



Marjolein Reynolds

My Wonderful Easter Egg

A very long time ago, when I was about 4, I was given an Easter egg. It was a thing of beauty: a very good-sized, thick, chocolate egg. What made it so lovely was the fact that it was decorated with such pretty, pink and lilac flowers. The stems and leaves were of that pale green, spring colour. Lovely! Everything a little girl could want. I had never seen anything like it.

I did not want to eat it, I wanted to look at it. It stood on a window sill, so the light would shine through the clear cover (not plastic for that was not yet in common use).



Then disaster happened. The sun shone and my lovely egg melted on one side. On the other side it was still lovely but I knew it was spoiled. Thinking about it I can still feel the pain.

How has Easter changed for me since then? I now know the reason for the season. *And It Is Not Eggs!* The Lord Jesus was crucified at a time we now call Easter. He died so that I can be given new life. He died so that I can be forgiven.

Whether the sun shines or there is rain, hail or snow, my Easter time can't be spoiled any more. Jesus is alive for evermore ... and ... I am his forgiven child and nothing can change that. Jesus loves me and I know it, because I experience it.



What Easter Means to Me

It assures me that Christ's sacrifice has paid for my sins and my forgiveness is complete.

EDDIE

Jesus died and rose again so death is not the end.

GRACE

Setting aside time to remember and thank Jesus for taking my sin upon himself when he died and celebrating that I have life forever because he rose again.

SUE

Easter means Resurrection and Life after the cruel crucifixion of the Son of God, my Saviour and friend. Hallelujah!

MU

Come and join us to hear more about what Easter can mean for you:

Easter Day

11am All-Age Service

6.30pm Evening Service

For more details and information find us at www.bgbc.org.uk and on Facebook

BOROUGH GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

High Street, Borough Green, TN15 8BJ



At the Crossroads

Borough Green Baptist Church
Easter 2016

Man Alive!

What Does Easter Mean for You?

It all happened so openly that even his most powerful enemies couldn't hush it up. It was all so amazing that even his closest friends couldn't make sense of it at first.

Within two days of Jesus' brutal, public execution his body disappeared from the closely guarded tomb. The best his enemies could do was claim that Jesus' friends stole the body while the guards were asleep. The truth was far more shocking!

Many convincing proofs

Over the next few weeks the evidence emerged that Jesus had done what he said he'd do. He had willingly given his life "as a ransom for many" and then had risen from the dead on the third day.



He showed himself first to some women near the tomb, then to his friend Peter, followed by two others walking home from Jerusalem; next he appeared to ten disciples hiding, frightened and confused, in Jerusalem.

Man Alive!

What Does Easter Mean for You?

(continued)

The appearances went on for 40 days, in different times and places, both to individuals and to groups, and once to more than 500 together.

To the sceptics, who always wanted more proof; to his enemies, who said he was working with the devil; and to his friends, all bereft and bewildered, Jesus had shown who he is.

*After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive.*¹ Why does this matter? What does it mean for you?

It means this life is not all

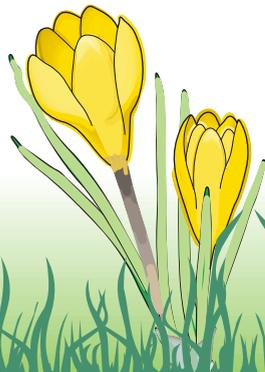
Jesus rising from the dead shows that this life is not all there is. There is a life to come. Though our bodies die, each of us has a never-dying soul.

*The dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.*²

It means Jesus is God's Son

He predicted that he would suffer, die and rise from the dead. Now he had done so. If you dismiss the claims of Jesus you have to deal with the evidence for what some historians call the best attested fact of history.

*Through the Spirit of holiness [he] was declared with power to be the Son of God, by his resurrection from the dead.*³



It means Jesus will return

Jesus didn't just say he would rise from the dead; he also said he would return to this world. It will shock the whole world. Doubters and sceptics, deniers and believers, all will see him. Jesus said:

*So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.*⁴

It means Jesus will judge us all

The Bible says that God has given Jesus one more task: to judge the world. He will leave no wrong unpunished and no good unrecognised.

*For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this by raising him from the dead.*⁵

It means we should be uneasy

How do you face being judged by the perfect Son of God for every thought, word and deed in your life? The good news is that we don't need to face the day of judgement in fear and uncertainty. All our sins can be forgiven now. The Bible says:

*Everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins in his name.*⁷ *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*⁸

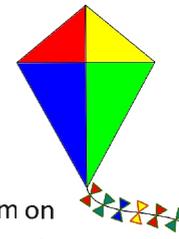
Join us on Easter Sunday when we celebrate the day this good news was sealed by Jesus rising from the dead.

All quotations are from *The Holy Bible* (NIV, 1984):¹Acts 8:3, ²Ecclesiastes 12:7, ³Romans 1:4, ⁴Matthew 24:44, ⁵Acts 17:31, ⁶Acts 10:43, ⁷Romans 8:1

Easter Customs from Around the World

Bermuda (Easter)

Good Friday is a day for flying home-made kites.



Ethiopia (Fassika)

The first Easter Day service starts at 8pm on Saturday and lasts until 3am Sunday morning. Everyone wears white.

Greece (Pascha)

On Easter Sunday soup made from a lamb's stomach is eaten for breakfast.



Norway (Paske)

Norway has a tradition for reading or watching crime and detective stories at Easter.

Netherlands (Pasen)

Families sit down to a tea-time feast ... of hard-boiled eggs! Everyone is expected to eat as many as possible.



Portugal (Páscoa)

On Good Friday a large bonfire is lit and an effigy of Judas is burned.



For Christians, what matters is not tradition but truth. Every Sunday we commemorate the truth that Jesus died and rose again so that we can be forgiven. Come and join us! We meet at 11am and 6.30pm.