

WELLINGTON EVANGELICAL CHAPEL Easter 2018

Don't be fooled!

It so happens that Easter Day falls on 1st April this year!

April Fools' Day provides a wonderful opportunity for practical jokers and the spreaders of hoaxes and we do our best to avoid falling victim to them and so be branded an April fool.

The biggest hoax of all time? Easter is a celebration of the fact that Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead on the third day after being crucified at the hands of Roman soldiers.

Did I say 'fact'? Over the course of two thousand years literally millions of people have believed he did. The question is, have they all fallen victim to a cruel hoax? Was it not as the authorities of the time reported, that the followers of Jesus simply stole his body in the dead of night and claimed he had risen from the grave?

Was he trying to fool us? Jesus himself told his disciples several times that he would be crucified and rise again on the third day, only they did not understand what he was talking about. He was certainly right about his crucifixion. Would he have allowed this cruellest of deaths to be inflicted upon him if he wasn't sure himself of the outcome?

Shocking! When these things happened it was a complete shock to the disciples. It ought to be a complete shock to us, too. Whoever heard of such a thing? But *why* did it happen – if indeed it *did* happen?

When someone breaks the law they become liable to the law's penalty. That could involve a fine, or a prison sentence, or even, in some countries,



death, depending on the nature of the crime. Persistent law breakers have to be put away to keep them from doing further harm in society. That is something we all understand. It is no different with God's law. The penalty for being breakers of his laws is death – not just physical death but something far more serious: eternal separation from God and the suffering that entails.

When he died on the cross, Jesus, God's Son, took the penalty and suffered the punishment on behalf of those who would believe in him. He died to give them life – eternal life. He died because he *loved* a lost world.

His resurrection on the third day was a triumph over death.

Jesus, who is risen from the dead, has life-giving power. Countless people have experienced this – the power of his resurrection – in their own lives. Otherwise they wouldn't believe him or follow his teaching. Christians don't just say that Christ *rose* from the dead, though he did. What they say is that Christ *is risen* from the dead. That is because he is very much alive today and his risen power is at work in their lives.

Anyone would be foolish to ignore a risen Saviour like this and to spurn such extraordinary love.

The Bible has much to say about fools. Here are just a few quotations:

The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good. Psalm 14:1.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7.

O simple ones, learn prudence; O fools, learn sense. Proverbs 8:5.

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. Proverbs 12:15.

Claiming to be wise, they became fools. Romans 1:22.

God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise. 1 Corinthians 1:27.

The Bible also has much to say about love. Here is a remarkable statement:

For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:7-8.

We desire that you should have a truly happy Easter through knowing the love of our risen Saviour. You will receive a warm welcome at any of our services or events

Good Friday Service

Friday 30th March at 10.30 am

What's good about it?

Come and find out how something so good could come out of something so horrible

Easter Day

Sunday 1st April at 10.30 am and 6.00 pm

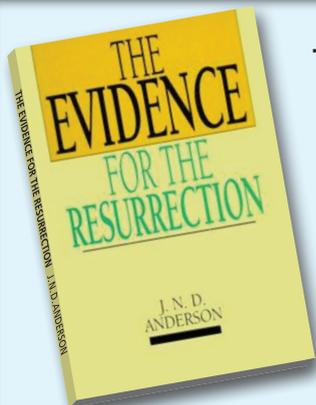
'Christ is Risen'

Is he really? So what?

Does it matter?

Do come and find out more

We believe the implications of the resurrection are huge for our lives here and now and for our future destiny. We would love you to join us in worshipping God and thinking afresh about the real meaning of Easter.



THE EVIDENCE FOR THE RESURRECTION

by Professor Norman Anderson

This is a brief but detailed summary of the evidence that Jesus really did rise from the dead.

*If you would like to read it
we will send you a free copy.*

“ There exists such overwhelming evidence, positive and negative, factual and circumstantial, that no intelligent jury in the world could fail to bring in a verdict that the resurrection story is true.

Charles Darling, one time acting Lord Chief Justice

OUR REGULAR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services:	10.30 am & 6.00 pm	
Mondays (term time)	7.00-8.30 pm	Youth group for 11+ years old
Wednesdays (term time)	9.30-11.30 am	“T-Break” Toddler group (pre-school)
Wednesdays	7.30 pm	Bible Study / Prayer Meeting

All these activities take place at the chapel unless otherwise stated

For more information about our activities please contact one of our church leaders:

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Find out more from our website: www.wellingtonec.org.uk

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