



St Mark's Church, Reigate

April 2025

Letter from the Vicar, Father Martin Colton

Dear Friends

The chocolate eggs are in the supermarkets, apparently at greater inflated prices than last year due to a bad harvest of cocoa beans. The Easter bonnets are being decorated, daffodils are blooming and the weather (has been at the time of writing!) on the up... Easter celebrations will be here in a few weeks' time.

Once again, we focus our attention and energy toward the coming Spring, as we notice the flowers in our gardens, and the leaves of the trees coming to life around us to be celebrated and admired in all their colour and splendour. After having travelled the recent journey of the winter months with the lengthy darkness, and the cold days and nights, we now come to the anticipated warmth and joy of heart which comes from the light and length of days of the season of Spring. It is indeed a joyous time of year.

Easter is the most important event in the church's calendar. The basis of all we believe as Christians hangs on the death and resurrection of Jesus. If you have trouble believing this actually happened, you are in good company. Many of Jesus' friends had to go and see the empty tomb for themselves, before they believed it had actually happened! But what does it mean for us? One of the purposes of the Season of Lent is for us to re-examine our faith. In particular Lent helps us to prepare our hearts to say with conviction 'Yes, I believe' and this takes a lot of faith and courage, because what we are really saying is this:

'I believe in life being stronger than death; I believe in love being greater than hate; and I believe in good being greater than evil. And I choose to believe those truths in spite of what I see and hear in the world around me. I choose life, I choose love, I choose hope.'

That is what Jesus' death and resurrection means to Christians. It is through Good Friday and Easter Sunday that the words above are a way of being in this life that far surpass anything written in any self-help book. So in the final weeks of Lent, a period often called 'Passiontide', perhaps we should once again consider, 'What is the deeper meaning of Easter for you?'

Every blessing,