

Thought for the week

The Rev Richard Hagan Emmanuel Church, Canterbury

THE great Russian author Leo Tolstoy once asked: "Is there any meaning in my life that the inevitable death awaiting me does not destroy?"

It is a sobering question – perhaps not one we'd choose to dwell on – but a crucial one. It is the question that hangs over all our relationships, our daily work and our fleeting pleasures.

What happens to all of this when I'm gone? It is the question that has vexed philosophers, too.

What is the meaning of life, when everything dies and decays?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ, which Christians celebrated at Easter, gives us hope.

The women who went to Jesus's tomb that first Easter Sunday must have almost given up any hope.

The man Jesus, who had made such astonishing claims, had been brutally executed before their eyes.

But the greatest shock was yet to come. "He is not here, He has risen ... just as He told you," said the angel at the tomb.

Later they would see Him themselves; not a ghost, not a vision, but a real man, raised from death, just as He said would happen.

If those words had proved true, couldn't everything else be "just as he told you" also?

Even the offer of life beyond the grave for all who trust in Him? If that is, it must be worth exploring further.

Why not consider looking again at the resurrection of Jesus Christ for yourself?



SPACE MAN: Founder of The Chaucer Education Project Richard West

# It's lift-off for moon landing education site

## Expert takes giant e-learning leap



Report by Lowri Stafford

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GIANT LEAP: The Apollo 16 moon landing 40 years ago Photo credit: Nasa

ASPIRING astronauts can learn about outer space in cyberspace, with a new educational site focusing on the Apollo 16 moon landing.

Launched to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the mission this month, founder Richard West hopes the service will prove to be a giant leap for online learning.

The 60-year-old former chemical physicist, of Tudor Road, Canterbury has developed a series of interactive teaching resources available for free online to commemorate the landmark event.

### Interest

He hopes it will spark interest in the Apollo 16 expedition for a new generation of space fans.

The rocket left Earth on St George's Day in 1972 with the only two astronauts ever to walk on the highlands of the moon.

Commanded by John Young, the spacecraft launched on April 16 and landed on the moon on April 20, before spending three days on the lunar surface.

It was also the second time a Lunar Rover had been driven on the moon, allowing the astronauts to travel farther to collect rocks and conduct experiments.

Mr West, a member of the Space Special Interest Group, said: "I wanted to see how much interest there is.

"I'm hugely interested in accessing space, and think we should have our own space

for a scaled-down, unmanned lunar lander.

"I hope these educational resources will help to create a name for Chaucer University."

The university was founded by The Chaucer Education Project, launched in 1985.

Mr West hopes to develop Chaucer University as an online open university.

He also wants to provide specialist opportunities for people with conditions including dyslexia and dyscalculia, or number blindness.

The website uses resources

from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University Medical School, and the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa).

Visit The Chaucer Education Project's virtual learning site at [www.vle.tcep.org.uk](http://www.vle.tcep.org.uk) to explore history videos and other material.

Do you remember watching the Apollo 16 moon landing? What were you doing at the time? Call the newsroom on 01843 578167 or e-mail [newsdesk.times@KRNmedia.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk.times@KRNmedia.co.uk)



ROCKET MEN: The Lunar Rover drivers on the surface of the moon during the Apollo 16 mission Photo credit: Nasa

**Lunar missions**

Manned moon landings:

- July 1969: Apollo 11
- November 1969: Apollo 12
- February 1971: Apollo 14
- July 1971: Apollo 15
- April 1972: Apollo 16

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