

## *Our Reader-in -training writes*

Dear all,

I'm writing this on Easter Sunday. Earlier in the day we said 'Alleluia' several times during a very full Eucharist at 9.30am this morning and I know that the 8.00 am congregation said 'Alleluia' too. Alleluia literally means 'Praise ye Yah' rendered from 'Praise Yahweh'. Yahweh is the name used in the Old Testament for God, so 'Alleluia' literally means 'Praise Ye the Lord'.

I don't know about you but sometimes I like a good grumble? The sorts of things are too much work in my paid employment, my boss, the weather and the worst housework job putting the ironing away. Have you noticed that in general it's so much easier to say negative things than positive things? I know we all have aspects of our lives that are hard and one of my tutors always says that its important to remember that third world problems are real problems and should not be belittled.

However, I was very struck today as Rev'd Jennie Cappleman led the chorus of 'Alleluias' that we have so much to give thanks for. I am looking out of my window and the garden is full of daffodils, committed to the ground as unpromising bulbs in the winter and there are signs, however tentative, that spring will come. The days are becoming longer and at last the 'Beast from the East' seems to have gone finally. We had good numbers at our Easter services including seventeen children and twenty five adults at our Messy Church event on Good Friday and a very moving Service at the Cross. The congregation has held up well during the vacancy and we have some new folk on the PCC.

And chiefly on Easter Day we give thanks that our Lord died on a cross because of the depth of his love and that today at Easter he is risen. Christ, showed that love is stronger than death and that light is stronger than darkness. We need to remember that the ultimate miracle of the resurrection is a constant reality in our lives. We need to be a people and a congregation who Praise the Lord, as the Eucharistic Prayer puts it 'give thanks and praise, at all times and all places'. Whether we are able to come to church or not we are called to Praise the Lord in our lives.

If we are to be a congregation that praises the Lord, we need to make sure that we live the praise through our worshipping lives. We need to stop and give thanks and to be a congregation who looks constantly for the green shoots of spring. Our friends and family will be attracted by our faith if we show that we have much to give thanks for and that practising Christianity is a privilege and an honour.

So why don't you join me in May in making it a month to give thanks: for our friends, family, our church and our world and mainly for the salvation of the resurrection?

Yours in Christ,

*Cathy Sanderson*