

## An Easter Reflection

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After the warm spring weather and the return of the wintry blasts, we are approaching the middle of April when Christians celebrate the most important festival of their faith: Easter. At this time of the year, we all look forward to seeing new life: the new born lambs, first in the lambing shed and then out in the fields exploring their new surroundings. The innocence and joy of being young is apparent as they climb any hillocks in the field and chase each other, always under the watchful eye of a ewe who seems happy enough for her children to play until danger is perceived. Then a quick call from the ewe brings her lambs scurrying back for protection and often sustenance. I understand that each



ewe has a unique call both in pitch and timbre for her lambs so that mother and children can be easily matched within the flock. This uniqueness is reciprocated by the lambs who can call for help to their mother and who are instantly recognised by the ewe who can respond with protection accordingly. A sense of smell also helps the ewe identify her offspring; try matching one ewe's lamb with another ewe without using deception! It seems that nature still has much to teach us in spite of such activities as breeding pyramids.

Easter is also a time of new life. Some people find it difficult that the baby born in Bethlehem grew up to be a man who questioned authority and its corruption and injustices. This man, Jesus, followed the calling from God to do whatever God wanted. It can seem strange that God should let death, and an innocent death at that, be part of a plan to save the world. All farmers will know about the cycle of life and death and the need to move on and accept what cannot be changed. But Easter brings a different message: death is not the end but the beginning of a new life, not a human life but a spiritual journey based on the love of God for the people of the time. At Easter, Christians rejoice that the new life of knowing Jesus through faith and learning is celebrated through the wonderful generosity of God in bringing heaven to earth through the resurrection of Jesus so that we can be part of that everlasting Kingdom based on faith, here and now. Because of Easter, we can give thanks to God for Jesus, for his forgiveness and direction and love for each one of us.

Hopefully, the female spring lambs will grow up to become ewes themselves and the cycle of birth will be repeated. At Easter, we can start again with Jesus and find hope through prayer and worship, Bible study and reflection as we recognise God's faithfulness to us in the seasons and his Creation. May the Easter story renew our faith and inspire us through the wonderful love of God and the generosity of Jesus.

A blessed and happy Easter to you all.

