

MONMOUTHSHIRE 40p Wednesday, March 20, 2013

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Dear Friends,

Easter is particularly early this year, and one welcome sign of this for Christians most important time and indeed of spring drawing closer has to be the daffodils in bloom. Mind you, with the battering our country has received weather-wise over so many months, am I the only one to wonder whether any daffodil can actually survive? And yet, they do.

In fact, on Zoe's and my constitutional in the park we do not see much sign if any of real destruction, but rather great evidence of God's creation jumping back greener and stronger for all the rain and wind.

Yes, the wind does cause big branches to come thundering down from some of the trees, but the great bulk remains and new buds continue to spring from it. Thinking about it, this might be a fair illustration of Easter where following the hardship, the loneliness and agony of Lent, Easter comes with resurrection to replace death and destruction. Now, as it always has done.

Easter is the high point of the Christian year, with its message of hope and assurance for all. Christians Together will be taking it in turns to celebrate Holy Week in our various places of worship. Yes, we belong to different traditions and yes, we have different styles of worship, something we all respect and appreciate, but the Easter Hope is a shared blessing, and one in which we unite, gladly and with hearts full of praise and wonder.

What can be more moving than the joint Good Friday march of witness?

Little Billy, caught in mischief, was asked by his mother: "How do you expect to get into Heaven?" He thought for a moment and then said, "Well, I'll just run in and out and keep slamming the door until they say, 'For heaven's sake, either come in or stay out.' Then I'll go in!"

Thanks to what happened on that first Easter Day, Heaven's door is always open.

## Thought for the weak



with the Rev Preben Andersen