

Alleluia, Christ is risen! *He is risen indeed, alleluia!*

This year, Easter Sunday was on 31st March so as this month's magazine is circulated, the Church is celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, his coming back to life from the grave after his crucifixion. What does this mean to you? As Christians, we are the 'Alleluia people', given hope of eternal life through our faith in the promise of Jesus. That faith has the power to change lives, removing the sense of hopelessness and futility experienced by so many people at times in their lives. It really is the gift of new life!

It is spring and new life is all around us wherever we look; fresh green leaves unfurling from buds on shrubs and trees, birds busy nesting. I even saw my first butterfly this week! The mild wet weather this year has meant many flowering plants are ahead of their usual time, which may well have an effect on invertebrates, the food source for native bird species and already declining bee populations may well be affected too. Here in our villages, we are surrounded by a wealth of wildlife and nature and I hope that you, like me, are doing your best to encourage nature at this time of changing weather patterns.

Our village volunteers in Findon do such a fantastic job both in maintaining footpaths and open spaces for us all to enjoy and in litter picking weekly. I struggle to understand how people can just drop litter, whether out walking or through a car window as they drive through. How would they feel if you or I dropped our litter in their garden?! I know our Village schools do a great job encouraging our youngsters to care for their environment so perhaps the children can provide a good example to careless adults. I certainly hope so!

I had an interesting phone call today, asking me if I had any information on **Nepcote Chapel**. The brother of the caller had been a Trustee, along with his wife, but now sadly both have died and his sister is trying to locate the owner of the Chapel. Since she doesn't live locally, I promised to write something in Findon News, asking anyone who has any information about this neglected building to contact me through the Parish Office, then I can pass on any information to her. Ever since coming to the Village, I've wanted to know more about this Chapel myself, but all I've heard is from families at funerals whose relative attended Sunday School there as a child some 60 years ago! I really hope that somebody reading this can tell me something about its history and ownership.

Finally, next month we will be holding our Annual Parochial Church Council meeting, where new Churchwardens will be admitted into office for the coming year. The role of a Warden is the upkeep of our lovely ancient buildings and working with the clergy to maintain public worship. Free training is offered by the Diocese for this vital role in our community and having been a Warden myself long before becoming a Priest, I can affirm what a rewarding experience it is. New PCC members are always welcome too!

Every blessing,

Helena