

The Alpha Course

This twelve week course is hosted by St Matthew's at least once a year. It involves meeting together one evening a week and provides the space to ask questions and explore the meaning of life and faith. The layout of the evening includes a free buffet of homemade food, followed by a talk exploring and unpacking some key questions including; Who is Jesus? How can we have faith? Why and how do I pray? How does God guide us? After this talk there will be a time to discuss the topic in small groups where people are free to openly discuss their views and hear others thoughts. More information can be found on the website on the back of this leaflet, or by speaking to either the Rector or Curate who will be able to tell you when the next course is running.



Contacts and useful information

Rector- Jim Trood

Email: rector@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk
Phone: 07939587208

Useful websites

Alpha

www.alpha.org

Christianity Explored

www.christianityexplored.org

Got Questions

www.gotquestions.org

Useful books

The Bible: a beginners guide by Paula Gooder

Sunday Services

8.00am: Book of Common Prayer
9.00am: Parish Communion
10.45am: Morning Praise
4.00pm: Asian Congregation
6.30pm: Church Hill Praise

Social Media

Facebook: St Matthew's Walsall
Twitter: @StMattsWalsall
Instagram: @stmattswalsall

www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk



Explore Christianity



Who is Jesus?

Jesus was born in an obscure Middle Eastern town called Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. During his first 30 years he shared the daily life and work of an ordinary home. For the next three years he went about teaching people about God and healing sick people by the shores of Lake Galilee. He called 12 ordinary men to be his helpers.

He had no money. He wrote no books. He commanded no army. He wielded no political power. During his life he never travelled more than 200 miles in any direction. He was executed by being nailed to a cross at the age of 33.

Today nearly 2 billion people throughout the world worship Jesus as divine - the Son of God. Their experience has convinced them that in the wonders of nature we see God as our loving Father; in the person of Jesus we discover God as Son; and in our daily lives we encounter the same God as Spirit. Jesus is our way to finding God: we learn about Jesus by reading the Bible, particularly the New Testament and we meet him directly in our spiritual experience.

Jesus taught us to trust in a loving and merciful Father and to pray to him in faith for all our needs. He taught us that we are infinitely precious, children of one heavenly Father and that we should therefore treat each other with love, respect and forgiveness. He lived out what he taught by caring for those he met: by healing the sick - a sign of God's love at work; and by forgiving those who put him to death.

Jesus actions alone would not have led him to a criminal's death on the cross: but his teaching challenged the religious and moral beliefs of his day. Jesus claimed to be the only way to reach God. Above all, he pointed to his death as God's appointed means of bringing self-centred people back to God. Jesus also foretold that he would be raised to life again three days after his death. When three days after he had died on the cross his followers did indeed meet him alive again, frightened and defeated men became fearless and joyful messengers.

Their message of the good news about Jesus is the reason the Church exists. More importantly, it is the reason why all over the world there are Christians who know what it means to meet the living Jesus and who believe that he alone has the key to human life.

