

# Hope

## MAGAZINE

SPRING 2021

### PEOPLE WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

#### ROSA PARKS ~ THE LADY WHO REFUSED TO MOVE

Black people in America of the 1950s, lived under the laws of segregation. They had to eat in different restaurants from white people, go to different schools, use different footpaths and drink from different water fountains.

When riding on a public bus, black people had to sit in the back section, separated from the whites. But on 1 December 1955, during the evening rush hour in Montgomery, Alabama, this was all about to change.

Rosa Parks, a 42-year-old woman on her way home from work, stepped on the bus at the front, and paid her dime to the bus driver. She then stepped off the bus to re-enter at the back door of the bus. That's what black people were told to do.

Rosa sat in the first row that black people were allowed in. As they



Source : United Press photo 1956, Wikipedia

*"Let me have those seats!" Rosa stayed calm and refused to move!*

travelled, however, the bus began to fill up. A white man boarded the bus and there were no more seats in the white section.

The bus driver looked at Rosa Parks and said "Let me have those seats!" Rosa stayed calm and refused to move!

She later described her feelings of that moment: "I instantly felt God give me the strength to endure whatever would happen next. God's peace flooded my soul, and my fear melted away. All people were equal in the eyes of God, and I was going to live like the free person God created me to be."

The bus driver called the police, who arrested Rosa. She was fingerprinted, locked up, before being released on bail.

The arrest of Rosa Parks sparked a massive protest against segregation. Black people boycotted the public bus system in Montgomery. For 381 days they stayed off the buses.

Some people lost their jobs because they had no way to get to work. Rosa and her husband .....



Source: Ebony Magazine 1955, Wikipedia

Continued on page 3.

### Hope MAGAZINE for Kids

We also have an extra *Hope Magazine for kids* full of fun activities, competitions and stories for Easter!



Why not join us for our **Easter Service on Sunday 4th April, 10.30am**. See back page for further details.

*Who are we?*

We are a Bible believing, evangelical church. We hold a church service every Sunday morning where we seek to explain God's word, the Bible, in a careful, warm and relevant way, and give the Bible's answers to contemporary questions of life. We are currently meeting on zoom, but we usually meet together at Lakeview Village Hall.

We will be holding an Easter service on zoom on Sunday 4th April at 10.30am. Vinny Commons (featured on page 4 & 5) will be sharing God's word with us. You would be very welcome to join us.....see advert on the back page for further information.



*We run other activities during the week (currently on zoom):*



**IGNITE @ 12**  
A friendly group for those in Year 6 and above where we have fun, games, food and explore the Bible together.  
We meet every Tuesday 7.00pm to 7.45pm

**Games**

**Food**

**EXPLORING the Bible**

**QUIZZES**

**QUESTIONS**



**Wixams Sunday Club**  
for children aged 4-10yrs  
3pm to 4pm  
every Sunday term time  
Lakeview Village Hall



We meet on Thursday evenings to look together at what the Bible has to teach us.

[www.christthewordwixams.org.uk](http://www.christthewordwixams.org.uk) and  
[www.facebook.com/christthewordwixams](https://www.facebook.com/christthewordwixams)

## My story....

Do you ever feel that you don't like the way that you have lived? Going along with things, and to places, which you felt uncomfortable with?

After school, I went to Loughborough University and studied Metallurgy. Like so many others, I thought I was a decent person: I had loving parents, I went to church on special occasions, and had 'good morals'. I thought that was enough. Then it hit me like a wall. A true, saved Christian (later to become my wife Anna!) asked me the question – "are you a Christian?"

I said "yes" – at least I thought I was, and I really wanted that life, not the one I had just walked away from: a life made up of socialising, going to parties etc.. I wanted a life founded in something greater, which had more substance.

I came to realise that a real Christian wasn't simply someone with good 'Christian' morals, or good behaviour; I personally needed to put my trust in God. I can't remember the exact time and place, but I prayed and owned up to all of the wrong things I had done and asked God to save me.

Nearly 20 years have gone by and I am happy to see that I've been blessed by God with a steady and progressive growth in faith. My true friends are ones who pray for me, and as a family we seek to follow Christ's teaching. Yes, I still sin! It's not easy, but we have a loving and merciful God who forgives and helps us.

*So, I'll ask you that same question which changed my life: Are you a Christian?*

Ian



# Places to go... WALKS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

*The countryside is nearer than you think.....*



Medbury Lane

There are many amazing walks very near to Wixams.

- A walk or cycle ride from Bedford Road via the A6 underpass to Elstow > Medbury Lane/John Bunyan trail (bridleway) to Wilstead.
- A walk from Cotton End Road, Wilstead into Wilstead Woods > Haynes
- A circular walk from the B530, using Thickthorn Lane to Houghton Conquest > Wilstead > back to Wixams

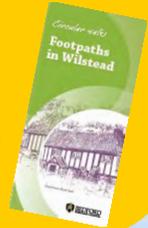


Wilstead Hill sheep field

Two excellent sources for 'Houghton Conquest' and 'Wilstead' walks, cycle rides and maps are [www.letsgo.org.uk/walk](http://www.letsgo.org.uk/walk) and [www.marstonvale.org](http://www.marstonvale.org)

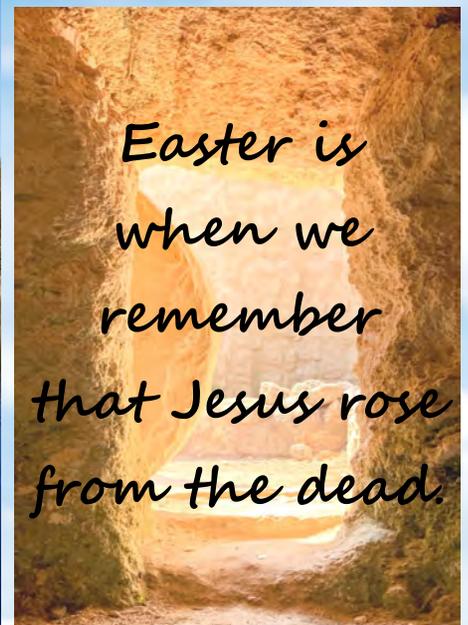
For further information about walks in the local area please see 'Footpaths in Wilstead'. An excellent leaflet with many circular walks and map. Available online and at Budgens, Seasons Garden Centre and Lakeside Fish & Chips. The Wilstead P3 Footpath Group has done excellent work.

Hope you have fun trying out some of these walks!



*We are still meeting ..... you are welcome to join us for our church service using ZOOM, every Sunday 10.30am to 11.30am. Join our service from the comfort of your own home.*

For the Zoom link please contact Alan or Chris  
[word@wixams.org.uk](mailto:word@wixams.org.uk) or 07879 716958  
[www.christthewordwixams.org.uk](http://www.christthewordwixams.org.uk) Christ the Word Wixams



## Continued from page 1 ROSA PARKS—THE LADY WHO REFUSED TO MOVE

were sacked from their jobs and death threats made against her. Churches helped some people find rides to work, and many walked several miles to work for over a year.

But still, they pressed on and did not resort to violence. Eventually, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation was illegal and unconstitutional.

### What gave Rosa Parks the courage?

It may surprise some today, but Rosa said from an early age "prayer and the Bible became a part of my everyday

thoughts and beliefs." The faith her grandparents taught her, as a little girl, gave her the strength that supported her activism as an adult.

Rosa later wrote "I learned to put my trust in God and to see him as my strength." She said "The church was and is the foundation of our community. It became our strength, our refuge, and our haven. We would pray, sing and meet in church. We would use Scriptures, testimonies and hymns to strengthen us against the hatred and violence going on around us."

In 1999 Rosa Parks was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honour. On her death in 2005, aged 92, her body was laid in honour in the US Capitol. Today, she is known and revered as the 'Mother of the Civil Rights Movement.'

*"I learned to put my trust in God and to see him as my strength."*

'Quiet Strength: The Faith, the Hope, and the Heart of a Woman Who Changed a Nation', Gregory J. Reed, Rosa Parks, 2000

# Real lives

## Vinny Commons.....

### Vinny and the beautiful game

For 19 years of my life I was doing my own thing. I was brought up in Nelson, Lancashire, to Irish parents and there was one great love in my life - it was football!

I used to play nearly every day on the field next to my house. At the age of 11, I was asked to join the 'Sacred Heart' team run by the local priest. But I didn't have much thought about God.

When I was 13 I ended up at Blackpool FC. Then I went to Bradford FC. I thought my chances of being a professional footballer had gone completely.

Then a scout from Manchester City invited me to Maine Road, Manchester. At the age of 17 I ended up playing for the youth team on trial, and I really enjoyed myself.

But while I was at City, something very big was happening on the inside. My life seemed very empty. It seemed pointless. I didn't really know where it was going. It didn't have a lot of purpose. A good friend of mine was killed on his motorbike, on his birthday, and that really shook me and rocked me on the inside.

*My life seemed very empty. It seemed pointless.*

Things at home weren't going so well either, with some members of the family struggling with alcohol. It was through this that my eldest sister became a Christian, while at university. I started to ask her questions and began to get answers that made sense of the emptiness and my uncertainty about the future. I eventually went off to teacher



training college to train as a sports teacher. But I was still searching and I had seen changes in my family, in the life of my sister. She told me that, according to the Bible, being forgiven by God was a gift. It couldn't be earned. I struggled with this, wanting to believe that salvation was a reward for a 'good' life, so I decided to put God out of my

## Tasty Treats.....Easter Biscuits

### Ingredients:

100g butter	½ lemon – juice and zest
80g golden caster sugar	1 large egg separated
200g plain flour	75g currants
½ teaspoon mixed spice	2 tablespoons milk



thinking. If I did that, I thought, I would be normal, just like everyone else on campus! And I would be able to get on with my life.

To cut a long story short, one night I went back to my room and switched on the television for some distraction. There was a programme on about the devil. This was frightening and after 3 minutes I switched it off.

*She told me that, according to the Bible, being forgiven by God was a gift. It couldn't be earned.*

But thoughts of life, death, heaven and hell began to race through my mind. I knew I had done wrong before a perfect God and was far from him, and so I cried out "God, if you are there, please forgive me and live within me". I really meant that prayer.

After that prayer I had peace, but I still had many questions. Gradually, I began to understand that when Jesus had died on the cross 2,000 years ago, he had died in my place. In football terms we would say he was a substitute.

*I knew I had done wrong before a perfect God and was far from him, and so I cried out "God, if you are there, please forgive me and live within me".*

And, as I realised all my past sins were washed away, I experienced peace and joy. He gave me purpose and my life took on new meaning. I used to steal and I didn't want to steal any more, as he was changing me on the inside.

*Vinny has worked as a football and sports coach, runs sports camps and played in the Liverpool over 50s football team!*

*He spends time creating pottery in his studio and speaking to teenagers and adults about the reality of knowing Jesus Christ.*



**Vinny is speaking at Christ the Word Church, Wixams, at Easter on the 4th April, 10:30am.**

**Why not tune in and hear him? You are very welcome, and there will be a chance to ask him questions afterwards. (See back page for further information).**

You can read Vinny's story in 'Every One a Winner' – true stories of changed lives from the world of sport. Email us for a **FREE COPY** [word@wixams.org.uk](mailto:word@wixams.org.uk)



www.tenofthose.com

To watch Vinny 'A Potter's story' 4min video, use the QR code

Source: gochattervideos.com & GoChatter Youtube



**Makes approx 30 biscuits**

- 1) Pre heat your oven to 200°C / 180°C fan / Gas 6.
- 2) Beat butter and sugar until fluffy.
- 3) Add egg yolk, lemon, lemon zest and spice.
- 4) Sift and add flour. Add currants. Mix together.
- 5) Add milk to make a fairly stiff dough. If the dough is too soft pop in the fridge for ½ hour.
- 6) Roll out on a lightly floured board to ½ cm thick. Using a cutter (5cm) cut out your biscuits.

- 7) Bake for 8 minutes, remove from oven.
- 8) Lightly brush with egg white and sprinkle over with sugar. Bake for a further 4 minutes. Then leave to cool. Enjoy!!



Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."

John 11 v 25

Cut out and keep



## GREEN FINGERS

### A TIME TO SOW!

This is the time of year for sowing seeds. What grows best in your garden will depend on a range of factors including soil type, microclimate, pests, and the amount of attention you can give. Local soil tends to be too hard for root crops like carrots to penetrate. So why waste space on things that don't produce a good crop?



Vegetables like runner beans, marrows and sweet corn do well started off in pots. Just place them in a greenhouse or on a sunny windowsill and plant them out at the appropriate time.

Beetroot and chard are sometimes difficult to establish in the ground. Try starting them off in trays and transplant when a few centimetres high: as long as you give them plenty of water they should do well.



*"The earth brings forth its bud and the garden causes things that are sown in it to spring forth."*

Isaiah 61 v 11



## EVIDENCE FOR THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

### *The women were first!*

It is first century Palestine. Three women at first light make their way down a garden path to a tomb. They are carrying perfume and spices to embalm the dead body of Jesus, crucified 3 days earlier. As they approach the tomb - shock! The tomb is open. Inside, the body is gone! The sheet that wrapped the bloodied body of Jesus is neatly folded on the side. They are told that Jesus has risen from the dead.

The women - the main eyewitnesses - run to tell Jesus' friends. But none of the men believe them! Even Peter - who became one of the leaders of the Christian church - would not believe the women! This is what is recorded in all four eyewitness accounts of the life of Jesus Christ - Matthew ch28, Mark ch16, Luke ch24, John ch20. Check it out for yourself.

But if you were making up a story of 'Jesus rising from the dead', you would not say the main eyewitnesses were women! In 1st century Palestine they did not have status. And you wouldn't be allowed to rubbish the leading men running the 1<sup>st</sup> century church! After all, they would be painted as the heroes! And you wouldn't write this all down to be preserved in your sacred scriptures!

Yet, check out the evidence for yourself! In the four eyewitness accounts, when Jesus himself meets the leading men, he calls them 'foolish', 'slow', 'would not believe', refusing to believe he was alive.

So, who wrote these eyewitness accounts? The men! Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. And the men describe themselves, not as heroes, but as fools and Peter, a coward!

There can only be one explanation for this honesty: the eyewitness accounts of the bodily resurrection of Jesus must be true accounts! What is recorded is what actually happened. Why not read the eyewitness accounts for yourself?



# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

**Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ so important?  
Is it possible to be a Christian without believing the resurrection?**

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are central to the Christian message.

On the cross Jesus died for the sins of mankind. He offered himself as a sacrifice to God that all who believe in him should not perish but have everlasting life<sup>1</sup>. But his resurrection from the dead was an integral part of the work that he came to do.

The Apostle Paul (who wrote much of the New Testament) says very bluntly, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins<sup>2</sup>." There are a number of reasons why the resurrection is so important.

## It Fulfilled Prophecy

In the Old Testament (the part of the Bible written before Jesus was born), God gave many prophecies of the Messiah (Jesus Christ), including some about his resurrection. For example, King David wrote of him saying, "You have brought up my soul from the grave, you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit<sup>3</sup>."

Jesus acknowledged that the Scriptures concerning himself must be fulfilled<sup>4</sup>. They validate his claims.

## It Reveals His Identity

The fulfilment of prophecy, particularly the resurrection, provides evidence of who Jesus is. The Bible says that he was declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead<sup>5</sup>. Death could not hold the Son of God: He rose again victorious, as he himself foretold<sup>6</sup>.

## It Demonstrates His Achievement

Jesus died to bear our sins, that we might be forgiven and made acceptable in the sight of a holy God<sup>7</sup>. There is an old hymn that sums it up like this:

He died that we might be forgiven,  
He died to make us good,  
That we might go at last to heaven,  
saved by his precious blood.

But how do we know that he achieved this, that his sacrifice is accepted by Almighty God? Had he remained in the grave, we would have no certainty on this matter.

Before Jesus died, he declared, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me. Though he die, yet shall he live<sup>8</sup>." After he rose again, the Saviour who had conquered death was able to say, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me<sup>9</sup>." He is able, therefore, to keep his promise to all who believe in him.

## It Provides Assurance

The Apostle Peter (who was one of the disciples of Jesus) tells us that the Christian is a person who has been born again to a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead<sup>10</sup>. Through his death, he cleansed us from sin, but it is his resurrection that gives us the assurance of eternal life. If we are trusting in him, then we can be confident that God, who raised up the Lord Jesus Christ, will also raise us up by his power<sup>11</sup>.

Bible References: 1) John 3:16, 2) 1 Corinthians 15:17, 3) Psalm 30:3, 4) Mark 14:49, 5) Romans 1:4, 6) Mark 8:31, 7) 1 Peter 2:24, 8) John 11:25, 9) Matthew 28:18, 10) 1 Peter 1:3, 11) 1 Corinthians 6:14

Christianity Explored

One life.

What's it all about?

## Want to know what's in the Bible?

Why not join us for a 7-session course looking at Mark's Gospel. It gives you time and space to consider the big questions of life and to explore the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith - Jesus Christ.

- You won't be asked to read aloud, pray or sing
- You can ask any question you want, or just listen

For more information please see [www.christthewordwixams.org.uk/explored](http://www.christthewordwixams.org.uk/explored) or call Alan & Anne on 07879716958 or email [word@wixams.org.uk](mailto:word@wixams.org.uk)

# Help find our lost sheep!



Look out for our **lost sheep stones** hiding around Wixams from **Monday 29th March!** If you find one take it along to **47 Green Lane, Wixams** to claim your prize for your family. Please only find one lost sheep per family so that lots of families can enjoy the hunt. **HAVE FUN!**



## COMPETITION TIME

This month we have a **Sudoku challenge** for you. If you have not tried a Sudoku puzzle before, why not give it a go! Each horizontal row needs to include the numbers 1 to 9, each vertical column needs to include the numbers 1 to 9 and each box (there are 9 boxes), need to include the numbers 1 to 9.

Once you have correctly filled in all the numbers, complete the puzzle by using the numbers in each of the coloured boxes to find the competition code!

PHOTOGRAPH YOUR ENTRY AND EMAIL TO [word@wixams.org.uk](mailto:word@wixams.org.uk)

FIRST THREE CORRECT ENTRIES DRAWN OUT OF A HAT ON FRIDAY 9TH APRIL WILL RECEIVE AN EASTER EGG!



5					3	6		
2	9			8			5	1
1		6		3	2	8	4	
3			4				2	
7				6	8	4		5
	6				1			
	5			4	3	2	8	7
8	3	2			6		9	4
9		7	8		5			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
N	E	F	A	C	S	L	W	T

Competition Code



### All are welcome to our Easter Service

Vinny Commons (page 4) is speaking on

**'Hope beyond coronavirus'**

Sunday 4th April 10.30am

ZOOM Meeting ID: 873 4620 5424  
Passcode: 4316

Or on Youtube, use the QR code below or the link on

[christthewordwixams.org.uk](http://christthewordwixams.org.uk)

 Christ the Word Wixams



Christ the Word Church Wixams wishes you and your family a very happy and blessed Easter.