



Dear all,

The earliest account we have of the resurrection of Jesus is probably not in the Gospels, but in 1 Corinthians 15. Paul there gives us a clear statement of what Christians believed and taught and quotes what we can regard as the first creed. If this is what Paul was taught when he first came to faith we have evidences for the resurrection recited by Christians just a couple of years after the event. Note that Paul is able to say that many of the 500 who saw Jesus were still alive at the time he wrote (about 55AD).

The four Gospels give us different details of the resurrection. Matthew emphasises that the resurrection takes place because Jesus has died as tells the strange story of dead saints coming out of their tombs at that moment. Then he counters the fake news put out by the Jewish authorities that the disciples had stolen the body. Mark focusses on the empty tomb and the women who were witnesses of the death and burial as well. Luke and John give us the fullest accounts of Jesus meeting with individuals as well as groups. There are indications of the nature of the resurrection body of Jesus and signs of the continuity from his pre-death body. Luke then goes on in his second volume (Acts) to record the spread of this message across the empire and the transformation if brought to the lives of a variety of people.

Putting all this together it becomes clear that we are not following cleverly devised myths but an historic event. If we do not believe the apostolic message we are, as Paul says the most miserable of people who are basing our life on a lie. But Christ has risen and we will rise too.

Hallelujah!

Rev'd Ray Porter

Church News:

- **World Mission Update**

[Click here](#) to read the latest update from Mano Emmanuel.

- **Betty Woodall's Funeral**

In mid March, Betty Woodall aged 94 and a member of St Mary's, sadly passed away. Her funeral will take place on Monday 26th April at Bedford Crematorium. If you would like to watch the service via live-stream, please let me (Tim) know. Live-stream details will be available from Monday 19th April.

- **Sunday Services**

Do join us for this week's service at 10am on Facebook or YouTube.

After the service, please join us on Zoom for 'Zoffee and Zea' for a time of catching up with each other at 11:45am.

Zoffee and Zea Link Meeting ID: 767 1340 6397 Passcode: 005892

Under Aslan's paw,
Tim - Vicar, St Mary's Eaton Socon