



St Mark's Church, Reigate

April 2026

Letter from the Vicar, Father Martin Colton

Dear Friends

April comes like a quiet miracle. One week the trees seem bare and still; the next, blossom colours the trees and daffodils and other spring bulbs brighten the whole area. However changeable the weather, the season has turned. Beware though – April is also officially 'Wrong Coat' season – whatever outer garment you opt to wear each day; it will be the wrong choice!

There is a well-loved saying: "No winter lasts for ever; no spring skips its turn." Those simple words capture something deep and steady. However long and hard the winter feels – in the world, in the fields or in our own hearts, it never has the final word. Spring comes. Light lengthens. Life returns.

The first week of April carries us through Holy Week into Easter – the heart of the Christian year. For the first disciples, Good Friday felt like the end of everything. Hopes were buried with Christ in the tomb. Fear and grief took hold. Easter morning was not a gentle symbol, but a shock of joy: the discovery that death itself had been defeated. We can become so familiar with the story that we miss its power. Hope breaks through again. Easter tells us that God is at work precisely where we think all is lost.

That still matters in life today. Alongside baptisms and weddings, there are funerals. Alongside the beauty of open fields, there can be loneliness, financial pressure, and uncertainty about the future. Easter does not ask us to ignore these realities. It asks us to remember that such realities are always subject to transformation.

As gardens demand our attention, we might notice the small transformations around us: blossom unfurling, swallows returning, light lingering into the evening. Each is a quiet reminder that hope is woven into the fabric of creation – Hope breaking through again.

Easter invites us not only to receive that hope but to live it – through practical kindness, encouragement, and neighbourly care. These small acts matter deeply. They are seeds of resurrection. May the risen Christ meet you this April in familiar places and ordinary days. And may the hope of Easter take root afresh in our parish and in our hearts.

With every blessing for a joyful Easter.