

Letter from Rev Jacqueline

I am writing this as we begin to enter the final two weeks of Lent – where symbolically the dark is going to get darker - and even darker before the light breaks through on that glorious dawn of the new day of Easter..

And if ever we needed to enter into a journey of hope of light in the dark it is now, isn't it?

What we see in the first part of the Easter Story is a reminder that engaging with suffering was nothing new for Jesus – he got alongside the marginalised and downtrodden and sick – he brought comfort and healing to the sick – sight to the blind – but when he engaged with the *spiritual suffering of humanity* – the insecurities and spiritual blindness that drives a person to think so darkly and act so brutally for one's own gain – he stopped it in its tracks and showed that there is another way – a way of the light – a way of love.

And by the time we read this – coming into the light of the resurrection – new beginning story - Jesus literally showed us how to do what he did to bring light to the world - that by living spiritually the best we can – we too can defeat the darker side of ourselves and humanity and 'die spiritually' in order to rise spiritually and come to a new way of engaging in the world and with each other, shaped by the Easter light and the promise of all that is hopeful and good - with love and kindness being the language of the heart and the reasoner of the mind – and therefore the drive of our actions and interactions in the world. Right thought, right action, right result – peace!

And what's so good about the Good News of Easter is that this experience of dark to light can happen now, here on earth – in the mess, on the ground – now. We can be game-changers for good today – do what we can to make our family life, local communities and wider world a place of peace, tolerance and kindness.

And – let's not forget – that Easter is a time to celebrate new life – nature springing to life – lighter days – sunnier days (we hope) – a colourful season that brings hope and promise that somehow things will work out...

As I enter into the seventh year of being vicar of Wrecchlesham, I am delighted that St Peter's is at the heart of our community – a spiritual hub for those of one faith or another – or no faith – that it is a special place of spiritual solace and comfort, and also a place of social engagement and fun – a place that has hospitality, welcome and love at its heart – and that there is something for everyone for whom it service to enjoy and give thanks for...

We will say more next month about our communities within our St Peter's community – the groups that hold their meetings and sessions here – and the people who worship and live out their faith through St Peter's Church – but for now, I would like to say thank you to everyone who plays a part in the life of our church – and who holds St Peter's in their hearts, their prayers and their affections as it stands at the heart of our community offering friendship in God's name – the name of love, the name of peace....

Easter Love and Blessings, Jacqueline