

## *The Vicar writes*

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter in March. By the time April arrives, the church will have journeyed through the season of lent. On Palm Sunday we will have waved palms as we remembered Jesus coming into Jerusalem and journeyed through Holy week, to Jesus' death on the cross on Good Friday. We will have celebrated the joy of Easter Day, that great Christian festival celebrating Jesus' resurrection.

You may have given and received Easter eggs, as well as tasting wonderful, they bring a message as new life hatches from an egg, Jesus also came alive again on Easter day and Easter eggs remind us of new life.

The Easter season now continues as in the church we focus on Christ's resurrection and ascension and look towards the giving of the Holy Spirit, celebrated on the Day of Pentecost, this year on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

Beginning in April, the churches in the Benefice will be running Alpha. What is Alpha? The word "Alpha" comes from the first letter of the Greek alphabet and symbolizes a beginning or starting point of a journey. Jesus refers to Himself in the bible as the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last.

Alpha is about beginning, the course gives an opportunity to ask questions about spirituality and faith. At Alpha we will have a meal, this will be followed by a short film and then the discussion in small groups. There will be some key life questions to help with that conversation, but they are not restrictive. It is a safe space to ask questions and share thoughts you may have. If you would like further information, please visit the Nailsworth benefice website, email or call me. All are welcome!

With blessings,

Rev. Caroline