

Rector's Letter - Rev'd Jeremy Trew - April 2023

Dear All

The story of Easter is the beating heart of the Christian story. Without its message Christianity is simply a hollow vessel, albeit with good intentions. We follow its story through Holy Week; with acclamation, communion, betrayal, and death as darkness increases, and hope diminishes. Then, the pause; a hiatus, from Friday afternoon, after the Temple curtain separating God and humanity is torn in two, until just before dawn on the following Sunday. A breath is held. Disciples hide, waiting for they know not what. Then, on the third day, dawn brings resurrection, new light, and new life. Easter has come.



It took those early disciples generations to truly make sense of what had happened that day and all that it meant for them and humanity. I doubt we will ever know the full meaning this side of heaven. But something had changed, and the incarnate God, now represented by the Church on earth, began the centuries long task of revealing the Kingdom and discovering its riches.

Christianity spread slowly, but it gradually gained a momentum, as people saw that these Christians were different. They had compassion and a great communal identity that spanned the divides of wealth, culture and gender, and they had a great story to share.

That task is not finished yet. God's Church is still discovering more and more of God's grace and what it means to be "Church". And so I invite you to do three things this Holy Week and Eastertide:

I. I invite you to enter into the season, through our services and activities that retell and explore its stories. To allow it to shape, reshape, and refresh your faith. This is the call to be disciples.

II. I invite you to respond to the season and the messages it brings. There is a place in God's Church for you, and there are tasks in that Church that you are well suited to carrying out. This is the call to service.

III. I invite you to allow this season to change you, and to wear that change for the world to see. The Church is called neither to follow the culture around it, nor to oppose that culture, but to reflect and live out the teachings of Jesus and the values we derive from the story of Scripture. This is how God's Kingdom is revealed in this world. British culture that has been historically shaped by Christianity, and yet has never been truly Christian. What does it mean to be a Christian today? The answer is only something we can work out together. This is the call to mission.

The story of Easter has lost none of its power or hope. I hope and pray that you will enter into it fully in 2023.

Yours,

Jeremy

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