BISHOP’S LETTER 15

12 March 2024

Dear Friends

‘Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son’.

These words will sound out in many of our churches on Easter Sunday as we celebrate afresh the risen Christ. Having journeyed through Lent and the agonies of Holy Week, the sense of joy is palpable and the readings and hymns reflect that. The message of Easter cries out that Christ is alive and we can know that in our own lives. But sometimes it takes time for us to know this as a reality. On that first Easter Sunday, two companions were travelling home to Emmaus, having spent time in Jerusalem, when a stranger draws close to them. ‘Why are you downcast?’ he asks them and they respond with despair that the one they thought had come to save them had been killed. As they journey, the stranger opens up the Scriptures and reveals God’s eternal plan.

Later, as they eat, the scales fall from their eyes and they realise that the stranger is in fact Jesus – he is alive and he has been walking with them. Our world needs to see afresh that Jesus is alive, and that he walks with us, showing us who he is and revealing God’s plan. I pray that this Easter we will rejoice in this message, seek Jesus afresh in our own lives, and find ways to share this good news with those whom we walk with.

‘Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.’

With best wishes

+ Debbie