



'But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.'

Ephesians 2: 4 & 5

There is so much in these verses but perhaps the greatest thought is in the middle of them; 'made us alive'. It is very easy, natural in fact, to belittle what Christ has done for those who puts their trust in him. Before this happens, we may tolerate (or not) the church as an historical and cultural entity and a doer of good. And, as part of this mindset we will see ourselves as either too 'good' for Christ's love ('I'm fine thanks') or too 'bad' ('if you knew what I had done') for it. Here, however, St Paul elevates our thinking far higher. We are, he says, 'dead', spiritually speaking. We become, when we open the door of our hearts, 'alive'. No longer are we too good or too bad, we are rather dead and then alive.

The Resurrection is helpful here. Jesus either rose from death or not. He was not a bit dead, and then a bit alive. It is all or nothing.

This matters for all sorts of reasons. Not least because the radical nature of the transformation speaks of the radical nature of the love which stands behind it. To be a Christian is to be fully alive!

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 19 April

APCM at 11.40am after the service

Sunday 26 April

Tim and Joanna's last Sunday with us

Sunday 12 July

Church Picnic at the Vicarage after the Service

St Matthew's News

- **Thank you Tim and Joanna** – It's very hard to believe, but Tim and Joanna have now been with us nearly 3 years! Time Flies! Very sadly, however, it means that Tim and Joanna will be off to pastures new. Their last Sunday with us will be 26 April though we hope they might pop back from time to time and even that Tim might take a few services...
- **Electoral Roll** - Please check you are on it (the list is on the board by the font), and if not fill in a form. Forms are available near the tea and coffee area.
- **Babies** – John and Beth and Jean and Jane are expecting their second. Please pray for all the obvious upheavals and those moments of joy.

Will Writes

'He's a trickster', so said a man (in sound mind) who I had just met as we were getting ready for our second evening of the Alpha Course. Having just expressed how much he liked God as Father and God as Holy Spirit, he went on to God as Jesus....and that he could most certainly not abide! Naturally I pushed back as we chatted, but he was having none of it! 'Historians don't even think he existed', the man went on to say. At this point I realised the onion had many layers and too many for the moment. I was heartened that he had a good friend who was a Vicar. But it got me thinking....

Not least because of another conversation along similar lines. This time with a woman who was willing to accept that Jesus existed but was unclear just how unique he was.

These are good conversations to have with people, indeed they form some of the central ecosystem of the Alpha Course. Did Jesus exist? Is he who he says he is?

Easter depends *entirely* on these things. The Resurrection is the 'make or break' of Jesus. If, actually, he just died and his resurrection was an elaborate lie, the whole pack of cards crashes to the ground. He is that trickster! But if he really did beat death, our greatest enemy, then.....then we better put all our Easter eggs in his basket, because he has the one key everyone needs more than any other key. The key to eternal life.

The evidence for Jesus' resurrection is excellent; it has the ring of truth stamped all over it. It is the opposition within us where the real problem lies. Lord, help us to believe and behold, and so help us to share our faith.

Happy Easter!

With Love and Easter Joy, Will, Liz, Thomas & Olivia



Meeting With..... Jane Chun

What first brought you to St. Matthew's and when? Our family first visited St. Matthew's on Easter 2025 after we moved to the neighbourhood.

What do you love about being a Christian? Many things! I love the poetry of Christianity. I love that Jesus was a radical that embraced those that society scorned. And I love the fruit of the Spirit!

If you could ask God one question, what would it be? How's Grandpa?

What food would you choose for your 'Last Supper' (apart from Bread and Wine, obviously)? A full Korean table:

Hanwoo marinated ribs; Jeju Black pork belly; spicy soft tofu stew; naengmyeon cold noodles; the freshest spring vegetable side dishes (shepherd's purse, fernbrake, mugwort, garlic scapes, minari); every variation of cucumber; seafood pancakes; Korean fried chicken; many types of kimchi; steamed egg; bibimbap. This may seem gluttonous...but I promise the servings aren't large, so it reasonable for 12 disciples!

What do you get up to in the week? No two days are the same, but I try to keep myself and my family busy & happy, stay in touch with friends and family across time zones, and help others often.



Emmanuel, Harrow Road

Just over a mile away, so a 25 minute walk or a 9 minute cycle from St Matthew's is Emmanuel on the Harrow Road. It is amazing how a mile can make such a difference; Emmanuel sits amidst less affluent neighbours. We are increasingly seeking to help with their work. We meet to pray together every Monday, Blanche leads and preaches there from time to time, Laura Wells has started helping with site maintenance and we are exploring ways of bolstering our food ministries; Emmanuel runs a food Pantry. Please keep these new things in your prayers and if you want to get involved please speak with a member of the team here.



The Alpha Course@ St Matthew's

The Alpha Course is a worldwide phenomenon which in 2024 saw 2.1 million people participate in globally via 81,000 courses of which 8,000 were here in the UK.

For only the second time at St Matthew's, we have hosted the course which took place over 4 Wednesday evenings throughout Lent. 20 or so joined us each week; with delicious food, great talks and rich discussions. We covered subjects like; how can I have faith, why did Jesus die & who is the Holy Spirit. It was thoroughly appreciated by all. We will run it again next year. Let us know if you'd like to join us.

