

ON MESSAGE IN MARCH.

On Sunday March 13th we only had one question to look at, but it is a question that goes to the heart of our faith, and runs like a river through Christian history and theology. Deceptive in its simplicity it asks us examine what it really means to be a Christian.

Has this wetted your appetite? I won't keep you in suspense any longer, for the question is "what is the difference between Jesus and the Christ?".

Taking a deep breath the group plunged into a discussion which began with each of us saying what kind of an answer we would give. Naturally this involved talking about the four gospels, and recognizing that each of them gives a different picture of Jesus, noting that what Matthew, Mark, Luke and John chose to tell us about Jesus is determined by the picture they were painting and how they had reacted to Jesus. What does 'Messiah' mean to them and how does that relate to Jesus? And then there is the rest of the New Testament, especially the letters of St Paul to take into consideration.

What does it mean to describe Jesus as the Son of God? We could only touch the surface of this profound mystery, after all theologians have been struggling with this for two thousand years. We agreed that this was a question that can never be fully answered and that each generation of Christians is called to understand it anew.

What do you think?

Robbie Pearson.