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What's the status of your Easter eggs?

Yes, in a week where, as I write this on Tuesday morning, there are discussions of sleaze, corruption and cover up within Downing Street. The question many are asking is did the Prime Minister break the rules on the refurbishment of his Downing Street flat, but I want to know about your Easter eggs.

Why? That's the question I asked on a recent online Breakfast Church, which Wixams Church produces to go out each Sunday morning at 9.00am on Facebook and YouTube. Just as a side note, it is encouraging to see number of people watching these broadcasts grow. It's also a privilege to be able to share an article in this week's Perry Green newsletter. This is my second opportunity in the last year to have been asked to contribute, but please be assured of my continued prayers for you and work of Perry Green Chapel.

So, what's the status of your Easter eggs? I must confess I didn't get many Easter eggs this year; just one from my wife and another from my father-in-law. I saw the reports in the news that there was an Easter egg shortage because of the pandemic. As I looked at the village social media pages, you could sense this is what many within the Wixams community found.

Whatever the status of our Easter eggs, the church remains in this Eastertide season, so it is good for us to keep reflecting on the resurrection and the accounts of people meeting the risen Jesus. It has been an encouragement to read these in your newsletter in recent weeks.

However, the question I want to pose to us this morning is - are we getting ready for Pentecost? We are still several weeks away from Pentecost Sunday, 23rd May. However, as I was reminded recently, we should not be those who look at whether we are winding up a festival but look forward to what God wants to do next.

Central to what we remember at Pentecost is that the believers were together in one place - or in accord, as some translations say. (Acts 2 v 1) They were waiting for the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit.

With lockdown restrictions easing, what are we waiting for? Just the return to normality? The opportunity to see friends? All of those things might be true, but what about us as members of the church?

This year, I believe God wants to do and say something significant to His people at Pentecost. I am not a lone voice in that; in March, a number of national church and ministry leaders announced hosting the largest online prayer gathering on Pentecost Sunday. This will bring Christians from all over the UK

together to praise and worship God.

As part of Virtual Pentecost - www.virtualpentecost.com - one of the areas that we will be praying into is how might the church emerge from this pandemic and what is God calling us to do differently? That's not a question that is limited to certain fellowships but the whole church.

We need to make space as we get ready for Pentecost to pray into that; maybe, we need to ask God to help us work out what our place in the church is. Maybe, this year, God is asking us to consider our unity with other believers?

I would love to invite you to check out more about Virtual Pentecost, but my wider prayer is that as we move from Easter and face towards Pentecost, that God would help us prepare and be ready. It was Jesus himself in the days leading us to Pentecost who told the disciples to get ready. Will we heed that warning today in our own time?

Adam May

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www.virtualpentecost.com

O Thou Who camest from above,
The pure celestial fire to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love
On the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for Thy glory burn
With inextinguishable blaze,
And trembling to its source return,
In humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
To work and speak and think for Thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up Thy gift in me.

Ready for all Thy perfect will,
My acts of faith and love repeat,
'Til death Thy endless mercies seal,
And make my sacrifice complete.



Recordings of Services
are available on the web:



www.facebook.com/lutonbaptist/



www.kimptonchurch.co.uk

