

## Letter from Rev Jacqueline

I am writing this as we begin to enter the final 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.

What we see in the first part of the Easter Story – the pre-resurrection we are reminded 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.

In the story of the resurrection, Jesus literally showed us how to do what he did - 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 up 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. Love and kindness, tolerance and patience are the qualities for which we strive – all that makes for peace and justice for all.

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.

I am delighted that those who come along to St Peter's church – be it for worship or social gatherings find it a place of sanctuary and fellowship - a spiritual hub for those of one faith or another – or no faith – a special place of 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...

There will be more next month as we report on the church's Annual Parochial Meeting (APCM) – but for now I would like to say thank you to everyone who plays a part in the life of our church – and who hold 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....

Love and Easter Blessings, Jacqueline