

Living Faith

'How many times do I have to tell you?' is a phrase that is heard in our house quite often... Usually spoken by my wife when she declares she has told me something before!!! A likely story I reckon!!!

It is easy to forget something, no less so with those things we have been told many times as those we've only heard once. Sometimes the familiarity of something means we stop listening, like the proverbial 'Grandad story', we hear it so often we just close our ears and minds to it, shrug our shoulders and say 'Oh it's just him'.

The story of Easter can be like that! Is it like it for you? Either that you have heard the basic story but have forgotten what it is or forgotten it's meaning. It may be with hearing it so often the familiarity of the story means it drifts over us as 'Oh it's that story again', and we forget the depth of it's meaning.

Sometimes it takes the retelling of a story many times for it to really come home to us, to impact us in the way it should and to make us sit up and think about it. So here's the story:

A father loves his children very much. His children want to taste life in a way they want to choose but in time end up in a mess because of all the clutter and rubbish that's crept in. The father sends a messenger who will help the child sort out the mess and the things that cling to them and hold them and so, clear the way for his child to come home. The child finds that when they come home the door is open and the welcome is truly amazing.

The father in this story is God who's love for his children means he lets them go to make their own choices, even if it means they get in a mess. The child in this story is you and the place where you are right now. The messenger is Jesus, his message revealing how much God loves his children. Jesus clears away the rubbish that prevents the child coming back by paying the price of it all through his death on a cross, offering forgiveness in it's place.

Easter also proclaims Jesus alive and in power coming to us with the same message and the invitation to all who will hear.

When the child hears, receives this absolute gift, takes the opportunity and turns around and makes their way back..... what do they find? That God's door is open... and his welcome is truly amazing.

Oh yes it's a story that's been told many times. 'How many times do you have to be told?'

The story is for you. God's love is for you. Christ is alive and invites you to hear.

Happy Easter season.