

## **This month's letter is from Associate Minister Delia Geary**

I can't believe we are already a quarter of the way through the year!!

It doesn't seem five minutes since we were all admiring the Christmas lights around the village, enjoying good food with the occasional tippie and appreciating the gifts given by friends and family. Of course Christmas isn't all about lights, presents and good food is it? Christmas is also a time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus - He is after all 'the reason for the season'!

Similarly Easter isn't just about chocolate eggs and Easter bunnies. As I write this we are just beginning our Lenten journey in preparation for Easter; pancakes have been eaten, Ash Wednesday services with the imposition of ashes have taken place and we've made our commitments to whatever it is we are giving up or taking on for the next 40 days. This is also a time we can use for reflection, a period of soul searching and prayer, to ask ourselves 'what does God want of me? What are His plans for my life?'. Periodically we as God's church, also need to ask ourselves 'what are Gods plans for us as a church? Are we as a church fulfilling His mission?'

You may already be aware that churches within the Church of England, Leicester Diocese, are currently engaged in prayerful discussions about the different ways we can work together within a number of different Minster Communities, exploring and utilising our many different strengths, approaches and perspectives.

This seems to me to be similar to eggs at Easter where the eggs represent birth, a beginning. Just as the resurrection is the start of our Christian faith, a fresh start in our reborn relationship with God.

The most poignant point in the Easter story for me is Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus knowing what awaits Him at the hands of Pilate is troubled and overwhelmed and needs to pray to His Father. He asks his friends to accompany Him but they fall asleep. Here Jesus' humanity is starkly exposed as we read in Matthew Chapter 26:

*"Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of*

*death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”*

*Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”*

He prayed this not once but three times without even the support of His friends who remained asleep.

During this time of discussion and prayer about the reorganisation of our churches, let us not ‘fall asleep’ but be supportive to not only the process but also the people involved, trusting in God’s will.

Wishing you all a blessed Easter.

**Associate Minister Delia Geary**