



**CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX
CROSSLINKS
ALL GOD'S CHILDREN**

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



NOVEMBER 2004 ISSUE 5.57

LORD HELP ME TO UNDERSTAND...



If you are a careful observer, you will observe that the Crosslinks issue number has jumped from 4 to 5. This is to tell you that I have been here at Christ Church for over five years and Crosslinks quietly celebrated its fifth birthday last month!

God, what can I say? First I thank you for your sustaining power which held me and led me on when I was enveloped by a cloud of uncertainty—especially in my first two years at Christ Church. I thank you for being there, through your people when I needed someone to share my burden with. I thank you for raising up men and women to lift up their hearts in prayer unto you to send labourers to your field. I thank you for the privilege to serve you and be a joint heir with your Son in Your ministry of reconciling the world to Yourself.

The young hide away at the back in this corner, smiling, and nudging and thinking their own way. "Let's have some changes. Let's brighten things up. Let's pull them to pieces. Let's..."

Sometimes, I sit in church on Tuesdays (my day-off), and sense the solemn quiet of it all: silent Organ, empty pews, table, pulpit, Bible, vase... It's all there— faith's furniture in storage for another week!

Forgive me Lord, if I see it only my way. Help me to view it through their eyes—the stones made sacred by a lifetime's prayer, the walls, which hold within them the joy, the hope, the sorrow and the love of many folk. Through these doors they came, as children do, wondering, but belonging. Here they stood to pledge their commitment to you., and then again share in the sorrowful remembrance of their dead. This is their home, where faith and life are bound together.

Seventy plus now. What's in her mind each week? Sitting here: the prayer, the word, the book, the hymn have helped her face the many years of her life—sometimes tragic, mostly hard. Her joyful faith puts mine to shame.

Fifty five now and middle-aged, his children grown and moved away. He works hard to earn his bread and run the car and think of an elusive retirement—"What's life about? Where have I been? Where do I go?" Sitting here, he sees me there. What word of mine can help him Lord?

The young hide away at the back in this corner, smiling, and nudging and thinking their own way. "Let's have some changes. Let's



brighten things up. Let's pull them to pieces. Let's..."

Oh, they frighten me Lord ! And they cause me to think. Don't let me cheat them. Don't let me fail them.

So here they sit, the young, the old, the rich, the poor, the educated and the ordinary. Lord, help me to understand how they feel and to know how they think.

May my words spoken here contain your Word for them; and most of all, help me to think not of them and me, but of us together, belonging to your One Family going about your great business in your world. Lord, I thank you for these past five years with You and your people on this our holy pilgrimage together . God, for the umpteenth time, You are so good!

Dele Agbelusi

A SMALL WORD WITH A GREAT MEANING "IF"

If I can make someone happy when I know they are feeling sad

If I can see good in someone—although they appear to be bad,

If I can share with someone the things I have— they have not,

And offer to someone lonely, some of the time I've got.

If I don't take out on others, problems that bother me,

But try to find the answers and meet folks—cheerfully,

If when another is weary, I can help to lighten their loads,

and show them they still have a reason

why they should travel the road,

If I can see for a moment someone forget his pain by

a touch or a word I have whispered,

See two tired eyes shine again.

If I can bring comfort by loving a small or unhappy child,

see beauty in things growing wild, by a country roadside,

If I have done just something, or one of these things for you I hope

You'll remember me kindly as someone you're glad you knew,

and

If at the close of the evening, I'm feeling contentment inside,

I'll think

It was all worth the living and know that, at least I have tried.

Memory Verse:

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid

(Psalm 27:1)



HOW 20 - YEAR OLDS SEE THE WORLD



How 20-year-olds See the World

Beloit College prepares the Mindset List each session to help the school understand incoming students.. Here are some highlights from the class of 2004, most of whom were born in 1984:

"Ctrl + Alt + Del" is as basic as "ABC."

Bert and Ernie are old enough to be their parents.

An automatic is a weapon, not a transmission.

There has always been a screening test for AIDS.

Banana Republic has always been a store, not a puppet government in Latin America.

Computers have always fit in their backpacks.

They have never gotten excited over a telegram, a long distance call, or a fax.

Test tube babies are now having their own babies.

Stores have always had scanners at the checkout.

They have always had a PIN number.

They have never been able to find the "return" key.

Directory assistance has never been free.

There has always been Lean Cuisine.

There have never been dress codes in restaurants.

Michael Eisner has always been in charge of Disney.

Gas/fuel has always been unleaded.

Rock and Roll has always been a force for social good.

WHAT ARE YOU GIVING TO YOUR CHILD?

When children live with tolerance and fair treatment

They learn to be patient and fair with others

When children live with praise and compliments

They learn appreciation.

When children live with fairness

They learn the meaning of justice

When children live with security

They learn to have faith

When children live with approval

They learn to like themselves

When children live with unconditional acceptance

They learn to find love in God and the world.

MAKE ME LIKE JOE?

A drunk named Joe was miraculously converted at a Bowery mission. Prior to his conversion, Joe had gained the reputation of being a dirty wimp for whom there was no hope, only a miserable existence in the ghetto. But following his conversion to a new life in Christ, everything changed. Joe became the most caring person that anyone associated with the mission, had ever known. Joe spent his days and nights hanging out at the mission doing whatever needed to be done. There was never any task that was too lowly for Joe to take on. There was never anything that he was asked to do that he considered beneath him. Whether it was cleaning up the vomit left by some violently sick alcoholic or scrubbing the toilets after careless men left the bathroom filthy, Joe did what was asked with a soft smile on his face and with a seeming gratitude for the chance to help. He could be counted on to feed feeble men who wandered into the mission off the street, and to undress and tuck into bed men who were too out of it to take care of themselves.

One evening, when the director of the mission was delivering his evening evangelistic message to the usual crowd of still and sullen men with drooped heads, there was one man who looked up, came down the aisle to the altar and knelt to pray, crying out for God to help him to change. The repentant drunk kept shouting, "Oh God, make me like Joe! Make me like Joe! Make me like Joe! Make me like Joe!" The director of the mission leaned over and said to the man, "Son, I think it would be better if you prayed, 'Make me like Jesus!'" The man looked up at the director with a quizzical expression on his face and asked, "Is he like Joe?"

(From Everything You've Heard is Wrong by Tony Campolo,)

Youth Specialities, Inc 2001

SIGNS OF THE TIMES (1)

The following anonymous reflection sums up contemporary culture very well:

- We have taller buildings but shorter tempers
- Wider motorways but narrower viewpoints
- We spend more, but we have less
- We buy more, but enjoy it less
- We have bigger houses and smaller families
- More conveniences, but less time
- We have more degrees, but less common sense

THANKFULNESS

A TRUE TIP

A harried waitress approached the table where a young girl was sitting by herself. She quickly asked the girl what she wanted. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" the little girl inquired. The waitress snapped, "A dollar seventy-five." The girl looked at her fistful of change and then asked, "How much is a dish of just plain ice cream?" "One-fifty," retorted the waitress. "Then I'll take the plain ice cream, please," said the young customer. The waitress returned with the bowl of ice cream but delivered it in rude silence. After the little girl finished her ice cream and left, the waitress went to clean off the table. To her shame, she found two dimes and five pennies. Her tip was the exact amount the little girl needed to get a sundae rather than just plain ice cream. In each of our lives, others have made sacrifices for our well being. May we be grateful for even the smallest gesture of kindness we receive.



Stories for Preachers

EVERYBODY BUT THE PIGS

A visiting farmer stopped at a city restaurant to eat lunch. When he was served his food he bowed his head and gave thanks to the Lord. Some uncouth guys sitting at a nearby table noticed the farmer's prayer and shouted, "Hey, pops, back where you come from does everybody pray before they eat?" Their laughter was silenced when the unmoved farmer answered, "Everybody but the pigs."

"Studying Adult Life and Work Lessons," Herschel Hobbs

A man was watching his eighty-year-old neighbour planting a small peach tree. He inquired of him as follows: "You don't expect to eat peaches from that tree, do you?" The old man rested on his spade. He said, "No, at my age I know I won't. But all my life I've enjoyed peaches--never from a tree I planted myself. I'm just trying to pay the other fellows who planted the trees for me."

James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited

NOTICE BOARD

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

This year's confirmation Service will take place on 21st November at the 10.30am worship time. Please pray for the nine people who will be confirmed as they publicly declare their faith in Christ Jesus. The Bishop of Edmonton, Rt. Reverend Peter Wheatley will be leading the service. You are all invited.

ALPHA AT CHRIST CHURCH

Alpha programme continues in the church hall every Wednesday at 7.30pm (for a hot meal) and at 8pm for the day's discussion.

MID WEEK BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

You do not have to belong to Christ Church to be a part of this Bible fellowship group. We meet at 7.30pm every Wednesday and begin with a hot meal after which we have a brief bible exposition followed by a discussion. We are now looking at the Gospel of John. Please feel free to join us.

YOUTH WORKER

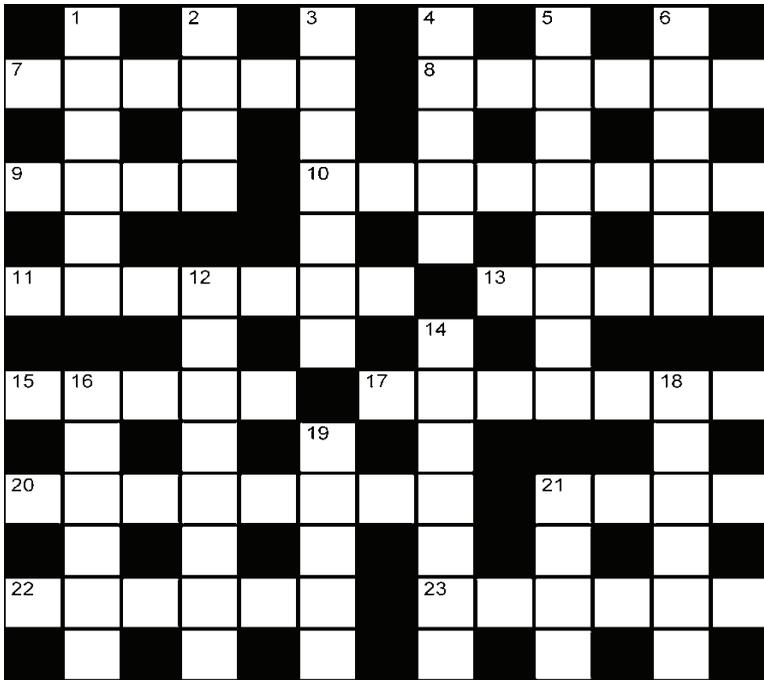
The church is looking for a Christian youth worker who loves the Lord passionately and is able to work with the church's team to develop our Youth and Community ministry. The applicant is expected to put in 24 hours a week, Sundays inclusive. Please contact the vicar for more information.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- Thank God for His goodness to us in the Alpha group and the Wednesday's Bible fellowship
- This month we pray for members of our church family whose surnames begin with F, G and H

Farthing Jenny, Emma Faulkner, Jack Forsdike, Freeburne Vera, Furlong Ross, Gallagher Denise, Gardiner Steve, Gardiner Bridget, Gillet Clare, Green Peter, Green Jasmine, Green Rosanne, Greenaway Catherine, Gregory Tess, Hawthorne Giles, Haynes Katharine, Horton Rosemary, Hunt Ruth.

CROSSWORD



Across

- 7 Outward or token appearance (6)
- 8 The basic unit of money in Israel (6)
- 9 A youthful attendant at official functions or ceremonies (4)
- 10 A member of an ancient Jewish sect noted for strict obedience to traditions (8)
- 11 100 years (7)
- 13 The loose soft material that makes up a large part of the land surface (5)
- 15 A prominent mountain, 11 miles west of the Sea of Galilee (5)
- 17 Number of disciples sent forth by Jesus (7)
- 20 An ancient seaport in northwestern Israel (8)
- 21 Address God (4)
- 22 To separate grain from chaff (6)
- 23 The fruit of an evergreen tree cultivated in the Mediterranean region (6)

Down

- 1 A journey (6)
- 2 Capital city of Italy (4)
- 3 Make ready (7)
- 4 Commonly encountered (5)
- 5 Give entirely to a specific person (8)
- 6 An arid region with little or no vegetation (6)
- 12 Another name for family or clan (8)
- 14 Northern boundary of the land of Canaan (7)
- 16 Arid, an extensive region in the south-west of Asia (6)
- 18 To go from one place to another (6)
- 19 Dull orange (5)
- 21 Two items of the same kind (4)

Source: Parish Pump

(Answers on page 11)

IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER

Unexpected Answers

How do you solve a personal problem? Let's say you have a fondness for gossip or quarreling. How do you stop? Or suppose you have a life-controlling addiction to alcohol or drugs or sex. How do you get free? Sometimes the answer is something that seems totally unrelated.

For example, in the middle of winter when your feet are cold, you may try putting on thicker socks or a blanket. Still your feet may be icy. One secret to warm feet is to stop focusing on your feet and look at your head. That's right, go to the other end of your body and put a hat on. Although your neck and head have only 10 percent of your body surface, in the cold that's where you lose a whopping 30 percent of your body heat. Having nothing on your head is like opening a window in your house in the dead of winter. If you keep that heat in your body with a hat, your blood will carry it down to your toes. In the same way, when people have problems, spiritual leaders often recommend that they do something that sounds unrelated—such as read the Bible, pray, go to church, or focus on serving other people. These seemingly unrelated things bring grace to help overcome problems.

Citation: Craig Brian Larson, editor, Preaching Today.

Source: Reader's Digest (December 2002).

SIGNS OF THE TIMES (2)

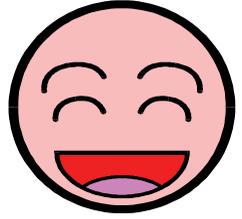
- We have more knowledge, but less judgement
- More experts, but more problems
- More medicine, but less well being
- We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values
- We talk too much, but lie too often
- We've learned how to make a living, but not how to live life
- We have added years to life, but not life to years
- We've been all the way to the moon and back, but can't cross the street to help a neighbour
- We write more, but learn less

LAUGHTER LINES

SHARING

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, five, and Ryan, three. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.

Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson: "If Jesus were sitting here, he would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait." Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"



TEACHERS

A school teacher injured his back and had to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. It fitted under his shirt and was not noticeable at all.

On the first day of term, still with the cast under his shirt, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in school. Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, he opened the window as wide as possible and then busied himself with desk work. When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he took the desk stapler and stapled the tie to his chest. Discipline was not a problem from that day forth!

Stories for preachers

FOXHOLE RELIGION

A pilot and his navigator had been shot down and were adrift at sea in their tiny lifeboat. After several days without food, water, and any hope of rescue, the pilot began to pray. He said, "God, you know I haven't lived a very good life. I've been a miserable husband and a terrible father, I've cheated, lied and stolen, and haven't had any use for the church. But God, if you'll save us from dying out here, I promise I'll never--" The navigator interrupted, "Don't say another word! I think I see land!"

* The Happy Clergy, Herb Walker, 1977, p. 12

LAUGHTER LINES

Last chance?

The vicar was very ill, and was told by his doctor not to have too many visitors. However, when his agnostic friend called, the unbeliever was ushered into the vicar's bedside. "I do appreciate," said the agnostic, "your seeing me when so many of your friends have not been able to see you." "Well, it's like this," said the vicar. "I feel confident that I shall see my friends in heaven, but I was worried that this might be my last chance to see you!"

Parish pump

Died in the services

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and seemed to fascinate the seven-year old. "All those names," he said to the minister. "Who are they?" "Well, they were people who used to go to this church," explained the minister. "This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services." Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?"

Parish pump

DUMB MOVE

Christian comedian John Paite noted, "Satan has to be the dumbest creature. Just think about it. He's sitting in heaven somewhere thinking, 'God's the creator, he's omnipotent, he's invincible, nothing can hurt him. . . . I think I can take him!'"

* Innovative Church Growth Conference, 1994

• Solution to Crossword

Across

7 COLOUR, 8 SHEKEL, 9 PAGE, 10 PHARISEE, 11 CENTURY, 13 EARTH, 15 TABOR, 17 SEVENTY, 20 CAESAREA, 21 PRAY, 22 WINNOW, 23 OLIVES

Down

1 VOYAGE, 2 ROME, 3 PREPARE, 4 USUAL, 5 DEDICATE, 6 DESERT, 12 THOUSAND, 14 LEBANON, 16 ARABIA, 18 TRAVEL, 19 BROWN, 21 PAIR

THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

While we pride ourselves on new discoveries and technological advancements, leading us to discard obsolete inventions and update books and publications that were a few months earlier considered 'concrete facts', God is not about to update the Bible which has been around for thousands of years. There is nothing new about human nature that God needs to update. Psychologists and Sociologists try hard to explain or excuse away certain human behaviours, but God explains that as part of the depravity of man arising from the wickedness of his heart which only God understands. We are certainly growing in knowledge in regard to physical things: Rockets that go to the moon & Mars, medicine for almost every disease and laser surgeries, Internet and all forms of communication, etc. but on the other hand we are regressing as the dehumanization of man has taken center stage: Sin is nothing to be ashamed of any more; integrity is nothing as long as the economy is growing; homosexuality, pornography, abortion are issues of right and personal preferences. Man is fast becoming 'untamed' and no wonder our world is more dangerous than it has ever been. This is certainly not progress. **"Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body...the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments..."** Ecc. 12:12-13

SIGNS OF THE TIMES (3)

We plan more, but accomplish less
We have higher incomes, but lower morals
We have more acquaintances but fewer friends
These are times of fast foods and slow digestion
Tall men and short character
Steep profits and shallow relationships
These are times of world peace but domestic warfare
More leisure and less fun
More kinds of food but less nutrition
These are days of two incomes but more divorce
Of fancier houses but broken homes
It is a time when there is much in the shop window
and nothing in the stock room. (Anon. From a box of Delights)

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE IF YOU ONLY BELIEVE...

I remember the first time my older son Jim and I worked as counsellors with the Billy Graham Crusade. It was at Shea Stadium in New York. The airplanes from La Guardia Airport flew over the stadium, dozens by the hour.

On the opening night of training, the Reverend Billy Graham started talking with us from the podium as the engines roared overhead. He paused, glanced up and quietly said, "We'll have to do something about this noise. This just won't do." He bowed his head and said a simple prayer to the effect: "Lord, we ask you to shift the wind and send these planes in another direction. Thank You. Amen."

Well, we were believers, but this was a tall order. We weren't sure what, if anything, to expect. But God did it—he answered our prayers in a wondrous way! The morning newspaper reported that the winds had changed during the night, and the airplanes over Shea Stadium had to be routed another way. For several days thereafter, thousands of people came to Christ under this anointed leader's preaching. At the conclusion of the crusade, the winds reverted to their normal flow, and the airplanes returned to their normal flight patterns.

Citation: Bobbye Byerly, Miracles Happen When Women Pray (Regal, 2002, p. 20); submitted by Jennifer M. Scott, Carol Stream, Illinois

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

BISHOPS OPPOSE EUTHANASIA BILL

Bishops oppose 'misguided and unnecessary' euthanasia Bill

Church of England and Roman Catholic bishops have joined forces to urge the UK Parliament not to change the law on euthanasia, arguing that allowing assisted suicide would undermine the protection of vulnerable people.

In a joint submission to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill, the Church of England House of Bishops and the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales describe the Bill as "misguided" and "unnecessary" and warn it would damage the relationship of trust between doctors and patients. The Select Committee was set up to consider a Private Member's Bill introduced by Lord Joffe.



Jesus lives

In its conclusion, the bishops' joint submission says: "It is deeply misguided to propose a law by which it would be legal for terminally ill people to be killed or assisted in suicide by those caring for them, even if there are safeguards to ensure it is only the terminally ill who would qualify.

"To take this step would fundamentally undermine the basis of law and medicine and undermine the duty of the state to care for vulnerable people. It would risk a gradual erosion of values in which over time the cold calculation of costs of caring properly for the ill and the old would loom large. As a result many who are ill or dying would feel a burden to others. The right to die would become the duty to die."

It adds: "The Bill is unnecessary. When death is imminent or inevitable there is at present no legal or moral obligation to give medical treatment that is futile or burdensome. It is both moral and legal now for necessary pain relief to be given even if it is likely that death will be hastened as a result. But that is not murder or assisted suicide.

"What terminally ill people need is to be cared for, not to be killed. They need excellent palliative care including proper and effective regimes for pain relief. They need to be treated with the compassion and respect that this Bill would put gravely at risk."

In a covering letter to the chairman of the Select Committee Lord Mackay, the Most Revd Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and HE Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Archbishop of Westminster, said: "We believe very strongly that respect for human life at all its stages is the foundation of a civilised society, and that the long term consequences of any change in the law to allow euthanasia in limited circumstances would be immensely grave.

BEWARE OF THE DEVIL'S TRICKS

"Those kids will drive you crazy!" That's what the old man's friends told him when he bought the small, well-kept house just down the street from the local junior high school. Contrary to their warnings though, the man's first few weeks in his new house went without a hitch. Then the new school year began.

The very next afternoon three young boys, full of pent-up energy, whooped their way down his street, beating merrily on every trash can they passed. The crashing percussion continued day after day, until finally the man decided it was time to take some action.

One afternoon he walked out to meet the young percussionists as they banged their way home. He said, "You kids are a lot of fun. I like to see you express your excitement like that because it reminds me of the things I used to do when I was your age. In fact, I like it so much that I'll give you each a dollar if you'll promise to come around every day and do your thing." The kids grinned at each other and agreed to continue their afternoon trash can performances

After a few days, the old-timer greeted the kids again, but this time he had a sad smile on his face. "This recession's really putting a big dent in my income," he told them. "From now on, I'll only be able to pay you 50 cents to beat on the trash cans."

The noisemakers were obviously disappointed, but they accepted his offer and continued their daily NOISEMAKING. A few days later, the wily retiree approached the kids again as they drummed their way down the street.

"Look," he said, "I haven't received my Social Security check yet, so I'm not going to be able to give you more than 25 cents. Will that be okay?"

"A lousy quarter?" the drum leader exclaimed. "If you think we're going to waste our time beating these cans around for a quarter, you're nuts! No way, mister. We quit!" And from that day on, the man enjoyed peace in the afternoon.

What do we learn from this experience?

By turning the drummers' fun into work, the wise old man was able to sap the enjoyment from what they were doing. Sometimes the devil tries to trick Christians in the same way. If he sees us serving God out of pure enjoyment and love, he may try to focus our attention on the rewards we stand to gain instead. Whether it's status, recognition, fame, glory, or even a better "mansion in heaven," if the devil can get us thinking about selfish motives for serving God, there's a good chance he can sap the carefree joy that comes from doing what we were created to do.

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 congregation 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 8th & 29 November, 13 December(**8pm**)

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

Thursday - Home Group 17 Coleridge Road N8 8EH (**9:30 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 - call 020 8340 1566

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Church Warden: Peter Green

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YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

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