

MUSINGS FROM THE MANSE

No. 12a – 11th April. 2021 (No Musings on the 18th)



I wonder if anyone still has any chocolate left. Did you know on average, every child in the UK will receive 8.8 Easter eggs, that seems a lot. To put this in perspective, that is the equivalent of double their total weekly recommended calorie intake. It is strange what some people spend their time researching.

The name “**Easter**” was derived from “Eostre,” originally a Saxon word, denoting a goddess of the Saxons, in honour of whom sacrifices were offered about the time of the Passover. Another probability is the Norse *eostur*, or *ostara*, which meant “the season of the growing sun” or “the season of new birth.” Interesting that these pagan celebrations one needing a sacrifice and the other looking at new life occur roughly at this time of year. Most people don’t really understand Easter. It’s hard to explain especially to younger people.

The significance of Easter is Jesus Christ's triumph over death. His resurrection means the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in Him. The purpose of Easter also means the full confirmation of all that Jesus taught and preached during His three-year ministry. If He had not risen from the dead, if He had simply died and not been resurrected, He would have been thought just another teacher or prophet. However, His resurrection rebuked all that and provided final and undeniable proof that He was really the Son of God and that He had overcome death once and for all. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the core of the Christian gospel. Saint Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and hope are in vain (**1 Cor. 15:14**). Certainly, without the resurrection, there would be no Christian preaching or faith. The apostles of Christ would have continued as the disheartened group which the Gospel of John depicts being in hiding for fear of the Jews. They were in total despair until they met the risen Christ (**John 20:19**). Then they touched Christ's wounds of the nails and the spear; they ate and drank with Him. The resurrection became the foundation of everything they said and did (**Acts 2-4**): “...for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I

have” (**Luke 24:39**). The resurrection affirms Jesus of Nazareth as not only the prophesied Messiah of Israel but as the King and Lord of a new Jerusalem: a new heaven and a new earth and we are its citizens.

Easter Sunday 42 people were in church, almost our maximum capacity. I was overwhelmed so many people to celebrate the great day under the present circumstances. One part of me was overjoyed, the other part, are we ready for this? At this time there are so many mixed feelings. We of course must respect how others may be feeling. I don’t want to be a killjoy, but we must still abide by the government advice both inside the church and outside. Stay safe is the overriding message.



... **AND THE OSCAR GOES TO** Puppet Club Easter Story. What an epic! Even the trailer was brilliant. Very professional indeed thanks to all who made it such a success. Thanks especially to Mary and Paul. If you haven’t seen it yet check it out on our website. I can’t wait for the next production.

BIBLE STUDY resumes on the **21st** of April 7:00pm. Looking at **Acts 11:1-30; 12:1-25**.

Lateral Thinking Questions

1. There are a dozen eggs in a carton. Twelve people each take a single egg, but there is one egg left in the carton. How?
2. If you were alone in a dark cabin, with only one match and a lamp, a fireplace, and a candle to choose from, which would you light first?
3. A boat has a ladder that’s ten feet long, and hangs off the side of the boat, with its last two feet submerged in water. If the ocean tide rises five feet, how much of the ladder will be underwater?

Thanks for the flowers, the mysterious bunch placed on our front doorstep and the ones from church. Both bright and uplifting. Thanks also for the many cards. **Andrew and Jill**