

Letter from the Vicar - April 2010
View from the Vicarage

Easter 2010

Easter is the most important festival of the Christian Church. I know we know that, but sometimes these things need to be said again, sometimes the story becomes so familiar, the rituals and observances we hold so commonplace that the importance of a day such as Easter blends in to the general services we join in week by week.

Of course, every Sunday is a 'little Easter' just as every Friday in the Church used to be observed as a fast day (fish on Friday) to mirror Good Friday. This is why you are allowed Sundays off of your Lenten Fast, because the celebration of each Sunday is a Feast day in itself. Our sharing of Holy Communion re-enacts, as we are commanded in Scripture to, the last meal that Jesus shared with his friends and during it we proclaim his death and resurrection. We mark Lent by changing some of the content of our services (no Gloria, no Alleluias) but at the heart of our worship is that continual recognition that Easter is more a state of mind than a day of the year.

And yet, this great day of the Church, Easter Sunday, shouldn't ever be taken for granted or allowed to slip by unnoticed. One of the reasons we take so much trouble to observe Lent, Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday is to lead up to the celebration of Easter. It's an opportunity again to thank God for his great love and salvation shown to us through the death and new life of our Lord and Saviour Jesus. And to consider again the greatest miracle — our Lord who was dead is risen again! And as a result of that miracle, our everyday miracle is forgiveness and a new life with God.

This year I commend to you both the observance of the days of Holy Week, by prayer and fasting, by joining in our special services up to and including Good Friday and Holy Saturday (details elsewhere in the magazine) but then celebrate Easter with all your might, with all your heart, strength, soul and mind — for it is by this great work that we have been saved. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Alastair