

Jesus (The) Christ did not invent Christianity - and he certainly did not invent the Church. So why “Christianity” and why the Church? The answer to the first bit is to do with what we have done throughout history with Jesus’s message and God’s grace; the second part is to do with semantics. All of which would take more than this little piece of paper to explain.

What does need explaining right now - again! - is what the Church is not: it is not a bunch of religious nutters, it is not a refuge for posh people trying to ignore social egalitarianism, it is not a group of people who lead perfect lives, it is not a collection of bigots who think they are better than everyone else, it is not irrelevant to today’s world.

It may be, of course, that the Church is perceived to be any - or all - of those things by some of us. If you have had that perception, then I ask you to come along to join in with us for a while and see if your perception is right. If your mind is not changed, I sincerely want to know what you think is wrong.

This is not about recruiting, however, but it is for our mutual benefit. I think that your being with us, for whatever time, would enrich the Church and in turn you will gain something, too.

This month the Church of England is having its annual “Come Back To Church” Sunday. Here it usually clashes with Harvest Festival, so this year I’m combining (*yes, that’s a gag!*) the two on Sunday 16th September, 10.30 at St Mary’s in Burham Market. PLEASE, do come - I promise you, you won’t turn to dust on entry. You who have been with us before know this, of course, so hopefully you’ll use the occasion to rekindle your association.

Just think: paradoxically, your irritation with us, our irrelevancy to your life, etc, may well be God saying to you (as He did to me), “Go and do something about the Church!”