

16 April 2025

## A Message for Easter 2025

Dear friends,

As we emerge from the wilderness journey of Lent and stand once again at the empty tomb, we proclaim that God is still in the business of bringing new life out of death. The resurrection was not a return to the past, not a resuscitation of the old, but something completely new. That is the daring promise of Easter - that even when all seems lost, God can and does do something unimaginably new.

The women who came to the tomb expected to care for a broken body. Instead, they encountered a broken world transformed by love and hope. The same Spirit that raised Christ from the grave is still moving in our world today, quietly and courageously bringing life where death seemed to have the final word.

In a world marked by war, division, and deep injustice, it is easy to be overwhelmed by despair. But Easter reminds us that God does not abandon us to the tomb. God is already ahead of us, calling us into new possibilities, new hope, and new beginnings. Resurrection does not ignore the pain of Good Friday: it holds it, honours it, and yet refuses to let it be the end of the story.

In our churches, some of us may feel the weight of decline, the pressure of limited resources, or the grief of what has been lost. But the message of Easter is not to cling to what is dying, but to trust in what God is bringing to birth. This season, may we have the courage to let go where we must - and the eyes to see where resurrection is already unfolding among us.

Let us be people of Easter hope - not wishful thinking, but rooted, resurrection hope. Let us tell the stories of new life in our communities. Let us name the places where God is at work. Let us celebrate not only what has been, but what is becoming.

May the peace of the risen Christ be with you, and may this Easter season be filled with grace, renewal, and joy.

With prayers for the joy of resurrection this Easter,



Michael Hopkins  
Wessex Synod Moderator