

What's hatching this Easter?



We look around at the budding flowers and the blossoming trees. We hear the calling birds in the branches, the cries of the newly hatched chicks in the nest. We feel the sun shine warmly upon our faces. The signs of Spring surround us. But what else is hatching this Easter season?

Is it just chicks from eggs?

Is there the odd chocolate bunny leaping from amongst the chocolate eggs too?

Is there more to Easter than this? A sweet delight, a herald of Spring?

Can we push a little deeper?

Moving past the seasonal trappings, do we connect with the marvellous story re-told for 2000 years of the day when new life sprang not from an egg, but from a tomb – and death itself was rolled back?

It is a story filled with hope for dark times, when so much in life seems hard and the future we face is full of uncertainty.

It is the story of a man who rode into a city humbly on a donkey, and was proclaimed by the people as King and Saviour. He had indeed come to save his people, but not in the way they were expecting. He had come to set the people free from the tyranny of sin and death, to show us it is possible for all people to live together in freedom, justice and peace; right with one another, the world and with God.

What he said and did threatened those in power and with a vested interest in keeping the status quo they benefited most from. Plans were hatched, and the Prince of Peace was betrayed into the hands of a violent mob, who beat him, dragged him through a sham trial and he was made the scapegoat for all that is worst in humanity; our intolerance, our mistrust, our rage-filled lashing out, our guilt and our shame. He was declared as being deserving of death, though he had committed no crime, except to love others. He was nailed and hung on a cross to die.

And yet, God was hatching a bigger plan and surprise to come! For three days later, a stone was rolled away from his tomb – and this man, Jesus of Nazareth, who died on a cross was found to have returned from the dead! He had risen! He endured the worst the world could dish out and overcame it, even death itself, to share with us the best that God has to offer – the promise of new and eternal life for all who believe in him.

It is a good news story that proclaims there is always hope! There is always a second chance! There is always time to begin again! That new life is always possible, even in death.

What, if anything, does this story hatch in you? Is there space for something new in your life? Are you longing for some good news?

As your local parish churches in Braunstone Town and Leicester Forest East, we are bringing our church buildings back to life this Easter with special services to celebrate this timeless story that continues to be retold in the lives of people throughout the world – Jesus’ resurrection bringing new life and hope, even in the darkest of times. You are warmly invited to join us in exploring this wondrous story, either in the church building or online through our Facebook pages and website, where you will find special audio-visual and written services exploring Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection that you can view on your tablet, phone or home computer. (You’ll find the details at the end of this article).

We long to share this Easter message with you because we believe it is a good news story for all in our community. That things do not have to simply stay the way they are but that there is always the chance of new life, of restoration and resurrection! That we can always be more when we come together in trust and loving fellowship. That we can grow something special and seemingly miraculous together. We would love to grow that new thing with you as a partner in the community or to welcome you to join with our church family and see what we are about.

Continue to watch this space for opportunities to share with us in worship, in serving our community and in the simple joy – when it comes – of being able to come together to socialise and be with people! For community and human fellowship is returning too, step-by-step, little-by-little, hatching and bursting its way out of an egg, out of a tomb, out of lockdown. Why not be a part of it?

What could be hatching within you this Easter?

Anything is possible.

May you have a Blessed and Happy Easter!

Revd Dave Hover

Priest-in-charge for St. Andrew’s, Leicester Forest East

& St Crispin’s, Braunstone Town with Thorpe Astley.

www.facebook.com/StCrispinsBraunstone www.facebook.com/StAndrewsLFE
www.standrewslfe.org.uk

*He is
not here...*

He's Risen

***You are invited to celebrate with us this
Easter Sunday 4th April in church and online***

9:30am St. Crispin's,

Braunstone Town

11am St. Andrew's,

Leicester Forest East

11am On Facebook*

**HE'S RISEN
INDEED!**

* www.facebook.com/StAndrewsLFE or www.facebook.com/StCrispinsBraunstone