

Words of Light and Hope from Bishop Tony Foottit

There have been a lot of primroses along the church path this year. Their pale flowers reflect the first sunshine of spring. The deeper yellow at the centre reminds us of summer to come. The resurrection of Jesus was discovered at pale first light. It was only later in the morning that the disciples realised the full and glorious meaning of what had happened. It gradually dawned on them that their master and friend who had been crucified on the cross had been restored to life. Many fairy tales such as the Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella are about resurrection. The prince brings the sleeping beauty back to life after 100 years. Another prince discovered that the shoe fitted Cinderella and so rescued her from her miserable existence. But the gospels are not fairy stories. They relate clearly that Jesus died and that he rose again. His resurrection is not just a thing that happened 2,000 years ago. Nor was it imaginary. It was and is a reality.

The resurrection of Jesus has made it possible for every person ever since to have a new beginning. We live in a world all too ready to glorify success, and all too prone to condemn failure. In Jesus we see someone who palpably failed and yet won the greatest battle of all time. But we must take this victory into our hearts.

Harry Williams wrote a book called True Resurrection, in which he wrote: *It is in this world that we find God. It is in communion with everything about us that we discover the resurrection and the life, and are made new. But our eyes must be open to perceive it. If we do perceive it, we shall experience everyday life with a new intensity, and see things in a new light.*

Primroses are literally common or garden flowers. Christians should never say of anything that it is ordinary and doesn't matter. Everything matters because of Easter. So does everyone. You don't have to be important to make a difference. One person can make such a difference. So can one smile or word of encouragement. The humdrum will no longer be boring. To use a bit of philosophical jargon, the now is the brink of the beyond. The advertisers often make us think that our ordinary lives are very dull. They try and persuade us that some new product or experience will bring pleasure and excitement to our lives. But the only way we can live a really full and rich life is in Christ and the power of his resurrection.



Pew Notes

Sunday 17th April (Easter Day)

9am	Wood Dalling	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am	Reepham	Holy Communion
10.30am	Elsing	Easter Service with Lyng Sings Junior Choir and tea, coffee and cake afterwards
10.30am	Attlebridge	Holy Communion
6pm	Salle	Evening Prayer

The Bishop's Lent Appeal collection in Reepham to support the purchase of beds for young children and mothers to be at Sag Sag Health Centre in Papua New Guinea, raised £225, including tax recoverable.

Join us for breakfast next week at Café Church in St Michael's, Reepham! Coffee, tea, juice and pastries will be served from 10am with our service starting at 10.30am.

Sunday 24th April (Second Sunday of Easter)

9am	Bylaugh	Matins
10.30am	Elsing	Word and Praise
10.00am	Reepham	Café Church (Service starts at 10.30am)
10.30am	Swannington	Holy Communion
10.30am	Sparham	Informal Communion

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Pew Notes are available to download from the RWV website and the E-newsletter