The journey continues ...

Those who were at the Carols last year will remember that we went on a journey. Our journey began in the Garden of Eden where we experienced the first sin of the world. We heard God’s promise to Abraham that through him God would make a great nation which would be his chosen people. The prophet Isaiah foretold of the coming Saviour; the one who would bring peace. We heard the Angel Gabriel announce to Mary that she had a most important role to play as the virgin mother. We were there at the Saviour’s birth and rejoiced along with the shepherds and the wise men. We began a journey - we didn’t reach our destination but instead stopped along the way to marvel at God’s love for us.

This journey continues as we enter into the sadness, the horror, the mystery and the triumph that is Easter. God again shows his love for us, only this time it is in the most extreme way as he allows his Son to go to the cross to take the punishment for our sins. Our mood and our experience are vastly different to Christmas - the baby has become a man and is fulfilling his purpose for the world; to remind us that God loves us and wants to be in a relationship with us. This purpose would see Jesus making the ultimate sacrifice as He paid the price for our sins and brought complete forgiveness to the world.

It is easy for us to join in at Christmas. The season is one of happiness. It is much harder to make the same commitment at Easter. Perhaps it is because we can picture ourselves in the crowd as they shout ‘Crucify’? Perhaps it is because we are too afraid or feel guilty to face up to our own wrongs? Perhaps we can’t accept that Jesus would take our punishment? Perhaps we don’t want to be forgiven? Whatever the reason that we avoid it, we need to consider our response to Easter. What do we do? Do we make it a time to get away from the world? Do we make it a time to work on the house? Do we make it a time to earn extra money with penalty rates? Do we make it a time to thank God for what he has done for us?

God has shown his unending love for us in Jesus. He has fulfilled all of the promises that he made. Forgiveness of our sins has been granted. The way to our salvation is made clear. All we have to do is believe.

May you and those you love experience God’s unending blessings this Easter.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

(John 3:16, NIV)