

Hope

Magazine
Easter 2024

Page 5

Eric Liddell 100yrs

Olympic Gold



Whats on in

Wixams

Pages 2

Places

To Go

Page 3

Where's

Hope?

Page 6

Coming up:

Easter Service 31st March

Holiday Club 2nd-4th April **SIGNUP FREE**

More at Christthewordwixams.org.uk

Hope Magazine is published by Christ the Word Church, Wixams
We are a Bible believing, evangelical church. We hold a church service every Sunday morning 10:30-11.30am when 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.

Everyone, of any faith or none, is welcome. We are friendly and after the service love to talk to everyone over tea & coffee.

Every Sunday in Lakeview Village Hall, Wixams

- ☐ 10:30am to 11:30am (best if it is your first time)
- ☐ 6pm to 7pm in the Swan Room
(singing, discussion, message from God's Word, prayer)



For further help and information
word@wixams.org.uk
07879 716958
facebook - ChristtheWordWixams
www.christthewordwixams.org.uk

Free
Easter holidays Wixams
Record breakers
Holiday Club

Tue 2nd, Wed 3rd, Thur 4th April
10am-12:00 Lakeview Village Hall
All children 4-10yrs welcome



games, crafts, quizzes, prizes, competitions, Time-machine Bible stories & songs about Jesus
christthewordwixams.org.uk
Christ the Word church, Wixams
Word@wixams.org.uk

Ages 10-14
IGNITE 2-4pm
Holiday Club

Holiday Club
www.christthewordwixams.org.uk

IGNITE
Afternoon
Free

Ages 10-14

Tue 2nd, Wed 3rd, Thur 4th April
2pm-4pm, Lakeview Village Hall
Wixams. All young people ages 10-14yrs welcome

Games
Food
CRAFT & ACTIVITIES
quizzes
Life stories
Explore Bible
Question box
games in muga

Record Breakers and Ignite holiday clubs are organised by Christ the Word church, Wixams, This is the ninth year the holiday clubs have been run. All the team are DBS checked.
For further information see Alan & Anne Pibworth, Chris & Becca Clarke, or the website. To register for the Record Breakers or Ignite holiday clubs use online form or download booking form, and drop off at 47 Green Lane, Wixams. You can register on day, but subject to space m: 07879716958 www.christthewordwixams.org.uk



YOUTH LINK
SOUTH BEDS

TEENS/TWENTIES
FRIDAYS @7:30PM
TERM TIME

FOR MORE INFO TEXT
PAUL: 07593522574

FOLLOW ON INSTA
@SB_YOUTH LINK

NEXT EVENT:

Pottery NIGHT
FRIDAY 22ND MARCH
7:30PM START
AT OLD ROWNEY FARM



BEDFORD
younglife
NYLC

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE

Are you in year 9 or above? Come and join us each week in Wilstead for a great time! For more info: Ross 07825 278488



Places to go!

Whipsnade Zoo



Whipsnade Zoo is the largest zoo in the UK

It is in a park covering 600 acres on the edge of Dunstable Downs.

Experience thousands of amazing animals, from a herd of Asian elephants to 30 different species of butterflies, chimpanzees, lions and tigers, reptiles and amphibians, to name a few.

There is a daily Birds of the World event, as hawks, owls and macaws swoop above your head in this amazing free-flying bird demonstration.

Whipsnade is the ideal place to visit for the entire family, with something for everyone to see.

Car journey From Wixams to Whipsnade is just 27 miles.

www.whipsnadezoo.org

Tasty!



Fruit on a skewer looks exciting!
Tastes fantastic!
Healthy alternative to doughnuts!

My Story...

Being a teenager in the 1970's could be a confusing, risky time.

By the time I was fourteen I was familiar with those who used a range of drugs, with drunkenness and the unrestrained expression of sexual desire.

So what kept me safe? There was no knowledge of God, or His Word, in my family.

However, a babysitting neighbour, who looked after me as a very small child, spoke constantly of Jesus and His love.

I took this knowledge of God and His love through my life. Knowing that God loved me gave me self-respect so, as best as I knew how, I took care of myself.

I also began to look for an authority to inform me of what was right and wrong. I looked to the loudest voices in my life- rock bands, friends and the literature I read at school.

In the summer of 1972 I was taken to Birmingham to hear Arthur Blessitt who carried a large wooden cross around the world to proclaim Jesus. He spoke of the way I could be forgiven and know Jesus as Saviour, Lord and Friend.

In a follow-up Bible study group at the home of a school friend I was challenged to repent of my way of life, to confess my sin and ask Jesus to be the Lord of my life. This seemed the natural thing to do.

I began to go to a church where I could learn about God, worship Him and be with those whose lives were also committed to Jesus.

My parents were not happy about this and I thank God that my teenage rebellion took the shape of not taking drugs and sleeping with my boyfriend, but of going to church.

The Bible became the authority I had sought for my life. At university I met my husband, another Christian in my hall. We married in 1978.

Life since then has not been easy,

there has been financial loss, redundancy, times of unemployment, multiple miscarriages, family difficulties and moves to different places. In all of this Jesus has been the constant, faithful Saviour, Lord and Friend I learnt about from my neighbour, when I was three, the evangelist when I was fourteen and from all the Christians I have met since.

I do not know who, or what, I would be without faith in God, and His care for me.

I believe I would be one without hope, without the knowledge of forgiveness and without the certainty that all is in God's hands, and that I am safe in Him.

Debra



Debra has three grown up sons and three grandchildren. She works as a Counsellor and lives in Bedford

THE DYING WORDS OF JESUS CHRIST

What can we learn from them and why are they so significant?

György Soponyai calvary flickr

In the four Gospels we find recorded seven short sayings of the Lord Jesus Christ, when he was dying on the cross.

They give us an insight into the very heart of Christ, the purpose for which he came into this world and the reason for his death.

1. “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do”¹

- On the surface, these words were spoken to those who were responsible for his crucifixion and they reveal the depth of mercy in the heart of Christ.

But there is a more profound sense in which Christ was looking down the ages at us today, with all of our sin and unbelief, and he says “Father forgive them.”

He calls upon his heavenly Father to forgive us, but on what basis can we obtain forgiveness?

The Bible says that, “Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”²

Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who came to take away the sin of the world,³ was there offering himself as a sacrifice for our sins and, on the merit of his own shed blood, he is able to plead for our pardon and forgiveness.

2. “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise”⁴

- Jesus said this to a dying thief being crucified alongside him.

The man was conscious of his own sin, but he acknowledged Jesus as Lord and cried to him for mercy.

In return, Jesus promised him eternal life in Heaven.

The thief had no opportunity to make amends for the wrong that he had done; he was dying. But he received the promise of salvation and, if he could be saved, then so too can we.

3. “Woman, behold, your son!”⁵

- These words, spoken to his mother Mary, reveal his compassion.

Even in death he is concerned for the welfare of his mother and tells her to take John as her son. Still his love reaches out to all in need today.

4. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”⁶

- As the end approached Jesus cried out in anguish to his Father. Can it be that God had forsaken him?

It was rather the case that the weight of our sin, which he bore upon the cross,⁷ was so great that, for that moment in eternity, it came between God the Father and God the Son.

The Father had not forsaken Him, as was evidenced three-days later when he rose again, victorious over the grave.⁸

5. “I Thirst.”⁹

- These two words reveal the suffering of Christ upon the cross.

He who said, “Whoever believes in me shall never thirst”,¹⁰ himself became thirsty as he suffered the agonies of crucifixion for us.

6. “It is finished.”¹¹

- This was not a cry of defeat, but a shout of victory. It was not his life that was finished, but his work of redemption as he died to pay the price for our sins.¹²

Because his work is complete, all who trust in him will be saved.¹³

7. “Father into your hands I commit my spirit.”¹⁴

- This was an expression of submission as Jesus commended himself into his Father's hands, and a sign of contentment as he put his trust in him.

For three days he would lie in a cold, dark tomb, but then he would rise again to take his place upon the throne in heaven.¹⁵

Check out the Bible References:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Luke 23.34 | 9) John 19.28 |
| 2) Hebrews. 9.22 | 10) John 6.35 |
| 3) John 1.29 | 11) John 19.30 |
| 4) Luke 23.43 | 12) 1 Peter 1.18-19 |
| 5) John 19.26 | 13) John 3.16 |
| 6) Matthew. 27.46 | 14) Luke 23.46 |
| 7) 1 Peter 2:24 | 15) Hebrews.12.2 |
| 8) 1 Corinthians 15.55-57 | |

Eric Liddell

Olympic Champion 100yrs ago

'Eric Liddell you're a traitor!'

Eric read the comments in the Scottish newspapers: 'Eric is a disgrace- He's let us all down'. 'He was going to win gold- now we won't win anything!' 'Lack of patriotism'. 'Wrong priorities!' The Scot faced a lot of criticism for not running in the 100 metres in the 1924 Paris Olympics.

Who was Eric Liddell? He was born in 1902 to Scottish parents working as missionaries in Tianjin, North China. Later Eric studied for a BSc in Pure Science at Edinburgh University. He played rugby for the university and for Scotland, gaining seven caps. Eric was fast. In athletics he was the fastest runner in Scotland, winning race after race.

Exactly 100 years ago Eric Liddell was chosen for the British team in the Paris Olympics of 1924. He was the favourite to win a gold medal in the 100 metres sprint.

But when the programme was announced for the Paris Olympic Games, Eric immediately gave up any idea of running the 100 metres. The heats were scheduled to be held on a Sunday. Eric was a Christian – he had trusted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour and believed that Sunday was a day given by God for worship and rest.

TorchLighters Eric's story for the family



For Eric Liddell, this was not the ultimate race. His relationship with God was far more important. Instead, Eric started training for the 400 metres race. When the Paris games started, Eric spent the Sunday of the 100 metres heats preaching at the Scottish church in Paris.

On the morning of the 400 metres final in Paris, Eric was handed a folded square of paper by one of the team masseurs. Reading it later he found the message: "In the old book it says: 'He that honours me I will honour.' Wishing you the best of success always." Recognising the reference to 1 Samuel 2:30 in the Bible, Liddell was profoundly moved that someone other than his coach believed in him and the stance he had taken.

The statue of Olympic gold medalist Eric Liddell was unveiled in Weifang, Shandong province, China in 2015



Gold medal for 'Flying Scotsman'



Eric faced a strong field in the 400 metres final. Sportingly he shook the hands of each of his competitors. He was drawn in the outside lane. The starting pistol fired and the "Flying Scotsman" set off at a devastating pace, which with head back and arms pumping, he managed to maintain to the tape, winning by a margin of five metres.

Coming home in 47.6 seconds it was a new Olympic, European and British record. Eric returned to Scotland as a national hero! On graduating Eric had many job offers. He was famous, with the chance to make a lot of money.

But for the next year Eric did something he thought was far more important. He spoke at hundreds of events. Not so much about his sporting prowess, but about Jesus, who lived, died and rose again, so that people could find forgiveness and come to know God. His motto was: 'Christ for the world, for the world needs Christ'. **In 1925 Eric left Scotland, fame and fortune to return to China as a missionary.**

Eric Liddell began teaching mathematics and science at a school in China. The country was suffering from the effects of war and famine. He also used his athletic experience to train boys in a number of different sports and helped to build a stadium in Tianjin. Eric married Florence in Tianjin in 1934, and the couple had three daughters.

Living in China in the 1930s was dangerous. British nationals were advised to leave, and Eric's family left for safety. But despite the Japanese invasion Eric worked tirelessly to help the people of China, facing danger to rescue and help the wounded, and sharing the good news of Jesus. In 1943 the Japanese army put 'enemy nationals' in an internment camp at the city of Weifang. Eric made himself busy in the camp, running sports activities for young people, teaching science and Bible classes and church services on Sunday. A survivor later wrote that Eric "was overflowing with good humour and love for life".

Because of his status Eric was given the chance to leave the camp, but he gave up his place to a pregnant woman. In his last letter to his wife in 1945, written on the day he died, Eric wrote of suffering a nervous breakdown due to overwork. He had an undiagnosed brain tumour and was likely malnourished. The race of his life was now over. He was aged 43. The camp was liberated shortly afterwards.

Where is Hope Found?

3 reasons why the resurrection of Jesus means hope in our world

1. Hope because Jesus is the Judge

Our world has 110 armed conflicts¹ and countless acts of barbarism and injustice, yet the cry for justice is unanswered. The United Nations will not solve these problems.

The question is asked "Why doesn't God do something?" God has. God will bring the hope of justice to every single person. But you cannot have justice without judgement. Jesus will judge the secrets of all², and stop all wars. How do we know? Because Jesus was raised from the dead.

When Jesus was on earth he acted as God, he spoke like God, and by his bodily resurrection from the dead he showed he was God³. And God "has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all **by raising him from the dead.**"⁴

Jesus spoke clearly about judging the living and the dead. Because there will be perfect justice and judgement, Jesus will bring an end to all evil, and he will reign on this earth.⁵

2. Hope because Jesus cancels debts

Have you ever had a large bill or debt that was cancelled? What a relief! God has a record of all our debts (our sins): hatred, theft, impurity, deceit, slander, envy, selfishness, coveting, pride. So great a debt; it stains, it spoils and it separates us from a holy God. Jesus himself said God's judgement awaits us.⁶

However hard we try we can't wipe our sin record clean. But when Jesus died on the cross, he demonstrated his love in dying in the sinner's place, to pay the debt of sin.⁷ The payment is sufficient for all those who turn from their old life, ask him for forgiveness, and truly believe.

Jesus arose from the dead to show it is true.⁸

There is hope. Your record of debt can be cancelled. You can be acquitted.⁹ Jesus breaks the slavery of sin. You can be set free.

3. Hope because Jesus gives eternal life

Ken, a retired builder in a village near Luton, was always working on projects. In later years it was building toys or play equipment for the grandchildren. One day one of the children said, "grandad, what's your next project?" Ken answered "heaven!".

Ken had enjoyed a fulfilling life, but since he had become a Christian, he knew his real destination was heaven. Ken was looking forward to that day. And in March last year it became reality.

Ken could say with the apostle Paul "O death where is your victory? O death where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."¹⁰

Shakespeare's Hamlet said "Conscience doth make cowards of us all." But there is hope! **Because Jesus defeated death and arose again.** All those who have trusted in him as their Lord and Saviour, and know forgiveness of sins, can know for a certainty that they too will be with Jesus in heaven when they leave this life.

God is not distant and he certainly isn't silent. He has communicated clearly through his Son Jesus Christ and through the promises in his word, the Scriptures. He arose from the dead that he might reign and judge all evil.

To all those who believe, he cancels the debt of sin and gives eternal life. Has Jesus cancelled your debt? Do you have eternal life through Jesus Christ?

1. <https://geneva-academy.ch/galleries/today-s-armed-conflicts>

2. Romans 2:16

3. John 2:19-22; Romans 1:4

4. Acts 17:31

5. Matthew 25:31ff; Romans 2:16; 2 Timothy 4:1; Rev 21:1-4

6. Matthew 10:28; John 3:36; Romans 5:9; Hebrews 9:27

7. Romans 5:8

8. Luke 24:45-47

9. Romans 4:25 Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification [Acquittal]"

10. 1 Cor 15:55-57

REAL Lives

Examining the Resurrection

Retired High Court Judge, **Sir Jeremy Cooke**, shares his story and forensically examines the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus. He served 15 years as a High Court Judge and is a committed Christian.

Roger Carswell is a Christian from Yorkshire. In 'Real Lives' he interviews people from all walks of life and hear about the difference that Jesus makes in a broken world.

More interviews on Reallives.net

With
Roger Carswell



and
Sir Jeremy Cooke



Watch **Sir Jeremy** be interviewed by international Speaker **Roger Carswell** here

Our Easter Bible verse
Why not cut it out



*For the wages of sin is death, but
the free gift of God is eternal life
in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 6v23

How can God allow suffering?

Have you ever wondered... If there is a God of love, why is there all this suffering in the world? That question is often asked; perhaps you ask it yourself sometimes. This booklet examines what the Bible says about suffering.

Text your street number to 07879716958
or email word@wixams.org.uk **to get a free copy**
(details will not be used or retained)

The booklet cover features an open Bible and a globe with images of suffering. The title 'How can God allow suffering?' is in bold black and red text. The author's name 'Gerard Chrispin' is below. A 'The One' logo is in the bottom right corner.

**How can
God allow
suffering?**

Gerard Chrispin

The One



Gerard is a Lawyer and has spent many years as a prison chaplain, sharing the hope found in Jesus.

Easter Service

Sunday 31st March, 10:30-11:30am
in Lakeview Village Hall, Wixams

The resurrection of Jesus

All are welcome
of any faith or none



Sunday 24th March 10:30am

'A promise to a dying man' (Christ's power to save demonstrated in His words from the cross)

Sunday 31st March 10:30am

Easter morning - The resurrection of Jesus

Sunday 7th April 10:30am

'Where is Jesus now? Does it matter?'

Every Sunday - evening service 6-7pm

Swan Room, Lakeview village hall.

Christthewordwixams.org.uk

All are welcome

credit: cdancel unsplash

Competition Time - Easter Wordsearch

FIND THE HIDDEN WORDS, PHOTOGRAPH YOUR ENTRY AND EMAIL TO WORD@WIXAMS.ORG.UK FIRST THREE CORRECT ENTRIES DRAWN OUT OF HAT ON FRIDAY 5TH APRIL WILL RECEIVE A 190G KIT-KAT EASTER EGG!

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q | D | N | E | R | T | S | U | S | E | J | N | E | M | B |
| G | V | P | L | A | S | W | M | W | D | O | Y | F | A | E |
| X | O | B | F | N | I | O | E | E | I | W | Y | I | G | L |
| H | S | S | Q | S | R | L | R | T | N | S | L | L | D | I |
| Y | S | N | R | O | H | T | C | D | O | O | L | B | A | E |
| R | K | K | P | M | C | E | Y | L | R | D | T | H | L | V |
| B | Q | F | S | W | R | Z | D | S | E | A | B | S | E | E |
| R | E | I | O | R | F | I | N | I | S | H | E | D | N | G |
| A | N | T | U | R | E | C | F | W | B | O | M | P | E | Y |
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| J | N | J | R | E | W | E | U | E | K | F | K | A | N | E |
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| F | O | R | G | I | V | E | N | S | G | Y | P | V | H | O |

All entries will be notified of result. Contact details for the purpose of this competition only.



| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| ALIVE | KING |
| BLOOD | MARY |
| CRUCIFIED | RESURRECTION |
| FORGIVEN | SINS |
| JESUS | STONE |
| MAGDALENE | BETRAYED |
| RANSOM | CROSS |
| SINS | FINISHED |
| SPEAR | HOPE |
| TOMB | LIFE |
| BELIEVE | MERCY |
| CHRIST | RISEN |
| EMPTY | SOLDIERS |
| FORSAKEN | THORNS |