

Eynsford Baptist Church

Icons - the greatest person of the First Century

The recent TV series on Twentieth century Icons made me ask how I thought about Jesus. I started looking at who else was around in the First Century to compare Him with and came up with a suggestion for each category:

Artists and Writers - Pliny the Elder wrote the encyclopedic *Naturalis Historia* (*Natural History*), which became an editorial model for encyclopedias.

Activists - Queen Boudica of The Iceni in England launched a rebellion against The Romans. Tens of thousands die and the Roman army is massively damaged.

Sports Stars - Gladiator Flamma fought in the Colosseum 34 times, winning 21 of his fights, drawing nine times and was beaten just four times.

Entertainers - Phaedrus, a Roman story teller of Macedonia turned Aesops fables into verse.

Scientists - Tu Shih from Nanyang invented the first-known hydraulic-powered bellows to heat the blast furnace for smelting cast iron.

Explorers - The Han Empire sent an explorer named Gan Ying out west to make contact with Europe.

Leaders - Roman Emperor Augustus Caesar brought peace. He reformed the taxation system, developed networks of roads with an official courier system, established a standing army and the Praetorian Guard. He rebuilt much of Rome and created official city police and fire-fighting services.

But any list of notable people of the First Century also includes Jesus of Nazareth and for me He is THE winner. Where does He fit?

He was a great teacher on how we should all live in harmony with each other but left others to write it down. Many say he was an activist and that was why He was crucified. He was a leader but not the leader the Jews expected as their Messiah. Instead He died and rose again conquering death for all of mankind from Adam and Eve to the end of time. He set up His Church which is still going today.

Jesus cannot be boxed into any category, He is bigger than all of them and is still alive today.

Some leader ,some God!

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Church Notices

Services Sunday at 10.30 a.m.

Friday March 1st - Bible study - Thy kingdom come - 19:00 for 19;30 - 20;30

Sunday March 3rd - Joint Service in Lullingstone Villa - 16:00
(no morning service this week)

Everyone welcome!