

conducted by the BBC. (see BBC Comres Survey overleaf)

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### 2.3 Something beyond the grave - Our mortal bodies decay but our immortal soul lives on into eternity.

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### 2.4 Something beyond the grave - Eternal life that starts with our mortal soul which will be re clothed with an immortal body - Resurrection.

- This was the prevalent Jewish position of the day. Most Jews believed in an eventual resurrection: that is, that God would look after our mortal soul after death until, at the last day, God would give his people new immortal bodies at the time when he judged and remade the whole world. *'We have a mortal soul in need of an immortal body'*
- That is what Martha assumed Jesus was talking about in their conversation beside the tomb of Lazarus: *Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."* John 11:23-24

### 2.5 'Raised to Life' - Resurrection

- No Jew, not one of the disciples ever anticipated or understood until afterwards what Jesus meant when he said: *"We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"* (Mat 20:18-19)
- What Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome stumble across that first Easter Sunday is the most significant event in history – The tomb is empty because Jesus has been **'raised to life'** or resurrected. And isn't just these three who are going to see the resurrected Jesus. Paul claims that Jesus *appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.*
- Jesus has been brought back to life in his resurrected body – Jesus is the **FIRST** person in history to do this. Jesus is the **PROTOTYPE** or **FIRST FRUIT** of what all of us have to look forward to – That we too will be resurrected and given new bodies. Paul states in verses 51- 54 of Chapter 15: *Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: Death has been swallowed up in victory* – This is the prize at the end of the race that we all can look forward to.

### 3. Questions to consider at home

3.1 Which of these three viewpoints about life after death do you find convincing?

3.2 If God looks after the souls of his people 'after death' until, at the last day, he gives his people new immortal bodies, where do the souls of his people reside before the last day and where do the new immortal, resurrected bodies reside after the last day?

3.3 Why is Jesus' resurrection so radical?

3.4 Why is the resurrection so important to the Christian faith?

Matthew Street - Easter Day - 16<sup>th</sup> April 2017



## The Parish of Peasedown St John

### 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 - BE Resurrected

#### Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these talk notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below.

#### 1. Talk Passage – 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

*[12] But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? [13] If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. [14] And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. [15] More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. [16] For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. [17] And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. [18] Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. [19] If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.*

#### 2. Talk Notes

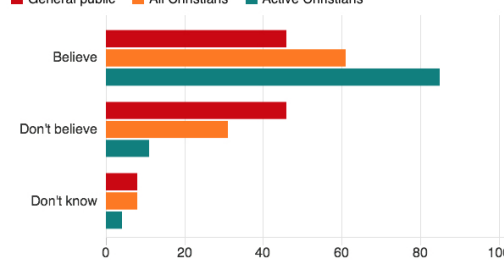
##### 2.1 Introduction

- *How can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?* (1 Corinthians 15:12) Paul asks the Corinthian Church and by inference us today. Paul continues: *If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.* (1 Corinthians 15:13) But can it be true? Can it be true that Jesus lived and died and rose again? Is the resurrection a fact or is it just fiction? That is the question that many in the church in Corinth were struggling with. What would our answer be today? Do we believe that the resurrection is a fact? And do we understand what resurrection is all about? Or are we 'Confused of Corinth' as well!
- There would have been three conflicting views about what happens when people die in Corinth. In essence these views continue to this day. Firstly there is no life after death. Over 40% of the general public today do not believe in life after death, according to a recent poll conducted by the BBC. (see BBC Comres Survey below) Secondly there were those who believed in life after death but not in the resurrection of the dead. Interestingly just under 40% of active Christians today believe this. Finally, there were those who did believe in the resurrection of the dead. Just under 60% of active Christians today believe this.
- So what do we believe? Do we have a mortal body and soul, both of which die when we do? Do we have a mortal body that dies and an immortal soul that lives on or do we have mortal body that dies and mortal soul that will ultimately be re clothed with an immortal body?

Life after death

E.g. reincarnation, heaven, hell

■ General public ■ All Christians ■ Active Christians

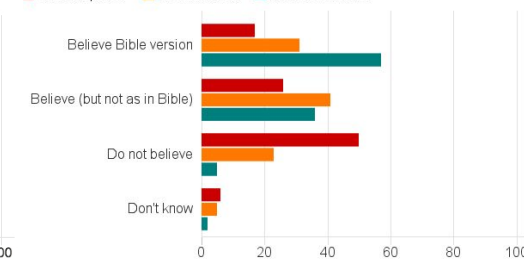


Source: ComRes survey of 2,010 British adults for BBC local radio

Belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ

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### 2.2 No life after death – Our mortal bodies and souls cease to exist.

- *That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question.* (Matthew 22:23)
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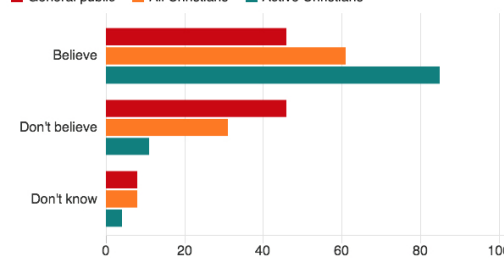
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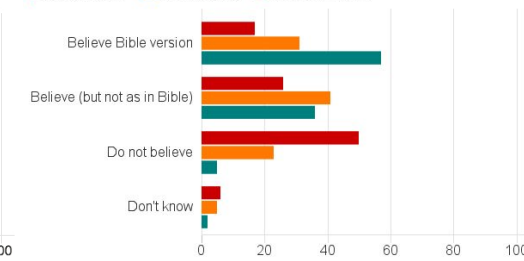


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