



CHRIST CHURCH URC

Chase side, Enfield

Minister Revd David Atkinson



Indian family
standing with
their power
loom

June 2007

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY

11.00 am Morning Worship

11.00 am Pilots

Holy Communion First Sunday

Family Parade Service Third Sunday

MONDAY

6.30 pm Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys (5-8 years)

6.30 pm Junior Section (8-11 years)

7.30 pm Company Section (11-18 years)
(including band practice)

TUESDAY

4.30 pm Rainbows (5-7 years)

WEDNESDAY

9.45-11.15 am Combined Bible Study
at Lancaster Road URC

2.15 pm Friendship Club *Twice monthly*

THURSDAY

7.45-9.20 pm Bible Study Group *monthly*

8.00 pm Elders Meeting *bi-monthly*

Church Meeting *bi-monthly*

FRIDAY

6.00 pm Brownies (7-10 years)

7.30 pm Guides (10-14 years)

Rangers (14-18 years)

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Several years ago I was given Paul Johnson's book, "A History of Christianity". However, I have always been put off reading it because it is very long and rather scholarly. But on my recent sabbatical visit to India I anticipated that I might have quite a lot of free time so I decided to take it with me.

I did read it and found it reasonably deep and scholarly but also quite easy to read. Thankfully my theological and historical studies at school and university meant I was familiar with some of the names and doctrines. It really is a comprehensive study of Christian history from the time of the apostle Paul through to 1975.

What struck me about the book is how unedifying are some parts of Christian history. There are bitter divisions over doctrine, grievous splits in the church and some clergy who hold their positions for financial and social reasons rather than spiritual reasons. The worst aspects are when the church and some Christian groups have used violence and persecution to pursue their own ends.

The worst examples include the crusades in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries. These seem to have been partly motivated by the church's idea of a holy war against Moslems and partly by an increase in the European population which found itself short of land in the west. So large groups of people led by various knights and their families set out east.

From the very beginning the crusades were marked by terrible acts of violence and racial enmity. When Peter the Hermit's mob reached Nicea there was a great slaughter of non-Latin Christians and it was said that babies were roasted on spits. When Jerusalem fell there was a prolonged and hideous massacre of Moslems and Jews, men, women and children. In 1168 when the crusaders went

to Egypt there were systematic massacres which included the killing of Christian Copts and so united Egyptians of all religions and races against the crusaders. The crusaders' violence was chiefly directed against Moslems and Jews but non- Catholic Christians also suffered. Curiously there was no attempt to convert Moslems and there was no attempt to reach an accommodation with non- Latin Christians. The actions of the crusaders seem to have been totally alien to the spirit and teaching of Jesus and the New Testament.

The crusaders are a particularly bad example of Christian actions but shameful actions, words and silences by the church and Christians continue into the 20th century. Paul Johnson ends his book on a positive note by saying that although dreadful things have been done in the name of Christ he believes the human race would have acted even more terribly without the teaching and spirit of Christ.

At the end of the book I felt a sense of shame and humility about my Christian history. I also wondered if I had lived in another era would my life have been more or less Christ- like? Would I have been carried along by the frailties of other Christians or compromised my Christian values because of the threats of non- Christian authorities. Virtually the whole of the Christian church, Catholic and Lutheran, either supported or remained silent in the face of the evils of Hitler and the Nazis. Would I have had the courage to have been any different?

The truth is that it can be very difficult to live a truly Christian life which takes the teachings and spirit of Christ seriously. We constantly need to remind ourselves what Christ stands for and constantly need to call on his strength and guidance to follow his way. In the church hopefully we can help and encourage one another to live the Christian way.

May the love and peace of God be with you all. David.

PROJECT TO BUY POWER LOOMS FOR WEAVERS IN INDIA



On Friday, 15th June at 7p.m. at Palmers Green U.R.C. the Reverend Sujeeth Kumar from the Church of South India will be speaking about the project to buy power looms for weavers in India. The talk will be accompanied by pictures of the weavers and looms. There will also be a meal. We are supporting this

project through our Every Person Challenge, "**Going for Growth**", Please take this opportunity to see and hear about this project to help poor and hard working families in India. Palmers Green U.R.C. need to know numbers beforehand for catering purposes. Please let me know if you are coming by Thursday, 7th June.

David Atkinson.

ALL INVITED

NEWS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Congratulations to Chris Stylianou and Selena Johnson on the baptism of their baby, Ella Elaine Stylianou at Christ Church on 15th April.

Stephen Gilburt is at home recovering from his operation on the 15th May.

Let us remember all our church family in our prayers and caring. David

Praise Day Christ Church Hall 10th June 3.30pm

Come and join us for an afternoon of learning new hymns, practising old ones, activities arranged for children.

We all have a tea together at 5.30pm.

Please bring own tea, drinks supplied.

Service at 6.30pm The theme for the service will be world trade and justice

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We thank our members for their loyalty in coming to the club on alternate Wednesdays.

Their friendship encourages all those who attend, and we warmly welcome new members to join us

- * June 13th Mrs Richards will go back through the years and talk about '**Tales from the school**'
- * June 27th Brian Hewitt will **show slides** from life of that **great horticulturist E.A BOWLES**

Both meetings will commence at 2.15pm in the church hall.

'Lord teach us to pray'. He is listening and
His love is waiting with you

Spring Harvest
Skegness
2008



'One hope'

If you would like to join the group going from Lancaster road URC and Christ Church URC Sat 5th April – Thursday 10th April 08 please contact Terry Silvey 8366 0178

Needs to be booked by 10th June

'A moments thought'

St Paul wrote

"Help to carry one another's burdens,
and in this way you will obey the law
of Christ"

(Galatians 6 Verse 2)

George Merriam commented on this:

When your own burden is heavy, you
can always lighten a little someone
else's burden.

At times when you cannot **see** God it
is always possible to **show** God by your
love and kindness to others.

There may be times when you cannot
find help, but there is no time when
you cannot **give** help

Shared with us by Ron Smith



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The Newsletter

Each year we ask our readers to contribute towards the cost of producing and distributing the Christ Church Newsletter. The photocopier was really struggling to manage the volume so we are now using a commercial printer. By using a specialist firm we have been able to keep costs to a comparable level, as well as increasing the size of the Newsletter and freeing up more time to work on the content.

We hope you have noticed the changes!

Please use the enclosed envelope and drop it in the collection on Sunday or send to the treasurer, David Fisher. Suggested contribution is £12.00 or £15.00 if you receive the newsletter by mail (to cover the additional costs of envelopes and stamps). And remember, your contributions can be Gift Aid-ed if you are a UK tax payer - just write your number from the Freewill offering envelope or add your name and address to the back of the envelope.

HYMNS AND THEIR ORIGINS

My family consisted of an elder brother and a younger sister. On her own, I just can't begin to understand how my mother coped with our tantrums and idiosyncracies. No social services, children's allowances or bountiful hand-outs, she worked for six and a half days a week with only a regular and revered Sunday afternoon spent resting and oft times sleeping on her bed. We three were right herberts. She was truly a marvel for her diligence and self-sacrifice in ensuring we had a decent upbringing.

I cogitated on this when I read that Charles Wesley was the eighteenth child of Susannah Wesley. There are stories abounding about the background of this month's hymn. The most unlikely one concerns a flock of birds who flew in the window and into the safety of Wesley's coat. Of the others the first verse seems to originate in his experience when returning to England from Georgia, USA in 1736. The captain warned all passengers of an approaching storm of some magnitude. Within a comparatively short time the vessel was hit with considerable ferocity. Unlike our little minesweeper of the second world war which was fitted with up to date technology, four seamen were deputed to keep a modest pump going continually in an Herculean task to prevent the mighty waves from overwhelming the frail craft. Charles prayed and eventually wrote the first verse of "Jesus lover of my soul" The third verse of the hymn is believed to have come about when he was very ill in bed with severe fever complicated by other painful problems all of which caused him to feel he was dying. The thought was that he was praying to the Holy Spirit for help when a voice "from heaven" answered "In the name of Jesus of Nazareth rise and believe."

To his utter surprise he sat up in bed, reached for his Bible which opened automatically at Psalm 40. He dressed, went downstairs to be greeted by the landlord's daughter who shyly confessed hers was the voice he heard as she read the Psalm to herself but out loud. From that moment his illness left him. He appears to have completed the whole hymn after a vociferous mob threatened his life, forcing him to flee. Whatever, it is great hymn and deserves its immense popularity.

Bill

1

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last!

2

Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on thee;
Leave, ah leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
All my help from thee I bring;
Cover my defenceless head
With the shadow of thy wing.

3

Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
More than all in thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am,
Thou art full of truth and grace.

4

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound,
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of thee;
Spring thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.,

Rejoice and sing 322

Visit Sacred: Discover what we share

27 April - 23 September 2007

The most important and beautiful Jewish, Christian and Muslim books, displayed together for the first time.

The rarest and most exquisite sacred books and manuscripts presented explored, side by side, in a major UK exhibition for the first time.



Adult groups

Free guided tours of the exhibition are available to groups of 10 or more. Booking in advance is essential.

T: +44 (0)20 7412 7760

E: events@bl.uk

Sacred is made possible by the generosity of donors from all three faiths.

At the Pearson Gallery, The British Library, London NW1 2DB Admission free – advance booking strongly recommended

Open Daily



Church contacts

MINISTER	Rev David Atkinson	Tel 020 8363 4571
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ON LINE AT http://www.simplyredonline.co.uk/christchurch/church.htm		
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June Church diary

- Sun 3rd 11am Mr B Smith**
Holy Communion
Offering for Cheviots Children's centre
Duty Elder — Pamela Fisher
- Wed 6th 9.45am-11.15** Joint bible study with Lancaster road at Lancaster Road URC
- Thurs 8pm** Church Meeting in the hall
7th
- Sun 10th 11am The worship Group**
Duty Elder — Pamela Fisher
3.30pm Christ Church Praise Day
Enjoy learning new hymns,
6.30pm evening service
- Wed 13th 2.15pm** Friendship club
Talk about 'Tales from the school'
Mrs Richards
- Sun 17th 11am The Revd D Atkinson**
Family Parade service
Fathers day
Duty Elder — Pamela Mansley
- Wed 9.45am-11.15** Joint bible study with Lancaster road at Lancaster Road URC
20th
- Thurs 7.45pm** Bible study at Christ Church in the hall
21st beginners room

Sun 24th 11am Mr T Silvey
Duty Elder - Stephen Gilbert

Wed 27th 2.15pm Friendship club
Slide show from life of that great
horticulturist E.A BOWLES
Brian Hewitt

July 2007

Sun 1st 11am The Revd David Atkinson
Holy Communion
Duty Elder—Ron Smith

Thurs 7.30pm Elders meeting in the manse
5th

Advance dates for 2007

Church meetings

8pm 7th June
12.30pm 6th September
12.30pm 4th Nov.
(Elders election)

Elders meetings

7.30pm 5th July
7.30pm 4th October

Events at church

Coffee morning EPC -
15th September
Church Day 20th October

Praise Days

10th June
30th September

** PILOTS **

WHAT: Pilots are a group for boys and girls aged five upwards. They meet for games, drama, craft activities and fun, based on a bible theme.

WHERE:

Pilots meet in the church hall

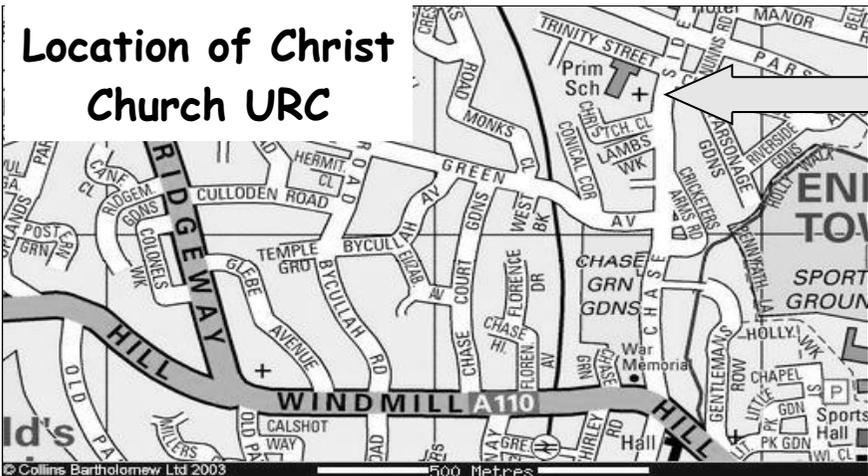


WHEN:

Sunday mornings from 11am to 12 noon

If you are interested in coming or would like further details please contact Rosemary Milns 8363-6571

Location of Christ Church URC



Articles intended for inclusion in the **July/August** issue should reach the Editor by **2nd Sunday of the month.**

Items can be either handed to or sent to:-

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