

HOPE THAT BEARS SCARS

What a great Easter we shared together. But Easter doesn't come with a tidied-up world. The bombs in Ukraine, Sudan, or Yemen haven't stopped overnight. The climate hasn't healed. The cost-of-living crisis hasn't reversed. The risks and uncertainties of a global trade war haven't evaporated. Austerity policies continue to grind down the most vulnerable.



But still - we gather. We speak of life. We sing alleluias, sometimes with trembling voices. Resurrection, it turns out, doesn't require everything to be fine. It simply insists that death doesn't get the final word.

We often speak of Easter as though it's a clean slate - as though resurrection wipes away the darkness of Good Friday. But the Gospel stories don't give us that kind of ending. Jesus doesn't rise untouched – He walks out wounded. He bears scars. The victory doesn't erase the suffering, it transforms it. So when Thomas can't bring himself to believe, Jesus doesn't shame him. He shows him his wounds. *"Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe"* (John ch20 v17). Resurrection, in this story, is not a triumph that silences doubt - it's a presence that holds it. That feels like good news. Because I don't wake up every morning feeling triumphant. I wake up with questions, with griefs I haven't buried, with doubts I've learned to carry like a second skin. I wake up to a world still full of pain.

Hope doesn't mean pretending things aren't broken. It means trusting that even in the breaking, something deeper is being born. But what if resurrection isn't a performance for the already-convinced? What if it's a lifeline for the ones barely holding on? A Palestinian child in Gaza doesn't need a shiny Easter sermon. She needs the world to rise up and say: "This death is not acceptable." A disabled person facing another round of cuts doesn't need hollow hope. They need solidarity, and love and the tangible resurrection of justice.

Jesus rising didn't fix Rome. He didn't replace the Empire with a utopia. But He began a rebellion of grace - of bread broken, failure forgiven, wounds honoured. He began a movement where resurrection isn't the end of the story but the beginning of a new kind of living. Easter isn't just for the strong or certain. It's for the weary, broken, doubting, grieving, for those sitting in sick beds, or empty kitchens, with lonely hearts. It's for those who can't feel the joy today, but still showed up. It's for those who need someone else to believe for them, to hope for them, to carry them forward when they cannot walk.

Written by abrokenpastor

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
Saturday 10th May to Saturday 17th May
(and after)



Christian Aid Week 2025 will focus on supporting farming communities in Guatemala, Central America, particularly those facing the impacts of climate change and food insecurity.

The campaign aims to raise funds and awareness to help farmers and communities in Guatemala build resilience through sustainable farming practices and climate-resilient agriculture.

**Everyone is welcome to attend any or all of
the following events.**

Help the people of Guatemala.

Your gift can change lives!!

Saturday 10th May
10.00am - 2.00pm

Christian Community Centre
Coffee and Lunch

Saturday 17th May

8.00am - 10.00am
10.00am - 12 noon

Christian Community Centre
Big Brekkie and Coffee
Breakfast
Coffee
Bring-and-Buy Plant Stall and Cakes

Monday 19th May

9.30am - 11.00am
11.00am onwards

3 Cumber Close with Judy Lee
Phone 01803 858483 to book a place for breakfast
Breakfast
Coffee morning