

Rev Suzanne writes...

“Good Friday, good?”

As I write this it's a glorious sunny morning after a hard nights frost. I'm looking out onto the garden with snowdrops out and daffodil buds coming up through the hard ground.

Beyond the garden in the fields new born lambs are bathing in the warmth of the sun, but it wasn't like that first thing this morning.

First thing this morning, the farmer in his wellies and all wrapped up was striding purposefully over towards a gate and so I watched to see where he was going. He bent down and picked something up by the hedgerow and a sheep appeared near to him and then I realised he had picked up a dead lamb.

My heart sank...

Death in any shape or form is not what God intended for his creation. He intended life and life in all its fullness. All of us at some point in our lives will suffer the death of a beloved one. All of us at some point will die. It seems that we cannot live without death being a part of life.

That is...un I Jesus died and was resurrected!

Children always ask me when I go into school, ‘Why do we call “Good Friday” good?’

My answer is, that without Jesus dying we would not have the hope that we, like Jesus, one day in the future will have a resurrected body. A new body, an immortal body, one that will never die again!

When you look out of your window and see the spring flowers coming up, the daffodils, snowdrops and crocuses, they suggest resurrection to us, new life, but only partially. For those flowers will not see summer, they will die. Their new life is cyclical, interwoven with death, they will only have a new life next spring and then die again.

Jesus and his resurrection is not cyclical! Jesus rose to new life, never to die again.

Jesus rose to a different life, a life in which death does not feature.

It is a life that he invites every one of us to live and to experience.

As you look out on your gardens, or the fields around you, as Easter approaches ...upon the lambs and the spring flowers, wonder....wonder at life and death and the thought, that a new life with a new body is now possible because of Jesus...a new and different life in which death does not feature...

...and let that wonder lead you, to start questioning, to start exploring...to experience the “good” news of “Good” Friday and Easter!

With lots of love and wishing you all a blessed Easter,

Suzanne and Philippa.