

What we believe in a few words

Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem just over 2000 years ago. During his first thirty years he lived in obscurity but probably shared the daily life and work of an ordinary home. For a short period of three years he went about healing sick and troubled people and teaching small groups in villages, in the fields and by the lakeside. He gathered twelve ordinary men to be his followers. He had no money. He had no university degree, he wrote no books. He commanded no army. He wielded no political power. During his ministry he never travelled more than two hundred and fifty kilometres in any direction. He was executed by crucifixion at the age of 33, and three days later he was raised from the dead and appeared to many people. He remains with us now as his Holy Spirit.

He is now revered as the Son of God by over 1500 million people throughout the world. The service of Holy Communion which he instituted is celebrated in all our churches faithfully, reverently and regularly. The record of his life and teaching is contained in the Bible which stands open in every church.

Jesus Christ taught by what he said, by what he was, and by what he did. He taught us to trust in God as a loving and merciful Father and to pray, in faith, to him for all our needs and in all our difficulties. Jesus taught that as we are made in the image of God we are infinitely precious, that we are children of God, that we are filled by his Spirit, and so should be compassionate with one another in love, understanding, respect and forgiveness.

He taught us to live in a spirit of thankfulness to God for all God's gifts to us and always to be sensitive to the needs of others, especially those who are sick in mind or body and all who are lonely or distressed. He taught that our life in this world is a preparation time and part of a greater and fuller life in God's eternal kingdom. He taught us to follow him in faith, simplicity and love and to try to live by his teaching. He called people to turn from their old selfish ways and to start a new life, placing themselves under the reign of God, and working for justice, truth and freedom for everyone.

Christians believe that Jesus was raised from the dead by God and that his resurrection affirms he was God's chosen servant. God raised him from the dead to demonstrate to all people for all time that Goodness will triumph over Evil; Justice over Injustice; Love over Hate; Life over Death. His followers came to realize that Jesus was not only a man. He was 'the human face of God'. They worshipped him as 'the Lord'. The risen Jesus is alive for ever. Christians believe he is present with us in Spirit today. Without the resurrection of Christ there would be no Christian Church and you would never have found your way to this website!

May you know Christ's love in your hearts and lives.

Adapted from material originally written for Guildford Cathedral, UK.