



The Church Magazine for Markfield,
Thornton, Bagworth, Stanton under
Bardon and Copt Oak



Hosanna!
Crucify him!
Finished!
He is risen!
Alleluia!



This month's letter is from Revd Andrew Smith

I write these words on the third week of Lent, rain still steadily rattling the window frames. Yet it is cosy in the Rectory study and the dog is under the desk keeping my feet warm.

Early Spring is always special to me. The grip of winter has eased, giving way to spring flowers and the birth of new lambs which are never far from their mothers. It is a time of hope and expectation.

As a Christian, I believe there is that same sense of expectation and hope as we journey through Lent, we can see the brightness of a new dawn emerging. And although we know the Easter Story so well, it is one we never tire of celebrating or sharing. This is all because of the joy and hope brought to us by God in the crucified and risen Christ. In order for us to experience the joy of Easter to the full, we too must go through the winter, which often has a sting in its tail, or final flourish. For the Christian that is the reassessment in Lent which culminates in Holy Week with all the emotions that brings.

At time of writing the world is in a place of deep unrest, with widespread conflict in the Middle East, war continuing in Ukraine, and I see nothing of Jesus in the actions of many who claim to be Christian. Many people worship the Prince of Peace on a Sunday, and ignore him on a Monday. Two men were once offered up for release from prison to the people, one was called Jesus Barr Joseph and the other was Jesus Barr Abbas. One was a man of peace, the other a man of war. Which Jesus have we been walking in the wilderness with this Lenten tide? Which Jesus have WE chosen in our lives?

May all of us, this Eastertide, have a greater awareness of Christ, the one who brings meaning, purpose, and peace into our lives, for we are all one in Christ Jesus.

Easter blessings to all,

Andrew