

My interview

On Jesus

Christ with

My Dad

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Rev Vaughan Rees is the University Chaplain and Chaplaincy Services Manager. He is released by the Covenanted Churches in Wales (Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and United Reformed Churches) and is appointed in partnership between these churches and the University for this work. He has worked in local pastorates in England and Wales and in regional church leadership. He is committed to ecumenical work and dialogue and understanding between faiths.

Known as my Dad.

How did Jesus become to be so popular to all the people who lived around him?

Jesus was not popular with everyone. He became popular for a number of reasons among them are:

- He spent time with people who were not considered important
- He healed people
- He told good stories
- He gave people hope.



Why did the Pharisees go against Jesus?

Because Jesus gave new meanings to their scriptures and they thought he was a threat to their authority.

Who was Jesus and what did he stand for?

Jesus was the son of Mary and Joseph the carpenter. The bible tells that he was born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth and taught around Galilee and Jerusalem. He called some men to follow him and they came to believe that he was the Messiah (the 'anointed one' - the one who would liberate the Jews from captivity) which the Jews had longed for. The bible story goes on to tell how he was crucified on Good Friday and rose again from the tomb on Easter Sunday morning. Other religions recognize Jesus as a prophet and a good man but Christians believe that he is the son of God and the means by which they can know God's love most clearly.

Do you think Jesus had a bond with any of his disciples and why?

I think Jesus has a bond with all his disciples. There are stories in the bible where Jesus tells Peter 'you are my rock' - a special person in other words. And where he tells Thomas that he is blessed. Jesus spent at least three years of his life living with his disciples everyday. He must have been very close to them and they very special to him although he also knew they weren't perfect and had faults like the rest of us.

Do people believe Jesus will come again and why?

Traditional church teaching has been that Jesus will come again but not everyone agrees how this will happen. Some think there is going to be one special moment when this will happen but others believe that it refers to an experience each individual will have.

Why do some religions not celebrate Jesus?

Because they believe different things about him. Judaism and Islam honour Jesus (they just don't think he is the 'Messiah').

There are no records to show that Jesus was born on the 25th of December so why do we celebrate his birth on this day?

Nobody knows the exact date when Jesus was born. The church chose the 25th December because according to the Julian calendar this was the Roman Winter Solstice, the day that the nights started getting brighter. Pre-Christian religions already celebrated this day so the church simply added a new element to it and capitalized on the theme of light coming into the world.

My Interview with My Uncle

1) How old were you when the war ended?

I was 7 years old. I started school when I was 8 years old and the school roof had been blown off during the war.

2) What do you first remember when the war ended?

We had street parties. It was called the VE day, when we celebrated winning the war. I remember all the soldiers coming home and all the people cheering and my father who was one of the soldiers and I was happy to see him.

3) Did you go to the cinema?

Yes I used to go to the Tower Cinema in Townhill Swansea but now it has been demolished. I used to go on Saturdays and it was called the three penny rush but I didn't see a TV until I was sixteen.

4) Did you have more food when the war ended?

I didn't necessarily have more food but I did have different food. In the years after the war I first tasted bananas, drinking chocolate and chocolate.

5) Did the things you did daily change when the war ended?

During the war we had to put out our lights before six o'clock every evening and had to hide in an Anderson Bomb Shelter

when the sirens went off. After the war you could keep your lights on for as long as you wanted and you didn't have to worry about hiding in bomb shelters.

6) What is your best memory when the war ended?

My best memories are of the street parties and my dad coming home from the war.

7) What did you wear in school?

All the boys wore short trousers until they were sixteen and they wore short sleeve t shirts without ties. The girls didn't wear tights because they were in very short supply. Only the wealthy and the well connected had tights.