

During the pandemic, more people have asked Google: “Does God exist?” than at any other time since 2004.

Searching for answers

by Peter Mill

Such is the power of Google and our confidence that it can give us the answers we so desperately seek, that people trust the world’s leading search engine with some surprisingly personal questions.

“Are my arms too skinny?” (Answer: If you can put your hand around your upper arm, yes.)
“What is the average weight of a panda?” (Answer: 70–100kg for an adult female.)
“Why is your face on your head?” (No sensible answers that I could find.)

Hilarious. But many people ask much more serious questions and one of those has been trending on Google during the pandemic. It’s this: “Does God exist?”

Now if you type that question into the big white Google search box, all kinds of search results come up. From actual websites with God’s exact address, to articles with compelling titles like, “Scientific Proof God Exists”, to a very interesting Twitter debate between Piers Morgan and Brian Cox. And plenty of weird and wacky stuff besides (well worth trying if you’re bored).

But for me as a self-confessed Christian, what is most interesting is this: why have more people asked that question during the pandemic than any time since 2004? And why did the numbers peak during arguably the worst part of the pandemic so far, right in the middle of February 2021?

It seems that when life is uncertain and people are afraid of the future,

that is when they start thinking about deeper, more spiritual topics. Questions like: “Where does evil come from?”, “What is the meaning of life?”, and “What happens when you die?”, along with arguably the biggest question of all: “Is there a God?”

Don’t get me wrong, I’m a huge fan of Google but when the chips are down and I want sensible answers to those searingly difficult questions we all have in times of stress, loss, uncertainty, hardship, failure, or bereavement, my faith and the supporting documentation that backs it up—the pages of the Holy Bible—has come through time and time again.

Why not give Google a rest for a bit? And search instead in the book that, according to many, has the best answers for every question in life.

