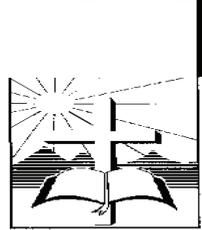
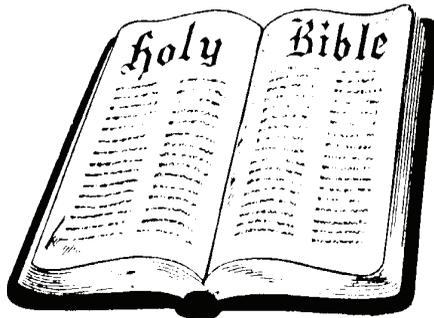
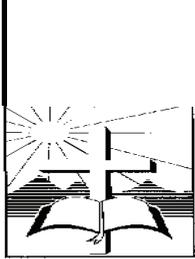
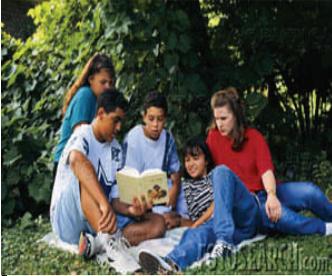




**CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX
CROSSLINKS
THE BIBLE AND YOU**

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



OCTOBER 2004 ISSUE 5.56

THE BIBLE AND YOU



As our country continues its slide away from the Bible and its teaching, it becomes imperative to devote this edition to the Scriptures, perhaps by doing so, we can reclaim some lost grounds in the experience of some of our readers. It was J. I. Packer who said " God the Father is the giver of Holy Scripture; God the Son is the theme of Holy Scripture; and God the Spirit is the author, authenticator, and interpreter of Holy Scripture". A man who loves his wife will love her letters and her photographs because they speak to him of her. So if we love the Lord Jesus, we shall love the Bible because it speaks to us of him.

The Bible is a massive historical presence. Its influence on nearly every area of life is difficult to exaggerate. Suffice it to say, the world would be a darker, uglier, crueler place than we can imagine if it were not for the light, beauty, and love revealed in the Bible.

Why do we need the Bible? Because right and wrong, good and bad, just and unjust disappear into a fog of formless gray without the Bible. Unless God has revealed to us a moral code, we have none except that which is imposed on us by whoever has enough power. Our light becomes darkness. Other books were given for our information, the Bible was given for our transformation. John Henry Newman said "I read my Bible to know what people ought to do, and my newspaper to know what they are doing"

The Bible is important because it gives us objective truth. We are living in a day when there are those who say there is no such truth. In fact, Allan Bloom wrote in his profound book, *The Closing of the American Mind*, that the most common value held by nearly everyone today is that all truth is relative. "In fact, if there is one thing we can be certain of", they say, "it is that there is nothing they can be certain of."

But do you know what happens if all truth is relative? What happens is that the blindfold goes on. Suddenly humanity cannot see. It is just as likely to pin the donkey's tail on the sofa as it is on the donkey. It is a dangerous world when you cannot see. The person without truth has no answers for the great questions of life: Who am I?; where did I come from?; why am I here?; and where am I going? He has no basis

Other books were given for our information, the Bible was given for our transformation. John Henry Newman said "I read my Bible to know what people ought to do, and my newspaper to know what they are doing"



for declaring something right or wrong, good or bad, beautiful or ugly, just or unjust. However, the instant the light is turned on, the danger is over. We see the donkey clearly, and the tail can be put in the right place. The Bible gives us moral standards which are necessary if we are to get along with each other. If it were not for

God and the Bible, it is hard to tell how far civilization might degenerate. Hitler killed six million Jews and many Christians who tried to help them. Stalin killed over fifty million of his countrymen. These men were committed and reasoned atheists. Without God, the "rights and wrongs" of what we call civilized countries disappear. If there is no God, then there is nothing inconsistent with what these men did. You may not like it. You may prefer that they ought not to have done it, but you cannot call it wrong. They thought it was right. So who are you to call them wrong? But if God calls them wrong, then you have something. There is leverage there.

As we look at the great conveyor belt of life, we see people sitting on it out in front of us, and as they get to the end, they drop off. But we don't know where they go. Left to our own perceptions or knowledge, we have no confidence in knowing what happens when we die.

The Bible speaks convincingly of life after death, and tells us what we must do to prepare ourselves for eternal life. You don't hear much about it these days when tolerance is the number-one virtue, and objective truth is sacrificed on the altar of tolerance, but the Bible teaches that there is a heaven and a hell. Heaven is a place of eternal joy, and hell is a place of torment and eternal destruction. In teaching me the way to live, it taught me how to die. (George Pope Morris)

In the Bible, Jesus declares that "He is the way, the truth and the life, and that no one can come to the Father except through Him."

People who don't know the Bible well have stereotyped ideas of what it teaches, thinking that it teaches intolerance, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness. The fact is, if everyone started following the Bible today, most of our major social problems would be solved, or well on their way, by tomorrow!

Dele

Memory Verse

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm 119:105



QUOTES ON THE BIBLE FOR ALL THE FAMILY



A Bible that's falling apart probably belongs to someone who isn't.

Christian Johnson

However powerful and learned he may be, the Bible always sets man face to face with God, reminding him thus of his frailty and his weakness.

Paul Tournier (1898-1986)

Any single verse of the Bible, taken in isolation, may actually be dangerous to your spiritual health. Every part of it must be read in relation to the whole message.

Louis Cassels

Do you know a book that you are willing to put under your head for a pillow when you are dying? Very well; that is the book you want to study when you are living. There is only one such book in the world.

Joseph Cook (1838-1901)

In the Old Testament the new lies hidden, in the New Testament the old is laid open.

Saint Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand.

Mark Twain (1835-1910)

One of the many divine qualities of the Bible is this: that it does not yield its secrets to the irreverent and censorious.

J. I. Packer (1926-)

Its critics, who claimed it to be filled with forgery, fiction, and unfulfilled promises, are finding that the difficulties lie with themselves, and not the Bible. Greater and more careful scholarship has shown that apparent contradictions were caused by incorrect translations rather than divine inconsistencies. It was man and not the Bible that needed correcting. It is the blueprint of the Master Architect.

Billy Graham (1918-)

Once you and I are face to face with the Word of God. . . we can only accept or reject it. Jesus becomes the two-edged sword that cuts right down the middle, dividing us into believers and non believers.

John Powell

Edythe Draper, Draper's Book of Quotations for the Christian World

THE STORY OF THE MONTH

About to graduate from high school, a young man from a wealthy family was anticipating his gift. It was the custom in that affluent neighbourhood for the parents to give the graduate a new car. Jason and his father had spent months looking at cars, and the week before graduation they found the perfect car. Jason was certain that this car would be his on graduation night. Imagine his disappointment when, immediately following the graduation ceremony, Jason's father handed him a small, elegantly wrapped package. It must be the keys to my new car, Jason thought.

The Bible is full of treasures.
“Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you”
(Matthew 6:33).
Open it; read it; apply it.

Upon opening the gift, though, all he found was a Bible with his name imprinted on the front. A Bible? He took it out, looking to find car keys in the box. Empty! Jason was so angry that he threw the Bible down and stormed out of the house. His father tried to stop him, but Jason kept on running. He and his father never saw each other again.

News of his father's death finally brought Jason home again. As he went through the possessions he was about to inherit from his father, he came across the graduation Bible. Brushing away the dust, he opened it and began idly flipping through the pages. A paper tucked inside caught his eye and he pulled out of the Bible a cashier's check, dated the day of his graduation, in the exact amount of the car he and his father had chosen.

What can we learn from this story? A lot. But in a nutshell it encourages us to stay close to God and He will give you the desires of your heart. The Bible is full of treasures. “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33). Open it; read it; apply it.

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FROM THE MOUTH OF BABES



This collection of comments about the Bible was actually written by children.

The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off.

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Cain, asked "Am I my brother's son?"

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark, which the animals came to in pears. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night. Jacob, son of Isaac, stole his brother's birthmark. Jacob was a partridge who had twelve sons. One of Jacob's sons, Joseph, gave refuse to the Israelites.

Sampson was a strong man who let himself be led astray by Jezebel. Then he slayed the Philistines with the ax of the apostles.

People who lived in Egypt were called mummies. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and traveled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is so hot that it is cultivated by irritation.

Pharaoh forced the Hebrew slaves to make bread without straw. Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterward, Moses went up to Mount *Cyanide* to get the Ten Amendments. The First Commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple. The Fifth Commandment is humor thy father and mother. The Seventh Commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.

Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle to Geritol. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

(Continued on page 14)

NOTICE BOARD

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

This year's confirmation Service will take place on 21st November at the 10.30am worship time.

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

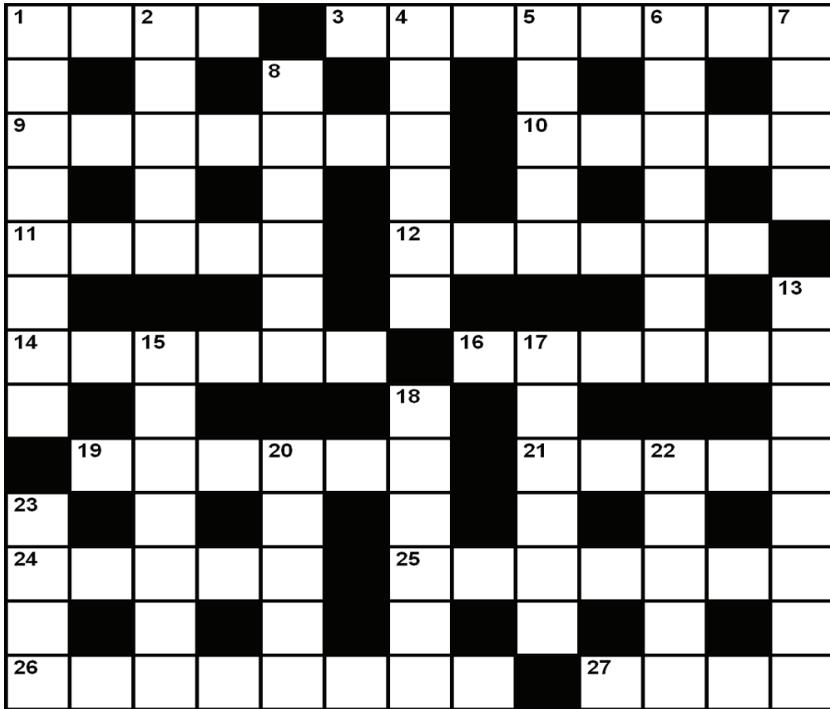
The church is looking for a Christian youth worker who loves the Lord passionately and is able to work with the church's team to develop our Youth ministry. The applicant is expected to put in 24 hours a week, Sundays inclusive.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- Thank God for the success of our open-day and the launching of "Our Shared values" document.
- Thank God for His goodness to us in the Alpha group and the Wednesday's Bible fellowship
- Thank God for answered prayers and how our faith in Him is being built up.
- This month we pray for members of our church family whose surnames begin with C, D and E

Carr Sarah, Christian Ina, Clarke Joan, Cole Christine, Collins Marion, Cooper Betty, Coxall Joan, Crawford Janet, Davies Genevieve, Dow Douglas, Edwards Paul, Edwards Andrea, Evans Beverley.

CROSSWORD



Clues Across

- 7** Determine the place of (6)
- 8** Married, also meaning favoured and blessed of the Lord (6)
- 9** A change of position (4)
- 10** A collection of precious things (8)
- 11** Someone who speaks by divine inspiration (7)
- 13** The sacred writings of the Christian religion (5)
- 15** Members of the shepherd's flock (5)
- 17** Serious and intent (7)
- 20** Something brought into existence (8)
- 21** An indication of approval (4)
- 22** Densely wooded area (6)
- 23** A soft pale precious metal (6)

Clues Down

- 1** Esteem or respect (6)
- 2** A type of priestly offering (4)
- 3** A person not acknowledging God (7)
- 4** Commander-in-chief of Saul's army (5)
- 5** Challenge the accuracy of (8)
- 6** A cylindrical container (6)
- 12** A star cluster in the constellation Taurus (8)
- 14** Insanity (7)
- 16** A woman consecrated or devoted to prostitution (6)
- 18** A coin of ancient Greece (6)
- 19** Marked by conspicuous religiosity (5)
- 21** Exchange for money (4)

(Answers on page 11)

CAN YOU BE FULLY TRUSTED?

Before the break up of the Soviet Union, Christians were routinely persecuted for their faith by the Communist regime. We have many inspiring stories of courageous Christians behind the Iron Curtain who were willing to die for their faith during this difficult period in world history.

One such story involves a house church in a city in the former Soviet Union. The small group of believers who gathered there were afraid to carry the Bible, so they memorized large sections of the New Testament and recited Scripture to each other.

Each week they would arrive at the house at different times, to avoid arousing the suspicions of KGB informers. On one particular Sunday the church members were all safely inside the building, with the windows closed and doors locked. They began the service by softly singing a hymn and praying.

Suddenly, the door burst open and two soldiers armed with automatic weapons walked in. One shouted, "All right, everybody up against the wall. If you wish to renounce your faith in Jesus Christ, you can leave now and no harm will come to you."

Two or three church members left, then another.

"This is your last chance!" the other soldier warned. "Either turn your back on this Jesus of yours or stay and suffer the consequences!"

Another member left. Two more covered their faces in shame and slipped out into the night. No one else moved. Parents with small children trembling beside them looked down reassuringly. They fully expected to be gunned down on the spot—or, at the very least, imprisoned.

After a few moments of silence, the soldiers closed the door and looked back at the church members left standing against the wall. One of them said, "Keep your hands up—but this time in praise to our Lord Jesus Christ, brothers and sisters. We, too, are Christians. We were sent to another house church several weeks ago to arrest a group of believers. But instead, we were converted."

The other soldier added, "We are sorry to have frightened those who left, but we have learned that unless people are willing to die for their faith, they cannot be fully trusted."

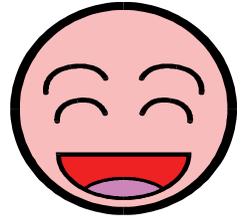
Can you be trusted with the gospel? It is a very precious thing that we have been given—paid for not only by the blood of Jesus, but by the blood of countless martyrs who were willing to die rather than renounce their faith.

(Continued on page 13)

LAUGHTER LINES

Consider your children

1. You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next sixteen telling them to sit down and shut up.
2. Grandchildren are God's reward for not killing your own children.
3. Mothers of teens now know why some animals eat their young.
4. Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.
5. The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own.
6. We childproofed our homes, but they are still getting in.



Long Talk

The pastor was known for the clarity and brevity of his sermons. His talks were well organised and always ended promptly in 20 minutes.

One Sunday, he seemed to wander and drift around a bit and was still preaching to the congregation after 35 minutes. His wife managed a small signal, which fortunately he recognised as a sign he should come to a close.

When they got home after the service, the wife asked him why he got so muddled and why he went on speaking so long.

He answered, "Well, I've gotten into the habit of tucking a lozenge in my mouth before I stand to speak. When the lozenge has dissolved, I know it is time to stop. This morning, unfortunately I picked up a collar button instead of a lozenge."

Ainsworth Magazine, Church of Christ, Cockey

Say that again?

A woman telephoned her Bank and spoke to the Accountant who looked at her holdings, "I want to make some changes," she said.

The Accountant asked for more details.

"Are you interested in Conversion or Redemption?" he asked.

"Good heavens, came the reply. "I must have got the wrong number. I wanted the Bank of England, not the Church of England.."

Parish Pump

LAUGHTER LINES

YOUR JOKES

AFTER spending time with Eve, Adam was walking in the Garden with God.

Having told God how much the woman meant to him, he began to ask questions about her.

Adam: Lord, Eve is beautiful. Why did you make her so beautiful?

God: 'So you will always want to cherish and adore her.'

Adam: 'Lord, her skin is so soft. Why did you make her skin so soft?'

God: 'So you will always want to touch her.'

Adam: 'She always smells so good. Lord, why did you make her smell so good?'

God: 'So you will always want to be near her.'

Adam: 'Why did you make her so kind?'

God: 'So you would be kind as well.'

Adam: 'That's wonderful Lord, and I don't want to seem ungrateful, but why on earth did you make her so daft?'

God: So she would love you.

Nick Fletcher, Malton, North Yorks.

Submitted by Harold Randall

Solution to Crossword

Across: 7 Locate, 8 Beulah, 9 Move, 10 Treasure, 11 Prophet, 13 Bible, 15 Sheep, 17 Earnest, 20 Creation, 21 Seal, 22 Forest, 23 Silver

Down: 1 Honour, 2 Wave, 3 Heathen, 4 Abner, 5 Question, 6 Barrel, 12 Pleiades, 14 Madness, 16 Harlot, 18 Stater, 19 Piety, 21 Sell

TEACH US TO PRAY

Mr. Moody wrote about a remarkable incident in connection with an early visit to London. He had gone there for a visit. He was unknown in London, hence he did not expect to preach; but a little while after arriving there he was invited to preach in a certain church. He described the ceremony as a very cold and uninteresting service to him, but he announced that he would preach again at night.

Upon reaching the church, he noticed that the atmosphere had changed, he did not know just why. At the close of the meeting he was led to give an invitation for those who wanted to be saved to stand. A great crowd of people stood. He left the next day for Dublin, Ireland. Shortly after arriving there he received a telegram from the church to return, stating that the whole community wanted a series of meetings. He went back and found that a great revival was beginning, and hundreds of people were being converted.

Not long after, he learned the secret. An invalid lady, who could not attend the church, was praying for a mighty outpouring of the Spirit upon the church. She prayed for months. Once she saw in the papers; accounts of some of the Moody meetings in America, and, although she had never heard of Mr. Moody before, she began to pray that God would send him to her church in London for a revival. One Sunday morning her sister, upon her return from the service, informed her of Moody's presence and his preaching, whereupon she spent the whole afternoon in prayer that God would make that night a night of power. That explains the difference between the morning and evening services which Moody led.

Oh, I tell you what we need in the churches, especially ours, is praying members! Oh, if we could find even one who would thus resolve to pray to God for salvation and power to come upon the church. This is the need of today--importunate prayer, like the Syro-Phoenician woman's "Lord, help! Lord, help!" (Matt. 15:22-28).

The late Dr. A. C. Dixon, of Spurgeon's Tabernacle, once said that "When we rely upon organization, we get what organization can do; when we rely upon education, we get what education can do; when we rely upon eloquence, we get what eloquence can do, and so on. Nor am I disposed to undervalue any of these things in their proper place. But," he added impressively, "when we rely upon prayer, we get what God can do." Lord teach us to return to our knees and seek your face.

D.A

SAY IT AS GOD SAYS IT!

Whenever we **'repackage'** God's Word in order to make it more acceptable to an individual or a wider audience, we wind up preaching our own gospel and not the Gospel of God. There are many ways God's Word is being **repackaged** today. Two examples will suffice:

1. When we admonish people to claim promises made in the Bible and say little or nothing about the conditions that must apply or take the promises out of context and improperly apply them, we are not representing God. Example: Deut. 28:13a, **"The Lord will make you the head, not the tail."** The promise was to Israel as a nation not an individual. How could everyone in Israel be the head? Vs. 13b outlines the conditions that must be met before the promise could be realized.

2. When we want to be politically correct and not 'offend' our audience, we substitute words like **"choice"** for **abortion**, **"Lifestyle"** for **homosexual**, **"Mistake"** for **sin**, **"freedom or right"** for **selfishness or greed**; etc.

(Continued on page 14)

Can You Be Fully Trusted?

(From page 9)

We can be thankful that we live in a country where Bibles are plentiful and churches are on every corner, but that doesn't mean we can get by with a shallow, lukewarm faith. The devil is no dummy. He knows that Christianity is only one generation away from being extinct, and he will do all he can to soften us up and make us lazy. Ultimately that will do more harm to the gospel than even our unbelief.

What would you have done when the soldiers arrived? Would you have left or stayed to suffer the consequences? Remember these words of Jesus: "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:11-12).

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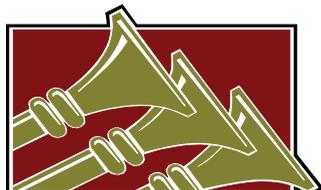
(From page 6)

From the Mouth of Babes

When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the Manager. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do one to others before they do one to you. He also explained, "Man doth not live by sweat alone." It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tomb stone off the entrance.

The epistles were the wives of apostles. One of the opossums was St. Matthew, who was by profession a taxi man. St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage. A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony.



Because Jesus lives, I can face tomorrow.

Unfortunately, children are not the only ones who misinterpret or misunderstand the Bible. Adults, too, are often biblically illiterate. That's why it's important to read the Bible for yourself and to attend Bible studies and classes that will help you to learn what the Bible really says and means. The Bible is God's love letter to you. It is full of wonderful stories and teachings that are not only very interesting, but they will help you to live a happier, more successful life.

(From page 13)

Say it as God Says It!

God's Word is powerful, sharper than a two edged sword, it is a hammer, it is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Any attempt to **re-package** God's Word for whatever reason robs it of its power and it becomes your own gospel not God's. Paul said: "I **did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom. not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power.**" 1Corinthians 2:1-4. Say it as God says it!

Sunday Bwanhot

GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME

Our bags were hurriedly packed and we were set for our summer holidays. I had to request for prayers during our early Morning Prayer because my legs ached for most of the night. Having to spend another eight hours in an Economy class cabin to Chicago was one that brought no cheer. A Piccadilly Line train was about to leave when we arrived at Finsbury Park station. We hopped on to it, got comfortable seats on the almost empty coach and browsed through the Metro for that day. We desired to get to Heathrow Airport early enough to secure good seats .

After travelling for some time, Dele suddenly pointed to a station name that we just passed and said, "that's an unusual station on this route". I looked up and suddenly realised that we were on the wrong train. We thought we boarded a train for Heathrow airport but we were on our way to Uxbridge! So much for our desires to get to the airport early. We had lost about forty five minutes due to this mistake and you can be sure, we were not happy. By this time, we were just praying to get to the airport before checking in closed officially.

When we finally arrived at Heathrow airport, the queue for United Airlines extended beyond the door and we were almost at the end of the line! You can imagine how we felt but we took solace in the Lord that He was in absolute control and he would ensure we checked in before closing time. When it was our turn to check in, I and Dele talked to each other and quietly to the Lord that we would love to seat by each other though we knew that the plane was full and passengers were just glad to be given a seat. At this time, there was an announcement that those who wanted to volunteer to travel by a later flight should do so and they would be adequately compensated. We couldn't volunteer because our schedule was very tight.

I asked the guy checking us in if he could find two seats side by side for us and preferably by the window! He looked up and said, "Actually, I have something better for you today. You are travelling Business Class." This was a wonderful surprise from God. It was so much appreciated because of the pain I had experienced the previous night and the dread of having to seat in an awkward position for another eight hours! Little did we realise that God used all the delays on the way and other seeming disappointments to work out His purposes concerning us. The Business Class trip was extra comfortable with lots of legroom and space. We certainly did not feel the stress of flying. As if that was not enough, our friend in Chicago decided to accommodate us at the Hilton Hotel. Talk about being spoilt by God! This was the beginning of a lovely and relaxing holiday. God is good ALL THE TIME.

Iyabo Agbelusi

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 / **5pm** from 31st October

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 25th October, 8th & 29 November, 13 December(**8pm**)

Wednesday - Alpha Programme and 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

Reader: Richard Mercer

Organist: Harold Randall

YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

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