

The Vicar Writes..

Dear Friends,

As I write this, the echoes of Christmas are still with us.



The tree may be packed away and the carols have faded, but thankfully the message of Christmas does not disappear with the decorations. God has come among us, quietly and vulnerably, and that truth continues to unfold long after the inflatable Santa's have been popped back in the loft! February and March are often described as "in-between" months. Winter still has a firm grip on the mornings, yet there are signs - small but unmistakable - that something is changing. Snowdrops push their way through hard ground the evenings lengthen, and hope begins to stir.

The words of the prophet Isaiah seem especially fitting at this time of year:

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"

God's promise of renewal speaks not only to the changing seasons around us, but to the work God continues to do within our lives and within the world. The Church's journey mirrors this rhythm.

After the joy and wonder of Christmas, we move through Epiphany, reflecting on who this child Jesus truly is, before turning towards the more searching season of Lent. Lent invites us to slow down, to be honest about ourselves, and to make space for God. It is not a gloomy season, though it is sometimes mistaken for one. Rather, it is a season of preparation - like soil being turned over in readiness for new growth.

And Easter, of course, is always ahead of us. Even as we walk the Lenten path, we do so knowing where it leads. The cross is not the end of the story. Resurrection awaits. Light overcomes darkness. Life is stronger than death.

There is something deeply reassuring about how closely God's story is woven into the natural world around us. As the days grow longer and the earth begins to warm, we are reminded that what appears dormant is not dead. What feels weary can be renewed. God's "new thing" often begins quietly, almost unnoticed, before bursting into life.

Perhaps this season invites us to pay attention - to the small signs of hope around us and within us. A moment of kindness, a renewed sense of purpose or simply the pleasure of sunshine on our faces after a long winter. These are not small things; they are glimpses of resurrection life at work here and now.



As we journey together through these weeks, may we carry the light of Christmas in our hearts, walk thoughtfully through Lent and look forward with confidence to the joy of Easter.

May the promise of spring remind us that God is always at work, bringing warmth, light, and new life - often when we least expect it.

With every blessing

Becky