

LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Hello,

I smile to see that Easter Sunday this year is April Fool's day. This has advantages and disadvantages. It's a pretty easy date to remember but on the other hand I'm now wondering if there are any pranksters in the congregation. On a more serious note it reminds me that Christianity is a religion which to some degree embraces foolishness St. Paul describes himself as 'A Fool for Christ's sake'. I like the idea that in our Easter service on April Fool's Day we will celebrate Jesus rising from the dead to bring hope to our world.

To see our world as it is and to be hopeful is something that might indeed be called foolishness and yet it is a way of living that opens up the possibility of a better way of living. I think it is more than coincidence that important ideas for the church, such as being part of a community, having time for reflection and singing are also identified as very significant ways of maintaining or enhancing well-being.

Many people will come to our Easter service with a strong sense that Jesus rising from the dead holds an important way for people fully to understand what it means to be a beloved child of God. However, I hope there will also be people there who are not quite sure what they think and have a sense that by being there, over time, some clarity may grow. I also hope there will be some people there who think it's all foolishness but that somehow it is a foolishness that holds a certain curiosity for them. Whichever of these is closest to your way of thinking you will be very welcome at St Mary's Church at 10.30 on April 1st.

Almost the first thing the church gets on with after Easter is our annual general meeting on 22nd April at 11.30. The year 2017 will be reviewed and plans made for the year ahead. This is a great opportunity to offer your gifts towards bringing hopes for your local church to fruition. You may have ideas to share or a good question to ask at our meeting. This is a time when there is the opportunity to stand for formal roles such as Churchwarden or PCC member but there are many, many less formal roles that make St Mary's what it is. Do take this opportunity to think about what you would like to offer and especially for the more formal roles, have a chat with me about what is involved.

Happy Easter,

Lorraine

Revd Dr Lorraine Turner, Vicar, 882447