Green, Charles Murphy.

Reader: Richard Mercer

Organist: Harold Randall

YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

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E-MAIL : christchurchN8@aol.com**