

# Letter from the Minister

Sandpipers, Southampton Road, Hythe SO45 5AA  
Tel: Office 023 8084 5008  
& Home 023 8020 7868



Dear Friends,

I would like to wish you a very happy Easter. I am reminded as we prepare for Easter of St. Paul's words to the Corinthians:

*"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith."*

Of course, he goes on to declare that Christ has been raised and we continue to celebrate this fact every day that we live and breathe as Christians. There are times when, as ordinary people, we can begin to feel that either we or the faith that we hold is 'useless' especially when life's challenges hit us hard. It is at times like these that we need to recognize that we are not alone, that there are people around us who care and that God himself is interested in every aspect of our lives. It may be that today or the weeks ahead can be a time when God brings to life our faith in a new and exciting way.

I sense that it is possible for good Christian people to get a little bored with church life and the novelty can wear off. We can also become drained by the constant stream of decisions and actions that we need to take. May I encourage you to keep focused on the gospel message and in the words of a little picture frame that I saw recently in an office in Ethiopia, ask the question 'Is it still all about Jesus?'

Similarly, It has been really good to be reading the "40 stories of Hope" book through Lent and meeting together each Wednesday to discuss what hope means to the prisoners who have found faith in Christ and to us and also to read through the Gospel of Mark. For myself it has reminded me of the simple message of salvation that is to be found in Jesus and that maybe we need to be a little more daring and courageous in commending Jesus to others.

Good Friday will give us a wonderful opportunity to worship with brothers and sisters from other churches and to witness to others in the village and this year Cornerstone Church will be leading the service.

Our AGM is being held in May this year and the report book has just been published. Please read it through, pray for the mission of our church, put the AGM date of Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May in your diary and play your part in partnership with us in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ without whom we have no hope.

With best wishes  
Your friend and Minister

Eddie