

EASTER



BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE FOR US IN THIS:
WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.
ROMANS 5:8



I am so pleased when Spring arrives and the first signs of life appear. BBC's Countryfile must be a producer's dream. New-born lambs in a barn, piglets in a barrow and the vet confirming the farmer's dog is expecting puppies. A new life is always wonderful to see. The first breath, first wobbling steps, the recognition of the mother and comfort of her presence. And how much more our wonder is when we see a new-born human baby.

Here at CFC, we do not have to go far to see new-born babies and over the 130 years of our existence hundreds of babies have been born and have lived here. Each one is uniquely precious and beautiful and we work hard to ensure both mum and baby have the best start in life. Birdhurst Nursery also plays a role in caring for many babies and little children through their earliest years.

I truly find myself in awe whenever I see new life and often wonder "Where does it come from"? The Christian message is clear – God is the giver of life. He is life itself.

This is not only the season of Spring it is also the time when we celebrate Easter. This is our most solemn AND our most joyful festival. Solemn because we remember that fresh young lives end in death, all too often premature death at that. Croydon has seen too much of that recently with young lives snatched away in violence. Solemn also because we focus on the death of Jesus on Good Friday.

Yet this time is also joyful and hopeful because Jesus, the life giver, who freely laid down his life, also rose again from death. Death, our enemy, is not his match. His life conquers it truly, fully, completely.

The Christian life is Life with a capital "L" because of Jesus. The Christian life includes the promise of eternal life, life before the grave and beyond the grave. The Christian life is a life of hope.

Don't take my word for it, listen to Jesus own words "*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full*" John 10:10. Do you know this hope? Are you living this life of joy? Do you know for certain you have eternal life? If not, why not pop into a Church this Easter...



David Rogers
Trustee