

April 2025



St Mary's Balcombe

Supporting the Heart and Soul of our community

From the Rector

At the end of last year, the National Trust House at Nymans had a trail around the gardens and a display in the house itself of C S Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. It was a wonderful display and proved to be very popular, with queues extending from the house into the gardens.

Hilary and I visited before Christmas and then we were able to take the Grandchildren along when they came to visit in the New Year.

In the story, the lion Aslan is put to death by the White Witch. The stone table on which He is killed cracks in two, but Aslan meets with Lucy and Susan alive again. He explains the Witch's failure:

'her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, she would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack, and Death itself would start working backwards.'

This is a great picture of what Jesus' cross and resurrection has achieved. As Paul writes, 'I want to know Christ, to know the power of His resurrection' (Philippians 3:10). What does that mean for us? To understand the real Easter, we should experience the same power that raised Jesus from the dead! That same power that not only defeated death but that also brings New Hope, New Love and New Life.

New Hope: Like the girls in the story, Easter highlights the sadness and confusion that loss brings. Yet the resurrection of Jesus brings new hope, as it demonstrates the victory secured by the cross over sin, Satan and death. We can face life's difficulties knowing that Jesus walks beside us.

New Love: Our relationships are often characterised by a lack of forgiveness, hurt and betrayal. Yet Jesus' resurrection opens the possibility of new love, as His power enables us to accept others and forgive them.

New Life: When we are trying to make sense of life, like the girls in the story, Jesus offers us a living relationship with Himself. It's a friendship with God through Jesus that can begin today and continue for eternity.

When Lucy met Aslan again, she cried: 'Oh, you're real, you're real!' We too can find the real Easter through a life changing encounter with the living Christ.

With many blessings

Fr David