

## Looking for help?

- ❖ The priest who conducts the funeral of your loved one will always help you

☎(020) 8844 0457



## Read about it

If you want to read more about these things try reading the following passages in the Bible:

St Luke's gospel, chapter 24

St Mark's gospel, chapter 16

St John's gospel, chapters 20 and 21

## Thank you

for reading this.

If you would like to know more contact:

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# Saint George Hanworth Park

## WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE DIES...



## SOME CHRISTIAN ANSWERS

## **Some Christian answers**

Christians don't have 'all the answers'.

### **We live by faith, believing:**

- ❖ that Jesus rose from the dead. Three days after he had been cruelly put to death on a cross, God raised him to life again, new life.
- ❖ In Jesus' words, *'I go to prepare a place for you...'* meaning he wishes to share his new life with us forever.
- ❖ that death is a move on toward a greater and richer fulfilment of life and all that is good. Death means that life is changed, but not ended.
- ❖ that we have a responsibility to share this news – so we begin by welcoming people to use St George's for funerals (whether they 'come to church' or not).

### **What actually *is* the resurrection?**

- ❖ Jesus was alive body and soul after his resurrection.
- ❖ it was new life – he was free from the limitations of time and space.
- ❖ it was healing – the wounds in his hands and side though visible, were healed.
- ❖ with it came forgiveness for he said to his disciples on the evening of the first Easter Day *'..those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven...'*

## **Is it true?**



we believe it is true because there were so many witnesses

and Jesus appeared several times in different ways to his friends, the disciples.

### **So we don't need to:**

try to get 'in touch' with our loved ones who have died. However upset we feel, because we have confidence that they are safe in God's keeping. We trust him to look after them, so we don't need to ask them if they are all right. Some people do try to get 'in touch' – this can arrest the natural and essential grieving process, which is good in itself.

### **And we don't believe:**

in reincarnation. We don't believe that people come back in some different form. There is nothing in the Bible to tell us anything except the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Day, and hope to share it forever.

## **But we *are* human, so:**

- ❖ we do need to have a time of mourning / grieving. We may feel angry, upset, disoriented, very tearful at the strangest moments. We might feel cheated, cut off, we might feel as if there was not time to say the things we wanted to, we might feel guilty. All these feelings are natural.
- ❖ this time is different in length for everyone and cannot be rushed or cut short.
- ❖ each of us grieves in different way – we are not odd! Read how David lamented for the loss of Saul and Jonathan in the Bible, 2 Samuel, chapter 1, verses 17-27.

### **Prayer can help:**

- ❖ the simplest prayers of gently handing over a loved one to God and asking him to comfort us can help us.
- ❖ each week in S George's we pray for those who have died recently along with those whose anniversary of death falls on the day. We read out their names. You are welcome to join us on Sundays at 10am.
- ❖ each year on All Souls' day (2 November) we have a service at which we pray for those who have died during the past year.