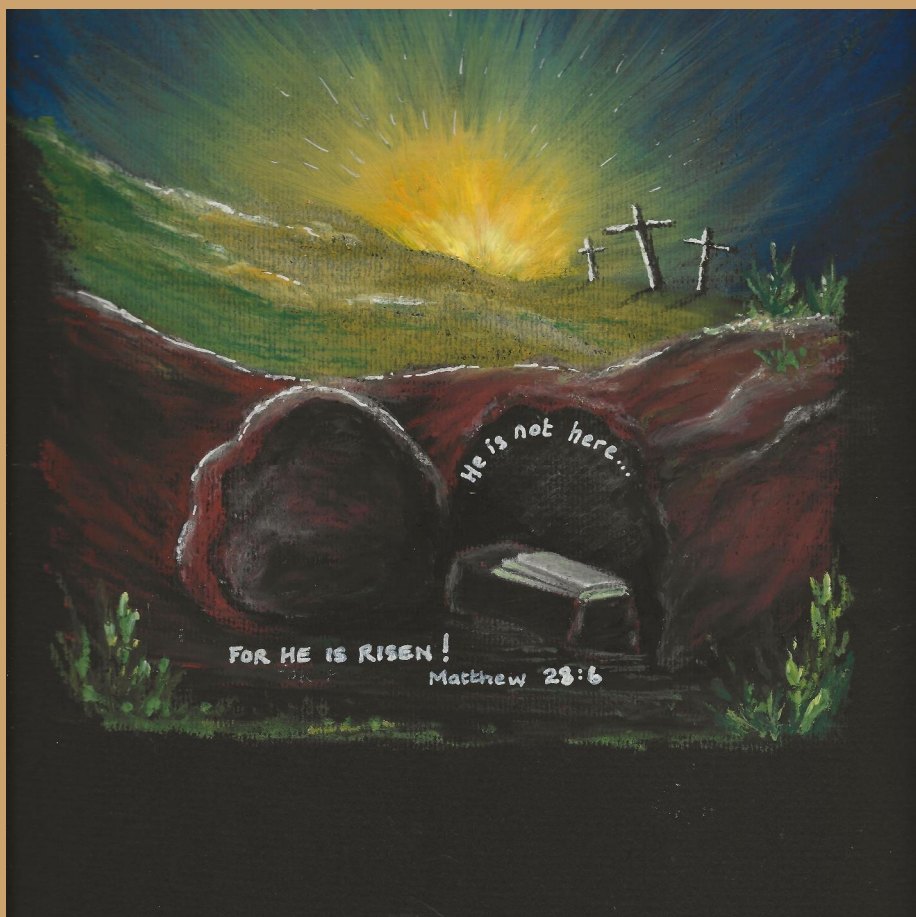


# Cc:

news | views | events

APRIL 2019



**CHRIST CHURCH WOODBURY**

*worshipping God, serving others and introducing people to Jesus*

# CHRIST CHURCH WOODBURY

*worshipping God, serving others and introducing people to Jesus.*

## EASTER AND THE RESURRECTION

Christianity has a number of distinctives when compared to other faiths. For starters Christians, unlike other religions, believe that we don't have to earn our Heavenly Father's favour. In fact there's nothing we can do to gain salvation - we're saved by grace. In addition we don't have to try and find God - He came to our rescue, coming in human form as Jesus through an amazing, miraculous virgin birth - another unique attribute.

But the greatest differentiator is that Christians believe in a risen-from-the-dead, back-to-life Saviour. Yes, Jesus died but He rose again on Easter Sunday just as it was predicted He would. And now He lives and reigns eternally and one day will come back again for those who believe in Him.

No other world faith can match these incredible beliefs. And that's why this edition features a number of articles celebrating Easter.

The Good Friday crucifixion led to an amazing Easter Sunday resurrection and we've asked a few people to briefly outline their Easter thoughts - why it matters so much to them. We hope their experience will be an encouragement and you'll also consider what Easter means to you.

Oh and by the way, there's another unique aspect to the Christian faith - the Holy Spirit now lives in us. We'll celebrate that at Pentecost.

Be blessed!

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For more details about the Church, visit our website

**[www.christchurchwoodbury.org.uk](http://www.christchurchwoodbury.org.uk)**



## Happy Easter to everyone.

What an exciting first part of 2019 we have had. It's been great to explore our theme of **'Discipleship'** together through our first **'Discipleship Through'** series and then our look at the teaching from the **Book of James**.

Over the next few months we will be exploring the **'Resources of a Disciple'** as a mini-series and then a longer series looking at **'Whole Life Discipleship'** where we will focus on aspects of both our working and home life.

These talks will include looking at various stages of life from how and where we work and develop our careers in different workplaces to retirement, and from singleness, marriage and parenting to caring for parents. In all these topics we will be thinking about how we follow Jesus and serve Him and others in such a way that we make a positive impact.

Thank you so much to everyone for praying and giving to enable us to start advertising for a **Community Church Worker**. Now we wait and trust for God to provide the right person. Opposite is a copy of the

advert we are circulating through various connections and social media. If you can help re-post the advert via Facebook or WhatsApp or any other means, ask Sarah to let you have a copy of the advert either as an image or a pdf. file.

There will be more change as **Clair** moves on in a few weeks time and we look forward to celebrating all God has done through her work with our young people for which we are very thankful too.

We're therefore looking forward with increasing excitement to what God has in store as we transition into a new season in our life together.

Thanks for all you do to make Christ Church what it is and we look forward to the next chapter over the coming months.

### WE ARE RECRUITING!

## Community Church Worker



Christ Church is based in the village of Woodbury (near Exeter) and is an Independent Evangelical Church. We have an exciting opportunity to employ a Community Church Worker to enable us to reach out to Woodbury and the surrounding area with the love of God.

#### Key objectives

- To facilitate the development of missional housegroups across the church
- To contribute to the church vision in conjunction with the Leadership Team and implement priorities and strategies
- To lead the church Staff Team

**Full-time – 40 hours per week**  
**£28,000** plus 5% pension contribution.

#### Interested?

For further information and job description please email:  
[sarahb@christchurchwoodbury.org.uk](mailto:sarahb@christchurchwoodbury.org.uk)

**Closing date**  
**Sunday 12th May 2019**

**CHRIST CHURCH WOODBURY**

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# THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER...IT IS NOW

Stephen Derges

He was a rebel, or so they thought. He didn't think the way they did and seemed to contradict or criticise everything their culture and religion stood for. Who did he think he was? After all he was just another semi-skilled labourer from a backwater town – he wasn't important.

Yes, they'd seen him do some remarkable things – people who had been ill, blind or couldn't walk seemed to be healed and there were reports that even dead people came back to life again. But he mixed with all the wrong people, even with women from the red-light district, so he couldn't be trusted, could he? "He's not like us," they reasoned, "we're respectable – he most certainly isn't!"



The day that changed everything

But what really stuck in their throats was that he claimed to be God's son. How ridiculous! He was just another jumped up country boy who could hoodwink and deceive. These so-called miracles were just illusions, magic tricks he conjured up. He may have been an entertaining storyteller with his home-spun wisdom but all he really had was the ability to manipulate crowd dynamics for his own ends.

"Let's get rid of him", they said to one another, "then things will revert to normal and we'll be back in charge. We can use our own religious guards and the government's militia and claim he's trying to overthrow law and order. The authorities will go along with that, after all they have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo."

So, it was decided: the fake news campaign began with trumped up charges; misinterpretation of what had been said; followed by so-called 'eyewitnesses' who would be economical with the truth; even a traitor from within – paid of course for information. A rigged trial; a judge who really didn't want to go along with it but for the sake of peace and order washed his hands of the matter; public humiliation and beatings and eventually an execution.

**"It's all over", they thought...but it wasn't!**

Everything changed three days later – the body couldn't be found. They'd made all the appropriate arrangements – they knew where it was supposed to be and had an armed guard, but there it was – gone! And now there were people claiming to have seen him again – alive!



Unbelievable? Millions around the world believe the real Easter story. It's not about Easter bunnies and chocolate eggs or having a couple of extra Bank Holidays. This is about God's Son, Jesus, who lived a perfect life, died an agonising death, but came back to life again so that we could have a life worth living – now and in the future.

## **Easter - from the same people that brought you Christmas**

### **WHAT EASTER MEANS TO ME**

We asked a few people at Christ Church Woodbury for their thoughts about what Easter means to them (also see the back page).



*"For me Easter is a time to reflect on how Jesus, who was so comfortable at the right hand of God, came down to earth to endure one of the most painful experiences imaginable out of His love for those that He created. This not only reminds me of His great love for us but also encourages me to step out of my comfort zone"* - **Sam Corney**

*"I guess the easy answer is...everything, because Jesus' life, death and resurrection is the very thing I base my whole life on. Without Easter that wouldn't be happening. In fact, I'm pretty convinced that without my faith I would have been living my life a whole lot differently, with ME very much at the centre. It wouldn't have gone well!!"* - **Shaun Fulls**



*"Remembering Jesus who was sacrificed to save me. Also it's an opportunity to share with non-believers about the true meaning of Easter. Faith, Family & Food"* - **Zoe Bolwell**

*"For me Easter is at the very core of all history, philosophy, theology and my entire life. Through Christ's death and resurrection, He triumphed over all evil, reconciling humanity back to God. Through Christ our old sinful selves are crucified and we are resurrected with Christ as brand spanking-new creations, Hallelujah!"* - **Tim Lister**



**So how about you? What does Easter mean to you?**







# THE CASE FOR EASTER

- Lee Strobel

When Lee Strobel's wife Leslie became a Christian, it turned his world upside down.

As an award-winning journalist on the Chicago Tribune, he was always passionate to get to the truth of a story.

Lee couldn't deny the winsome changes he was seeing in Leslie's character and values but, as an atheist, he believed that Christians were blinded by their faith from the real facts about Jesus.

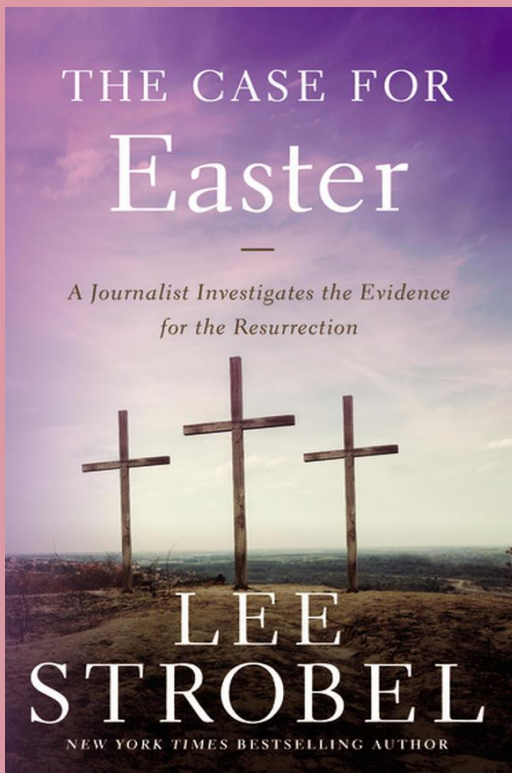
Using his investigative skills and legal training, Lee set out to liberate Leslie from this "cult". He quickly identified three big questions, and they all took him to the heart of the Easter story:

- Was Jesus really dead after his ordeal on the cross?
- Was the tomb of Jesus actually empty on that first Easter morning?
- Did credible people actually encounter him afterwards?

In this gripping, but tiny, 90-page book, Lee Strobel digs deep into these questions, interviewing experts and leaving no obvious stone unturned.

Whether you are a person of faith or not, I think you will find some of his findings quite surprising - and Strobel leaves us to come to our own verdict. As someone who is not a great reader, I found this little gem of a book easy to read and utterly absorbing.

What better time of year to get to grips with the original Easter story?



If you'd like a copy, please get in touch with Tim - he has a few left at the **bargain price of £2.99!**



# REGULAR ACTIVITIES @ CHRIST CHURCH

DAY	WEEKLY	FORTNIGHTLY	MONTHLY
<b>SUNDAY</b>	09.30 Prayer Meeting 10.30 Morning Service		12.30 First Sunday Lunch
<b>TUESDAY</b>	18.30 Chalet Group	14.30 Housegroup	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	18.00 Chalet Plus	19.45 Housegroups	19.30 Reflections (for ladies)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	08.00 Prayer Meeting 15.15 Kids Café 19.30 Smoothie Bar	19.30 Housegroup	
<b>FRIDAY</b>	09.30 Gems	20.00 Housegroup	

**For details of other Activities please see the Church website:  
[www.christchurchwoodbury.org.uk](http://www.christchurchwoodbury.org.uk)**

**“Our vision is to reach every person in Woodbury and the surrounding area with the love of God through immersing ourselves in our community, supported by a loving, faith growing church.”**

## SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR CHILDREN @ CCW

Our Sunday services aim to be family friendly and we actively encourage children to participate in all aspects of church life featuring a specific children's talk each week after which there are age-related clubs to attend.

**Crèche:** for babies and pre-school toddlers - supervised allowing parents/carers to attend the service.



**Bubbles:** for pre-school and reception year children with play and stories designed to enable children to develop their faith and their relationship with God.



**Junior Explorers:** for primary school aged children with fun and imaginative resources to encourage faith development and especially prayer.

For more information speak to our **Children's & Families Worker - Livi Ju**

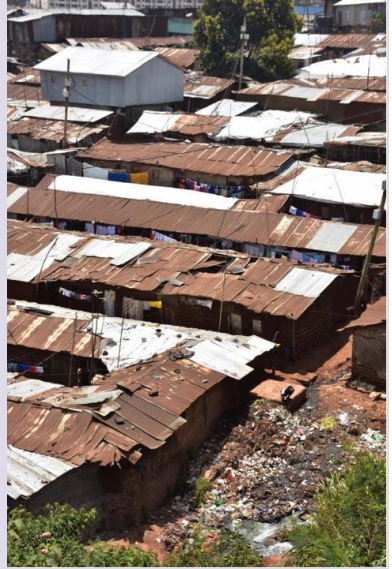


# NINE GO TO KIBERA

Richard Workman

Kibera is the largest slum in Africa. The population is estimated to be between 250,000 and 1 million people. Most people live in a shack with mud / wood walls and a corrugated iron roof. The shacks are typically 12 foot x 10 foot, don't have running water or toilet facilities and less than half have electricity. Most people living in Kibera are described as living in extreme poverty. People work long hours often earning no more than a dollar a day and unemployment affects 50% of the population.

Our hosts, **Peter Abungu** and **Chris Ormondi** from the **Swahiba** team, together with **Jerry** our driver and the 9 younger members of staff couldn't have been more helpful or accommodating. After a straight through flight from Heathrow to Nairobi, it was a short drive to our hotel – which was clean, comfortable and the food perfectly acceptable and varied.



**But we were there to work, to learn and to encourage.**

On our first afternoon we were putting new shoes on some of the poorest children, the money for which had been kindly raised by CCW and other supporters back home.

First, we washed the children's feet just as Jesus had done for his disciples. In so doing, we were showing them that we

were there to serve. We dried their feet, put on the shoes, talked and prayed with them. We all found this a surprisingly moving experience. During our stay we were privileged to give **more than 150 children** their first pair of new shoes!

We had also raised money for **food parcels**, the contents of which were basic – maize flour, salt, sugar, oil, tea, washing soap, toothpaste etc. But to the recipients they were a 2 - 3 week lifeline and were received with real joy and thanksgiving. The Swahiba team had already identified those most in





need. We carried the food boxes through the slum to the individual's home and met their family. It was humbling to be invited into their home which typically housed 4 – 6 people. Some had no furniture at all, others just a battered sofa, a few wall coverings and perhaps a bed but there was warmth and dignity within the home. Their stories were truly heart-breaking. Many families had lost one or both parents and **often people had to decide between food and education**; one teenage boy lived alone in an area that was too dangerous for us to visit; another girl explained that she hadn't eaten for two days.



The Swahiba team do an amazing job. They run several projects all with a slightly different focus, but all underpinned by the gospel. They give so many young people hope and **equip them with skills** to help support themselves and others. These kids might be slum dwellers, but they are bright, and they all seem to have a hunger to get educated, to get qualified, to get a decent job. We joined in several of these projects, leading small group discussions on subjects such as self-esteem and peer pressure. We also went to an **orphanage and a youth detention centre**, telling

bible stories, teaching them songs, playing games. It was challenging work but great fun. And we learnt as much as the kids.

**Church on Sunday** was a bit different to CCW. It was a real privilege to be worshipping with Christians from a different continent with a completely different culture but who are every bit as loved and valued by God as we are.

Green and pleasant Woodbury seems a million miles away from slum Kibera but get to know the people and they are just the same as you or I. We just had the good fortune to be born in Britain.

The team may be back but our journey hasn't ended and there will be opportunities for others to walk with us in the future. And if you get a chance to go then take it! Visiting Kibera

won't be like your usual holiday – but the benefits and memories are likely to be longer lasting!!

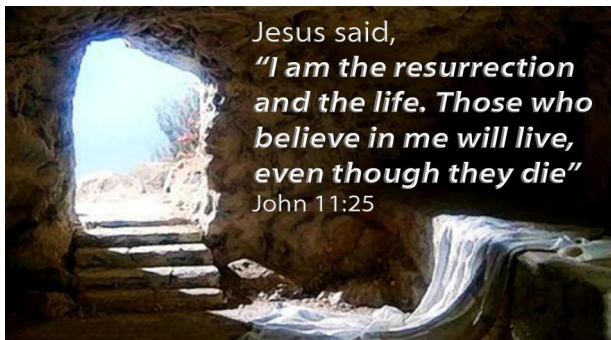


[more photos overleaf...](#)

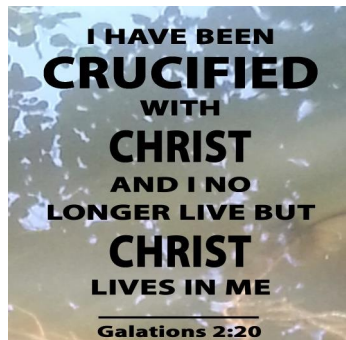




Kibera Team members:  
**Linda & Charlie Collins;**  
**Richard Critchley; Carolyn Fulls;**  
**Sara Hurlock; Dave Lowrie;**  
**Mary Raffell; Richard Workman;**  
 and **Anne Wynne.**



Jesus said,  
*"I am the resurrection  
 and the life. Those who  
 believe in me will live,  
 even though they die"*  
 John 11:25



# MISSION FOCUS - CHINA

Tricia Critchley

The Chinese church is known for its care for the marginalised in society. Recognising this, the Communist government has allowed Christians relative freedom in the last 15 years. In this time, churches have grown, Christians now numbering around 97 million and still growing. By contrast, Communist party membership has plateaued at 89 million.

In February 2018 new religious regulations were introduced which have increased pressure on Christians e.g. anyone under 18 is banned from attending church or receiving any religious education. How would we as a church deal with that?

In a couple of provinces, churches have been shut down. A dreadful situation but one which has sometimes had positive consequences: some congregations have split into multiple smaller gatherings, one church is meeting in parks and handing out tracts, another city (church) group returned to their home villages where they are now spreading the gospel and church planting!

The government is not yet completely stamping out religion. It sees the church as a useful arm for increasing citizen loyalty to President Xi Jinping's ideology; the aim being to make religion fit smoothly

with the Communist line.

There are plans to selectively reinterpret Christianity and the Bible to fit with Chinese culture. One official government-approved church was ordered to remove *'You shall have no other gods before me'* from the Ten Commandments display on the front of the pulpit.

If religion is curbed so that the gospel is compromised, Christians are increasingly going to face hard choices (e.g. some students are being forced to renounce their faith or face consequences).

One pastor was imprisoned last December and his wife detained in a secret location. Their son, aged 11, now lives with his grandmother and both are under constant surveillance causing much stress. The pastor has written a letter saying, *"Separate me from my wife and children, ruin my reputation, destroy my life and family - the authorities are capable of doing all these things - however, no one in this world can force me to renounce my faith."*

Please remember them all in your prayers, knowing that God is able to do so much more than we ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).





# WHO TO CONTACT AT CHRIST CHURCH

## LEADERSHIP TEAM | TRUSTEES

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**Stephen Derges** - Finance  
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**Tim Moyler** - Outreach  
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**Clair Wigg** - Youth/Children  
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## CHILDREN'S & FAMILIES WORKER

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## CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

**Sarah Breeze**  
sarahb@christchurchwoodbury.org.uk  
01395 233425

During times when the Church Office is not open please leave a message which will be answered as quickly as possible.

## PASTORAL TEAM

The Pastoral Team are available to pray with people after the service or at any time. They provide pastoral care and support as well as welcoming people to our services.

Contact the Pastoral Team by email:

**pastoral@christchurchwoodbury.org.uk**

Emails to this address are treated as being highly confidential and are monitored by two members of the Team - **Linda Collins & Jennie Cox**. Alternatively call members of the Team as follows:

**Linda Collins** - 01395 232731

**Jennie & Mick Cox** - 01395 270292

**Mally Fulls** - 01395 2333526

**Pat Holland** - 01395 232372

**Anne Wynne**: 01395 268291

## ELDER EMERITUS

**Henry Fulls**

## WHAT EASTER MEANS TO ME

*"Having the faith to believe in Easter defines me as a Christian. Good Friday, including the Last Supper sets the scene. My sins separate me from God. Jesus pays with His own blood and tears by death on a cross and this paves a way back for me to God. My chest hurts as my heart breaks with the realisation that I have brutally murdered my one true love, Jesus, because of what I have done. Please forgive me. My love dies for love of me.*

*Then a time for reflection while I take this all in. Then, oh the glory of Easter Sunday. All my sins have died with Jesus, buried and forgotten. Cue David with songs and harps and dance. Cue first line of chorus of Disney's Frozen, 'Let it go, Let it go'. It's party time. I'm back on track with God. I'm excited and celebrate with chocolate, new wine and new life.*

*Memo to self, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are not just for Easter but for life every day. Second memo to self, go easy on the chocolate!" - Di Phaby*

