

THE READER WRITES

There was an interesting article in my newspaper recently by Sir David Frost entitled 'We should not forget the meaning of Easter.' In it he mentions two polls – in 2017 and 2020 – which showed that only two thirds of the country believed that Jesus was an historical figure. In fact, apart from the four Gospels, Jesus is recorded by many contemporary Roman writers. More is recorded about Jesus than his famous Roman contemporary, emperor Tiberius.

These polls also indicated that many Christians do not believe at all in the Resurrection. Of Christians who are regular churchgoers 57 percent believed in it, 5 percent didn't and the rest presumably sat on the fence.

I find this disbelief difficult to understand. Without the Resurrection there could be no Ascension, and without the Ascension the worldwide Christian church would not exist today. Certainly, the Resurrection is a difficult concept to understand – so were all the recorded miracles. Perhaps we should spend more time talking and teaching about it than we do – particularly to the young. St Gregory of Nyssa (355-394AD) had a neat way of explaining it – if I have understood the ancient wording!

'God was a keen fisherman, but the one catch that he really angled after – Satan – was most elusive. Eventually God decided that the only way to make this elusive catch was to use his Son as bait. So, Jesus, the Light of the World, was born.

Thirty long years God had to wait until the bait was taken. Jesus was snared by Satan and taken into Hell. But Hell is a place of total darkness and Jesus was the Light of the World, and this light really annoyed Satan so much that after three long days Jesus was evicted from Hell and returned to the living.' The rest, as they say, is history. If you want to learn more, then read scripture and come to church!

As St Paul – who was martyred for his faith – wrote to the Corinthians: 'If there is no Resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain, and your faith has been in vain.'

We have survived the dark days of Lent, now let us enjoy the light of Easter.

"Alleluia Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed.
Alleluia."

Yours in Christ

David Cockshott, standing in for Rev. Sue this month

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