



## VICAR'S LETTER ...

# JESUS, HOW SIGNIFICANT!!!

Recently, whilst preparing for a sermon, I came across some alarming statistics from a survey that was carried out, of over 3000 people in England. They discovered that 39% of people in England do not know that Jesus was a real person who actually lived. In fact 25% of people under the age of 35 believed that Jesus was a fictional character. When asked to pick some words to describe Jesus, non-Christians (whom I presume did think He existed) were most likely to say He was 'spiritual', 'loving' and 'peaceful'. The general director of the Evangelical Alliance said, 'While it's great to see that non-Christians think positively about Jesus, it would be even better if they realized the significance of His life, death and resurrection for their own lives today.'

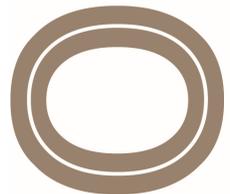
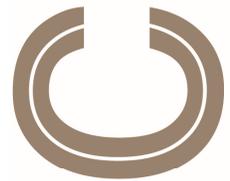
To illustrate just how significant Jesus is, I want to borrow some words that St Paul wrote, while under house arrest in Rome, to the church in Colossae about our Saviour Jesus Christ. He said:

*<sup>15</sup> Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through Him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> He existed before anything else, and He holds all creation together. <sup>18</sup> Christ is also the head of the church, which is His body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So He is first in everything. <sup>19</sup> For God in all His fullness was pleased to live in Christ, <sup>20</sup> and through Him God reconciled everything to Himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.*

### How significant is Jesus?

Well in Paul's words I don't think you could get more! Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God. In other words, if you want to know what God is like you need look no further than Jesus. His life, His death and His resurrection give us an amazing prism to see the love, grace, mercy and power of God. One of the reasons why we have based our teaching this

MONTHLY



PLEASE  
TAKE  
THIS  
HOME

term around the Gospel of Matthew is because we believe that when we learn who Jesus is and what He did, we learn about God. In fact, as we approach Easter, Jesus' great sacrifice on the cross tells us of the infinite lengths God would go to bring rescue to all humanity.

## How significant is Jesus?

Well it is through His actions, by means of His blood that God reconciled everything to Himself, making peace with everything. As Jesus suffered the shame and torment of the cross, and as the world looked on in disbelief and scorn, Jesus was making a way for God and humanity to be reconciled, once and for all! Here in this elemental suffering, there were no ifs and buts, no back stops or insurance policies; here in the rawness of sacrifice was God through Jesus His Son bringing redemption, freedom, forgiveness and new life to everyone.

## How significant is Jesus?

So significant that He is the head of our community, the church. Jesus is the head of a community dedicated to sharing the good news of God's love. He is the head of our community dedicated to bringing His light into dark places; a community dedicated to seeing God's Kingdom come in our lives and in the lives of our wider communities. This is why we run ALPHA courses, why we give out food bags, why we pray for people on the streets and share our faith with others through simple acts of kindness ... and a coffee. He is why we worship on Sundays!

I long to see many more in our nation come to realise the significance of Jesus, not for the sake of ticking the right boxes on a survey but because it is only through believing and knowing Him that resurrection life really breaks out, and only through Him that our lives are transformed to look more like His.

And so, let me finish with a prayer, borrowing some more words from St Paul:

*I pray that speaking the truth in love,  
we will grow in every way to become more and more like Christ,  
who is the head of His body, the church.*

Every blessing to you,

*Daniel Currie*

Christ sacrifice  
life rejoice joy  
He is SAVIOR  
Jesus crucifixion hope  
RISEN REDEEMER amazing grace  
LOVE mercy

THE



HOUR

Mondays 1st / 15th / 29th April 2019

12.30pm in the Prayer Room at CONNECT

A time of silence together with the collective intention of listening for what God is saying to us personally and for the community. After the silence there will be a short time of sharing and praying together.

# All Saints' Church - Marple

Monday	1	12.30pm	THE LISTENING HOUR at CONNECT
Tuesday	2	8.00pm	"CELEBRATE RECOVERY" at CONNECT
Wednesday	3	7.00pm	PROSPECTS in the Foyer
Thursday	4	2.30pm	EVERGREEN LIFEGROUP at 173 Stockport Road
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>7</b>	8.30am	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) Preacher: <i>Lesley Currie</i>
		10.15am	HOLY COMMUNION Preacher: <i>Lesley Currie</i>
		6.00pm	ENGAGE SERVICE
Tuesday	9	8.00pm	"CELEBRATE RECOVERY" at CONNECT
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>14</b>	8.30am	HOLY COMMUNION (CW) Preacher: <i>David Hughes</i>
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>		10.15am	MORNING WORSHIP Preacher: <i>David Hughes</i> (NO EVENING SERVICE)
Monday	15	12.30pm	THE LISTENING HOUR at CONNECT
		8.00pm	HOLY WEEK MEDITATION in Church
Tuesday	16	8.00pm	HOLY WEEK MEDITATION in Church
Wednesday	17	8.00pm	HOLY WEEK COMMUNION in Church
Thursday	18	2.30pm	EVERGREEN COMMUNION SERVICE in Church
		5.00pm	KIDS' CHURCH FAMILY PASSOVER MEAL in the Bowyer Hall
Good Friday	19	2.00pm	HOUR BY THE CROSS
		5.30pm	WALK TO THE CROSS (... from Linnet Clough Car Park)
Saturday	20	8.30pm	REFLECTION in Church: " <i>The Absence of God</i> "
Easter Day Sunrise Service ...		6am (tbc)	at St Thomas' Mellor
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>21</b>	8.30am	EASTER COMMUNION (BCP) Preacher: <i>Daniel Currie</i>
<b>EASTER DAY</b>		10.15am	EASTER CELEBRATION Preacher: <i>Daniel Currie</i> (NO EVENING SERVICE)
Tuesday	23	8.00pm	"CELEBRATE RECOVERY" at CONNECT
Wednesday	24	9.30am	HOLY COMMUNION in the Prayer Room followed by Home Communion
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>28</b>	8.30am	HOLY COMMUNION (CW) Preacher: <i>Barbara Webb</i>
		10.15am	CELEBRATION SUNDAY including ...
		3.00pm	THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING ST GEORGE'S DAY SERVICE (NO EVENING SERVICE)
Monday	29	12.30pm	THE LISTENING HOUR at CONNECT
Tuesday	30	8.00pm	"CELEBRATE RECOVERY" at CONNECT

(BCP = Book of Common Prayer / CW = Common Worship)

# St Paul's Church - Strines

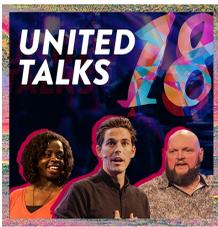
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7</b>	10.30am	MORNING WORSHIP Preacher: <i>Keith Frost</i>
Tuesday	9	2.00pm	BOOK GROUP
Wednesday	10	2.00pm	REFLECTIONS
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14</b>	10.30am	MORNING WORSHIP Preacher: <i>Keith Wood</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21</b>	10.30am	EASTER DAY HOLY COMMUNION Preacher: <i>Keith Frost</i>
Tuesday	23	2.00pm	KNIT & NATTER
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28</b>	10.30am	MORNING WORSHIP Preacher: <i>Martin Makin</i>

## WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays ... 2.00pm GUITAR GROUP

Thursdays ... 10.30am "POP IN" for coffee and chat until 12Noon





A varying selection of talks from New Wine 2018 will be available on the church website over the next 10 months. These talks will be changed approximately once a month.

We have purchased just one copy of each talk from New Wine and have been given permission to share within our church so we ask that you please do not share them with other people.

To access the talks you will need to go to the resource section of the website ([allsaintsmarple.co.uk](http://allsaintsmarple.co.uk)). You will be asked for a password to access the talks. If you would like the password please speak to Hej Alston or email/text her via [hejalston@gmail.com](mailto:hejalston@gmail.com) or 07851773272.

**NewWine**  
Local churches changing nations

## APRIL TALKS - EVERYDAY LIFE

### **The Mental Health Friendly Church – Dr Rob Waller**

*We all know that community is good for us, especially for people who feel alone. But what good is it if that community is stigmatising about mental illness and doesn't know how to help when the going gets tough?*

### **Do Marriage Well 1 & 2 – Chris & Steve Hughes**

*Every marriage is unique. However long you've been married there is always more to discover about each other and how best to face the challenges of married life. This talk combines biblical wisdom and practical teaching.*

### **Identifying our Prison Keepers – Becky Harcourt & Lin Button**

*This is a first look at our prison keepers, like past discouragement causing us to despair and believe nothing can change or the fear that causes us to believe if we step out we'll be overwhelmed by God or by life.*

### **Wellbeing in Leadership – Dr Rob Waller**

*Many leaders report symptoms of burnout. This talk looks at burnout, stress and early symptoms of mental illness.*

### **Fear of Change – Becky Harcourt & Lin Button**

*Focussing on different aspects of the fear of change including loss of control, uncertainty about the future, what people think and our own ability to trust ourselves and God to bring about the change we want to see.*

### **A Mental and Spiritual Health Check – Nikolaos Souvlakis**

*This talk explores the importance of personhood, the effect that the lack of it might have on our wellbeing and how the REMA counselling model can help in the process of recovery.*

### **Teens & Screens – Mike & Bex Norris**

*How can we help our teens navigate the pressures and pitfalls of the internet, social media, Fortnite, YouTube etc? What are the positives and negatives on their mental health and does God have anything to say about it?*

### **Pearls from Pain: Navigating Suffering – Nicki & Pete Sims**

*As Christians we are not immune to adversity. So how do we navigate suffering, trials and pain? It is often in the hardest times that pearls of hope, faith and love are formed in us if we stay the course.*

### **What Voices Control Us? – Becky Harcourt & Lin Button**

*This talk looks at how different voices in our lives can be prison keepers. For instance, our own negative self-talk or others critical disapproving words. It also explores how the enemy lies to us.*

### **Divorced, Single, Married Again – Mandy Bayton**

*How do we navigate the rocky terrain of a relationship ending, the unexplored territory of becoming single again and the adventure of discovering new love?*

### **The Me God Made Me to Be – Alison Hogger-Gadsby**

*How do we hold on to our sense of self when we are struggling with our mental health or emotional wellbeing? What does God have to say about where our identity lies, and how can we learn to hold on to what makes us 'us' during the struggles of life?*

### **Single Minded – Kate Wharton**

*As single people, we face challenges from the world around us, and from within the church. How do we make sure that we live the 'life to the full' which Jesus promises us? How do we stay pure in a world that seems obsessed with sex? How do we remain single minded for God?*

### **#ChurchesToo: Ending Domestic Abuse – Mandy Marshall & Andrew Caplen**

*The #MeToo campaign has highlighted that abuse of women is in all industries and affects all women. The church is no exception. Hear how Restored works with churches to respond to domestic abuse.*

### **Bereavement – Ruth & Tony Palmer**

*Hear about discovering a new normal following a bereavement.*

### **Fear of Failure – Becky Harcourt & Lin Button**

*When we don't accept ourselves, we have both a fear of failure and success and so what we know is safer than stepping out into the full potential of all God has for us.*

### **Mindfulness & Resilience – Shaun Lambert**

*Shaun explores how mindfulness for health and mindfulness of God can help us cultivate resilience in the face of stress.*

### **Friendship – Kerrie Christie & Liz Resch**

*Friends are profoundly important and significant. This talk explores friendship and how to flourish with our friends.*