

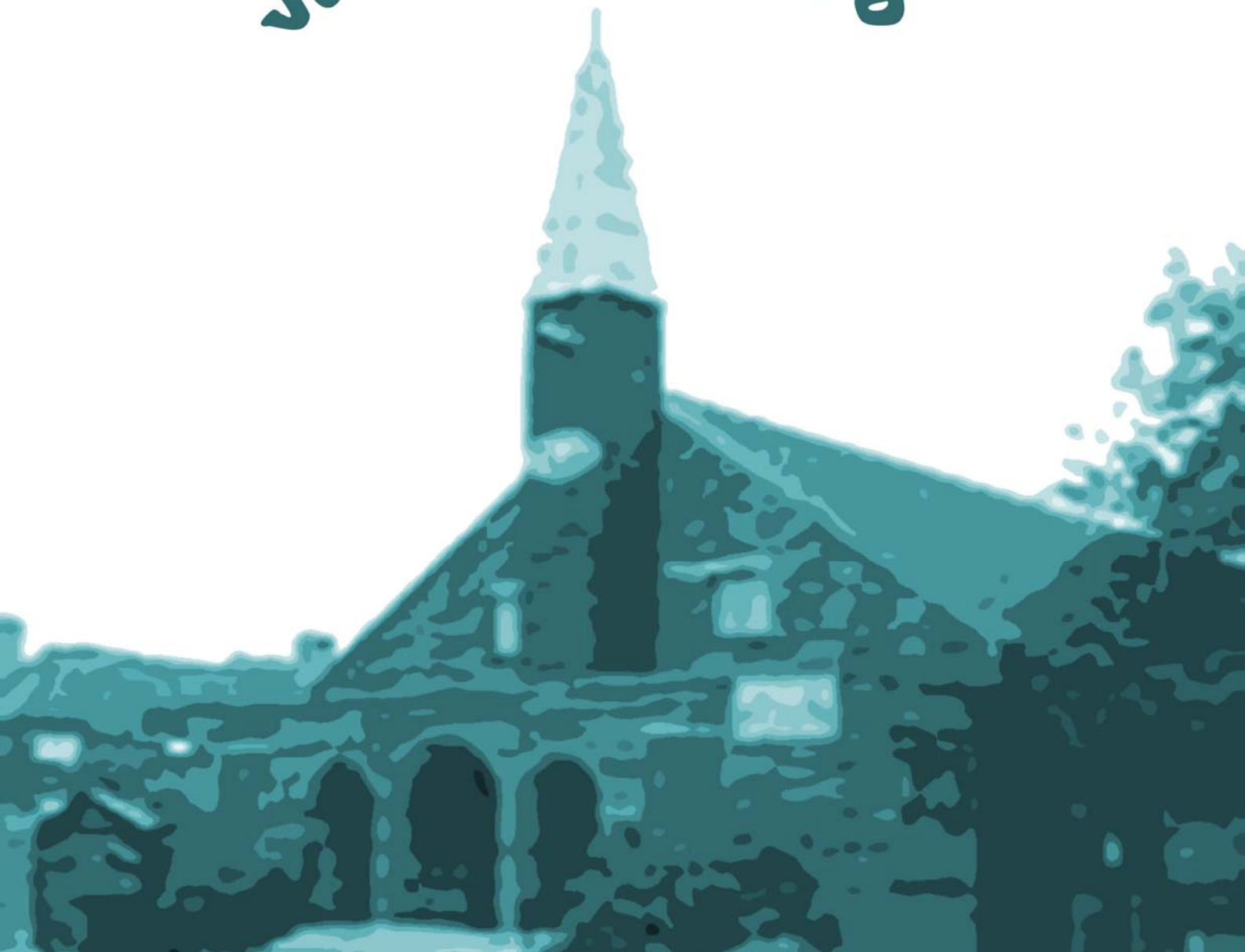


St Paul's



The Big Question

January 2008



SUNDAY SERVICES – JANUARY

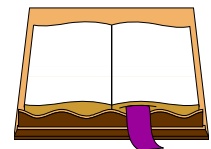
Sunday 6th (Epiphany Sunday)	8.30am 10am	Holy Communion Youth Communion
Sunday 13th (Baptism of Christ)	8.30am 10am	Holy Communion Morning Praise – ‘Caring for Creation’ The Vicar
Sunday 20th (3 rd of Epiphany)	8.30am 10am	Holy Communion Family Service - Jesus Our Friend
Sunday 27th (4 th of Epiphany)	10am	Holy Communion – ‘Life before Birth’ The vicar

SUNDAY SERVICES – FEBRUARY

Sunday 3rd (Sunday before Lent)	8.30am 10am	Holy Communion Youth Communion- ‘Singleness’ Revd Sue Hartley
Sunday 10th (1 st of Lent)	8.30am 10am	Holy Communion Morning Praise ‘Sex a gift from God’ The Vicar
Sunday 17th (2 nd of Lent)	8.30am 10am	Holy Communion Family Service – ‘Jesus our teacher & Example’
Sunday 24th (3 rd of Lent)	10am	Holy Communion ‘Marriage – for life?’ The vicar



There is also a service of Holy Communion or Morning Prayer each WEDNESDAY at 9.30am followed by coffee shop until 11am



There is a prayer meeting at 9.30am until 9.40am each Sunday. Everyone is welcome to join us as we pray for the main service

THE WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Sunday	8.30 am	Holy Communion (not 4th Sunday)
	10.00am	Morning Service (every week) including: Players for Jesus (0-6's) – formerly Climbers Rock Solid (7-10's) in term time Highlanders (11-18's) in term time
Monday	1.30pm	Homegroup – 7 Stoke Avenue (alternate weeks) Joan Lingwood ☎8500 5178
	8.00pm	Homegroup – (alternate weeks) – phone for details Jill James ☎8501 1162
Tuesday	9.15am	Prayers for the Church in the Side Chapel
Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion
	10.15am	Coffee Shop in the Hall
	12.30pm	Wheels and Squeals (Carer and Toddler Group)
	7.30pm	Highlanders Group meet in the Church Hall (alternate weeks) Drama Group – on the in-between weeks
Thursday	8.00pm	Homegroup – (alternate weeks) – phone for details Jill James ☎ 8501 1162 & Helen Duke ☎ 8500 6678
Saturday	7.30pm	SatNav – Alternate weeks – see the website for dates:



PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain is organised so that prayer can be offered quickly for an individual or a particular situation. Ring the first person on either or both the lists. If they are not in, then ring the second and so on. Make your request clear and straightforward. The members of the chain will then pass on your request to the others and commit themselves to pray.

Chain 1

1. Maggie Sansom 8500 2341
2. Charmaine Andrews 8500 0164
3. Joan Lingwood 8500 5178
4. Joanna Cant 8500 3366
5. Sue Hartley 8500 4592

Chain 2

1. Beryl Gough 8550 0957
2. Sandra Lee-Down 8262 4494
3. Kathy Habberley 8501 1386
4. Will Davies 8551 3620
5. Sue Hartley 8500 4592

Deadline for the February edition of 'The Big Question: Sunday, 27th January (please put material in the tray at the back of the church)

The Vicar's Letter

A Letter From Sue

Have you made any plans for 2008: perhaps for a holiday or a DIY project? On our first Sunday of this New Year, we reflect on the story of the Wise Men who followed the leading of a star to search for the One who had been born the king of the Jews. When they found him, they worshipped him as their king. God guided these men and they followed his leading. Is Jesus our King? Is he the King of this church? Are we following his plans for our lives and ministry? The prophet Jeremiah speaks out God's words of promise, "I know the plans I have for you; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future".



Here are some pointers to help us understand some of the ways in which God may guide us (Lighted Windows—Margaret Silf).

- God's guidance attracts us, it doesn't coerce us.
- It usually takes us by surprise.
- It happens to us when we are going about our everyday living, and it grows out of that everyday experience, if we have eyes to see.
- We may often have to pass a threshold of trust if we want to engage with it.
- We have to come close enough to hear it.
- We will recognise in those moments when we sense we are on holy ground.
- It may lead us to where we would prefer not to go.

Our God is a God who reveals himself to human beings. He keeps his promises and fulfils his purposes, and he gives us the privilege of sharing in his work. Over this past year, the message of Joshua 1 has spoken to me very powerfully. Joshua's task was to lead the Israelites across the Jordan and into the Promised Land. They were to cross new frontiers in response to God's revelation. And as we enter a New Year, what specific areas of land is

the Lord calling us to take for him? Where is he calling us to extend his reign as we share in his mission of reconciling the world to himself? Where he is calling us to make him known?

It might be a geographical area of this parish that God will lay on your heart, such as your street; or a group of people, such as the youth or a local school. Or it might be an area overseas, or a project such as Link to God. Or it might be a particular ministry within this church God is calling you to serve with, such as prayer ministry. Or it might be people in your family, neighbourhood or workplace who have not yet had Christ made known to them. I encourage you to ask the Lord to show you something specific; and to be open to whatever he puts on your heart.



As the Israelites stood on the brink of new things, God encouraged them with these words, “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go”. What is God saying to us at the beginning of this New Year? What land is he calling us to take? Let us continue to get to know him as we prayerfully meditate on his word. He will reveal himself to us when we need it and how we need it. And let’s continue to reach out to those situations

where God is leading us to extend his kingdom. He will be what we need him to be for us in any given situation.

It has been a privilege and a joy to serve with you over these past few months and we are excited that Chris is returning to us. I pray that God will continue to bless us as we walk with him into 2008. I pray that, as we seek him, he will continue to reveal more of himself to us and that we will continue to participate in the fulfilment of his purposes for Hainault and beyond. And may He bless us and guide us and equip us for all that lies ahead. Let us not become so entangled with the shaping of our year that we miss the signposts that God is giving us. Let us give God our “yes” this New Year, so his kingdom may come and his will be done in our church and our parish. And as we enter 2008, may our ears be open to hear the plans he has for us and may our hearts be willing to respond. And let us move forwards together in obedience, faith and unity.

With my love and prayers
Sue

January 2007



Wednesday	2	9.30 am	Holy Communion in chapel
Tuesday	8	7.30 pm	SatNav prayer meeting
Friday	11	7.15 pm	Celebration of youth ministry in Chelmsford
			See Lisselle for details
Monday	14	1.30 pm	Home group--7 Stoke Ave
Tuesday	15	7.30 pm	PCC in the vicarage
Wednesday	16	7.30 pm	Highlanders
Thursday	17	8.00 pm	Home group--see Jill
Sunday	20	5.30pm	United celebration--All Saints Chigwell Row
Monday	21	1.30 pm	Home group--7 Stoke Ave
		8.00 pm	Home group--18 Ascot Close
Wednesday	23	7.30 pm	SPADE in the hall
Saturday	26	7.30 pm	SatNav
Monday	28	1.30 pm	Home group--7 Stoke Ave
Wednesday	30	7.30 pm	Highlanders
Thursday	31	8.00 pm	Home group--see Jill

February

Saturday	2	9.15 - 4.30	New Wine training day
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The Big Question – Editors Report

After nearly a year of editing the magazine, which I have really enjoyed doing, I think it is time to let it go. I have been going to Queen Mary's University now for a semester and I think it would be silly not to concentrate on my studies.

Not that doing the magazine is a bore, but I just feel I haven't enough time to do it justice.



I really appreciate the prayer and support people have given me with the magazine, and huge thanks to those who have contributed articles and offered help with printing.

Over the year my highlights of doing the magazine is seeing all the magazines go in a few days, which in some ways is also slightly scary. Also hearing how many people read the magazine on the website is quite amazing and very satisfying. Why am I pointing these things out?

That is because I am trying to inspire someone else to give it a go! It would be such a shame to see it stop as I know people send the magazine to people across the country who are really interested in what is going on. Also it has been taken to old people's homes and they also like the read of what is happening at a local church.

I will be doing February magazine, so if you feel like you would carry on the magazine please let me or Chris know.

Nicky

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE NOVEMBER PCC

Child protection issues (advice received from Diocesan Child Protection Adviser)

Through various initiatives, such as craft days and step church, we are in contact with a growing number of children and young people in the community. We already have a Church Child Protection Policy in place, but these new and encouraging developments have raised a few questions which we, as a PCC, have taken to the Diocesan Child Protection Adviser, so that we continue to maintain good practice in all aspects of our ministry to the under 18's.

- ❖ We are advised not to communicate by texting with young people (11-17 year olds) with whom we have no parental contact.
- ❖ Children of 7 and under should always be accompanied to church by an adult.
- ❖ For 8-11 year olds (as we are going to have monthly Sunday craft mornings for this age group from January, we are expecting interest from families where the parents themselves do not attend church), responsibility for an unaccompanied child can be passed on to a Rock Solid leader or their deputy, but we will need to obtain a consent form from the parent, which should include a signed commitment to collect their child at a specified time.

Healing Ministry Day - 2nd February 2008

This is open to all members of our church family and is especially recommended for those exercising any form of leadership or pastoral ministry.

Link to God

The PCC read Link to God's recently formed constitution and we were encouraged by their vision to serve the community. They are now registered with Redbridge Borough Council. Christel Ceraline is the chairperson; Tom Gough is the secretary and Pam Hawthornthwaite is the treasurer.

Serving the Chalice

It was agreed that Lisselle Clarke-Moisley be appointed to join this team. The Bishop's office has been contacted and will issue her with a licence, giving her the Bishop's authority for this ministry.

Repairs

We have applied for a grant from a charity called London over the Border (through the Archdeacon's office) to cover the cost of a number of much needed repairs:

- ❖ A new notice board outside the church
- ❖ A new heater
- ❖ Repair of the concrete pillars in the hall
- ❖ A new front door lock
- ❖ Repair to the roof of the scout shed.

We hope to hear the outcome of our application in January. The committee meet on 7/1/08—let's pray for a favourable outcome.

Altar Cloths

We agreed that it would be good to replace our existing cloths (the red, green and purple material which we change according to the church's season). We looked at samples from a church furnisher's website and unanimously preferred the lighter shades. Joanna and Beryl will look for suitable material with a view to these being home-made.

Finance

Our financial situation is very tight at the moment. We have paid our November family purse commitment and trust that income from the Fayre etc. will provide a significant contribution towards our December payment. We have applied to the Deanery for a subsidy on our 2008 payments.

The Gift Day brought in just over £700 for which we thank God.

Jim Burns

We welcome Jim and his family to St. Paul's and are pleased to ratify his appointment on to the Highlander's leadership team.

Youth leaders' away weekend

Sarah is planning a weekend away in January for those people involved in leading the various aspects of our youth work. This is for the purpose of team-building and developing plans and goals for the future.

Grants have been applied for to the Youth Education Project towards the Street Café and SatNav. We expect a grant but are not yet sure how much this will be.

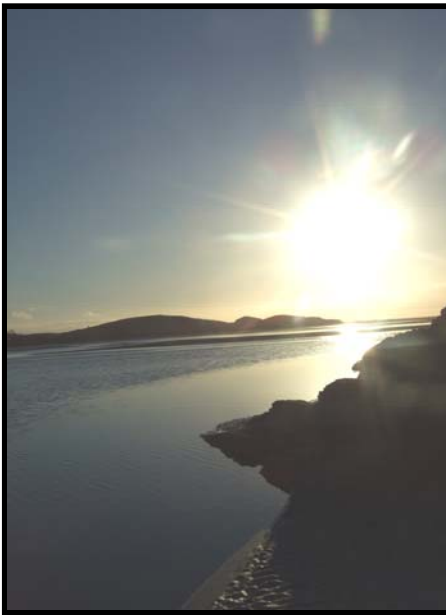
A Welsh Adventure: Rachel Thorpe

Not one to be left out of the trend that seems to be starting at St. Paul's, I went away to Wales for a week with my uni friends to look at the beautiful scenery. I am now old enough to appreciate these things, much to my parent's relief. Here are some nice photos from my trip taken by me and some of my friends.



This is the harbour Borth-y-gest, where we stayed in a house owned by one of my friend's aunts. The photo was taken by Christine, the girlfriend of my friend Dave. She came all the way from Canada to join us.

This photo was taken by Mark in Porthmadog, the nearest main town. We went to look at the shops in the high street and to sit in the sun eating fish and chips from 'Wales' best chippie'. Typically, it poured down with rain as soon as we had bought out food, so we sat on the railway platform and saw this rainbow.



This is a photo I took of the sun setting as we approached Port Merion. To add a bit of further excitement to the visit, we decided not to go in via the main entrance but to trample through a field full of cows, run over a beach, wade through the shallow parts of the sea, climb along an almost sheer rock face and then clamber in the back way. This way taken from a ledge on said rock face.



On our visit to Harlech castle we stopped on the beach to play some games. My friend Martin took this photo of me and Livvy having a cartwheel race. The beach was totally empty apart from us, and even though it was freezing cold, it was beautiful. We then walked through some woods in search of a footpath which never quite materialised.

We did, however, eventually find Harlech Castle. Livvy took this photo of the castle from the outside. We never made it inside, because by the time we found it, we were all frozen and soaking. We did take a visit to a nice local pub though to have a cup of tea and dry our socks on the fire!



On the last day, we took a trip on the famous Ffestiniog railway. It is a steam train railway which was restored by enthusiasts, one of whom gave us a running commentary of facts about things we could see from the window all the way home. This photo, which Dave took, is the train as it came to pick us up from [Blaenau Ffestiniog](#).

We also climbed a mountain, looked at lots of slate, walked lots and lots, played in a number of children's playgrounds and got up to lots of other adventures. In the evenings we ate lots of food and watched some movies. One night we went star gazing on the beach, which was phenomenal, and my favourite memory of the week. It was the perfect way to all unwind together after another term of mania in Cambridge, and all in all it was marvellous.



Rachel Thorpe

Busy Bee's - The Nativity

I was appalled to read in the paper that only 1 in 5 schools now put on a Nativity play. It is extremely worrying that many children are likely to grow up with little or no idea of what Christmas is all about and whether you are of a different religion or of no faith at all, it seems ridiculous to live in a country and have no idea of what or why you are celebrating a particular festival, especially when we are told how important it is to 'find ourselves' and know who we really are through our heritage.



I am very pleased to say that at Busy Bees we do still put on our Annual nativity play and we have never had a parent complain despite the fact that we have children from a wide range of faiths and cultures. The parents are always delighted to watch their little dears perform and it brings a lot of joy for very little effort and always goes off without a hitch. (Well almost)! We have just finished our first rehearsal and I thought I would recount to you how it went. I have either changed the children's names or used their character name to avoid embarrassment and for the same reason have only documented my speech.

I have started from sitting in our groups explaining to the children what is going to happen:-

Me: *(Having just read the nativity story)* 'Right, you three boys can be the animals in the stable. What would you like to be Billy? Well, I'm not sure there was a lion in the stable. Well there might have been in the stable you went to but I don't think we will have one in ours. Perhaps we can stick to sheep, pigs, donkeys and goats...'

'Mickey what would you like to be? Well I don't think there were any monkeys either. Yes I know you like monkeys best, but perhaps you could choose something else?'

'Alfie what would you like to be? Well I don't think a Giraffe would have fitted in the stable. I'll bring in the ears on Monday and we will go from there. We are going into the church now.

Right everyone line up in the link way and I will tell you what to do'

(We all file down to the church).

'Animals you come in and crouch by the manger please... Lovely, Now Mary and Joseph you wait there while I tell the beginning of the story and I will tell you when to come in.'

'A long time ago a man called Joseph and a ... Joseph I know you don't 'do' standing still but it won't be for long now. A man called Joseph and a lady called Mary ... yes Joseph I am hurrying. (Very fast) travelled to Bethlehem. Right in you come Joseph and Mary. That's it, you sit by the manger. During the night Mary had a very special baby called Jesus. Right, pick up the baby Mary. Ok you pick up the baby Joseph. Ok both pick up the baby. Don't fight over Jesus and please don't pull him like that, his head will come off. Ok Mary first, then give him to Joseph. Now put him back in the manger. Good. Then the sky was filled with Angels. In you come angels. Mind where you're walking. Oops! Pick Jesus up and put him back in. Lovely. Then the Shepherds came to visit the Baby Jesus. Lovely. In you come shepherds. That's it, up on the steps with the Angels. No don't push the Angels off the steps please, there's room for everyone. Joseph please get out of the manger. Yes I know it rocks when you stand in it but it will break. I know it's ok this time but it will break next time... Now, some wise men had been following a star andWhat's the matter Mark? Yes you are a king. A wise man or a king. Ok, you only want to be a king not a wise man (to staff) Can we only call the kings, kings from now on please? They bought presents for the baby Jesus. Right on you come. Give your presents to Jesus. Yes Joseph? Do you have to go now? Can't it wait? Ok be quick then. Mary can you please not unwrap the presents for Jesus, darling? They are only pretend. You two shepherds in the front row, can you stop fighting please? Right get back in your place Joseph and we are going to sing to the parents. Joseph please don't squash Mary's face in like that. Yes I know it makes her mouth go a funny shape but Mary isn't laughing. Joseph stop it NOW! Timmy, do you really have to go as well? Ok be very quick. Do you really need to go too Paul? Ok that's it. I'm sure not all the Shepherds can need the toilet at once. You will have to wait now! Right, we are going to sing 'Gentle Jesus'. Andrew where are you going now? Can you please come back with Jesus and the manger? Put the manger down and get back with the rest of the shepherds please. Right everyone, ready to sing? Off we go 'Gentle Jesus sweetly sleep, do not stir'...

Wendy

ARE YOU A GOOD LISTENER?

You are listening when.....

- ❖ You come quietly into my private world and let me be
- ❖ You really try to understand me when I don't make much sense
- ❖ You don't take my problem from me, but trust me to deal with it in my own way
- ❖ You give me enough room to discover for myself why I feel upset, and enough time to think for myself what is best
- ❖ You allow me the dignity of making my own decisions even though you feel I am wrong
- ❖ You don't tell me that funny story you are just bursting to tell me
- ❖ You allow me to make my experience one that really matters
- ❖ You accept my gratitude by telling me it is good to know I have been helped
- ❖ You realise that the hour I take from you leaves you feeling a bit tired and drained
- ❖ You grasp my point of view even when it goes against your sincere convictions
- ❖ You accept me as I am—warts and all
- ❖ You don't offer me religious solace when you sense I am not ready for it
- ❖ You look at me, feel for me, and really want to know me
- ❖ You spend a short, valuable time with me and make me feel it is for ever
- ❖ You hold back your desire to give me good advice

Source unknown

Everybody

Everybody thinks it's great
To go to church each week
Meeting with the family
The atmosphere's unique
Gives a boost to flagging souls
A chance to be renewed
What a wondrous, awesome place
To have your sins removed.

But whilst we're getting sorted out
What do we give The Lord
Preoccupation with ourselves
Means we can ill afford
To spare a moment of our time
And cast our minds on Him
Who gave His Son to set us free
From circumstances grim.

So when we go to church each
week
Remember, it's to give
To praise and magnify our God
For whom we're meant to live
Forget the trials of this life
Just concentrate your all
Upon The One who has a plan
Please listen for His call.

by mike bullock



Jesus Calms the Storm



Z Z E P S X X T I
B S L O Z N W G H
O E A N M G N T D
A V H S K I I R Y
T A T N L A L H T
L W K I F E J P E
H A A S U S E J I
D S K W I N D P U
Q K D E R A C S Q

asleep
boat
faith
Jesus
lake
quiet
sailing
scared
waves
wind

Jesus and His friends were sailing on a lake. Suddenly the wind began to blow. Big waves rocked the boat. Jesus was asleep and His friends were scared. They couldn't understand how Jesus could sleep at such a dangerous time, so they woke Him up.

"Quiet! Be still!", Jesus said to the wind and the waves. The wind died down and the water became calm.

Jesus challenged His friends to have faith and not be afraid. The same is true for us today - if we have faith in God we don't need to be afraid of anyone or anything on earth.

You can read this story in Mark chapter 4 verses 35-41.

RETURNING 23RD JAN
7:30-9PM

EVERY OTHER
WEDNESDAY

NO ADMISSION FEE
ANYONE WELCOME
AGES 11+



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The World Of Drama"*

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