

Communion Service Sunday 19th April led by Revd. David Aplin

It was a day with the odd lapse.



The recent events in the Aplin family are - unsurprisingly – still very much centre stage for David. He'd talked of the potential challenge to his belief, but his belief has been, if anything, strengthened by what has happened. And the Easter story - always for him at the core of Christian belief – provided an opportunity to share this with us.

He'd been unsettled whilst searching for a suitable prayer to find one asking for forgiveness for finding the truth of Easter hard to believe. For him, belief in Easter and in Jesus Christ was not optional and the idea of doubting the truth of Easter was appalling. He didn't find it hard to believe in Easter, to believe that Jesus Christ had died for him, or that He was resurrected. He believed Christ had died for us, that our sins might be forgiven, and that we could follow our Lord into new life after death. And he that trusted we would one day follow that path.

Space in a grave in Cardiff for himself and Maren was important for him: "You can take a man out of Cardiff, but you can't take Cardiff out of the man" – so for him, especially, it would be like going home. But he recognised that this was human sentimentality. Our bodies were merely temporary temples for our souls—little more than tents. At funerals, we were reminded of the impermanence of our physical bodies. It was our souls that were permanent, and through Christ, would not die but live forever in the Kingdom of God.

After sitting with Amelia's body for three hours in tears with her Mum Tricia, he'd feared pressing the button at the crematorium that would send her away forever. When the time came, he'd pressed it with love and care, trusting his faith that she was no longer within that body. Her soul had departed, through the love, sacrifice, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

David's Bible spanned 1,328 pages (including the appendices), yet its message was summarised by the reading from Luke: "The Lord has risen indeed." The Old Testament offered us history and prophecy, the Gospels recounted Jesus's life, and Paul's letters addressed the spread of Christianity and answered questions. People had suggested that he should write about his experiences with the Spirit, which often came to mind when he was preaching or writing sermons. These experiences had happened not just to him, but to millions of believers over centuries—the Spirit had worked!

The story of Jesus had been written: He was born as a baby, served for four years as Jesus Christ, was arrested, tortured, and executed by crucifixion. The Lord had risen indeed and appeared to Simon. He'd showed Himself to many and ascended to heaven, becoming once again God the Son.

Our lives ran in parallel: born as babies, growing, living, and serving as disciples, guided and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, with a human propensity to fail and sin—hopefully only in small ways. Through Christ's sacrifice, we were forgiven. Our souls ascended to God's kingdom, made possible by Christ overcoming death.

We should be confident: our souls were saved forever, for Christ had promised this.

And it was also a good day to welcome Joan Powell into membership.



