

These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria. The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten "The Tablecloth". The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria ..

When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison and she never saw her husband or her home again. The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home. That was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighbourhood continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike? He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier.

He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

True Story - submitted by Pastor Rob Reid who says God does work in mysterious ways.

New Year, New Hopes...



Happy Christmas!

Our next Sunday together is Jan 3rd. We will be kicking off the year looking at

what kind of hopes God is asking us to believe for, both individually and together.

As a church we passionately believe that God is at work in His world and invites us to be part of what He is doing, *His mission*. There's nothing more exciting, fulfilling and crucial.

In 2010 we aim to explore together how every person connected with CCC can find their way more fully into God's plan, and then live in it to the full..

What a great journey God has invited us on. You ready?

See you in 2010,

Matt

Welcome to Catford Community Church
We hope you have a fantastic time with us this morning!

READY TO SING? IT'S CHRISTMAS MORNING!



Trafalgar Sq. last night, with carol singers out in force

A very warm welcome to our Christmas day service.
Let's come ready to worship and to encounter Jesus, our Emmanuel, *God with us*.

What to expect this morning...

Welcome to Catford Community Church!

Today Matt & Mike are leading our service. This will be a short, fun and worship filled time to celebrate God sending Jesus.

We hope you have a great time this morning and enjoy worshipping the living God.



Welcome

Carol: Joy to the world

Reading 1 – Luke 2:4-14

Bethan: What kind of greatness?

Worship

All-age talk: Matt

Carol - Hark the herald

A visitor from skies!

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NEXT WEEK: NO SERVICE
BACK 3RD JAN!



CCC is a Fair Trade Church



Welcome to Catford Community Church

A special welcome to you if you are a guest.

We are a modern family church that draws together a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and cultures - all of whom have a desire to find out more about living the Christian life to the full. Catford Community Church aims to be a place where people can grow and develop to reach their full potential with God's help.

Refreshments are available free after this morning's service; we'd love you to stay and chat.



Matt, Team Leader,

Regularly at CCC...

Sunday mornings

We hold our main Sunday morning meeting at Holbeach School finishing by 12.15pm. There are groups for children, youth and a crèche for babies.

Small groups

Many people at CCC are also part of one of our small groups, meeting at various times in the week. Every group is different - if you'd like to join one, ask one of the leaders.

Friendship Group

There is a Friendship Group that meets on Wednesday mornings for retired men and women. This is held at Downham Way Family Church in Downham. Please contact us if you would be interested in this group.

Youth

Our youth activities take place on Friday nights in the centre of Catford. Fiona Darbyshire is the contact for this group.

All Stars

Our monthly club for all children in school years 1 - 6. Packed with fun, games, stories, prizes, music, crafts, drama... if you've not been, get along soon. Ask Ian Butcher or Matt Hebdtich for info, or call the CCC office

Coming up at CCC...

CCC is not about meetings, but we love to get together to meet God and help each other in our lives, work and families. Here's some of what's coming up in the next few weeks:

- * Remember there is no church service this Sunday—27th Dec. We'll be meeting again on January 3rd at 10.30am for our first church service of 2010!
- * Prayer Day, January 9th, The Point, 10am-1pm (morning session) 1.30-4.30pm (afternoon session). Or you can come to both!



Thanks to Andrew S.

ETERNAL LIFE, MY FAVORITE ... THANKS
JESUS!

12-21-2007

Here's an amazing 'God story', found & sent by Stephen R Smith

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc, and on December 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On December 19 a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm hit the area and lasted for two days. On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high. The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity, so he stopped in.



One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory coloured, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colours and a Cross embroidered right in the



centre. It was just the right size to cover the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church. By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area. Then he noticed the woman walking down the centre aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were.