

Risen with the sun



By **Philip Smith** on 01/04/2026



‘Risen with the sun as the early flowers opens, you’re coming home, your voice is clear now, my heart begins to understand, son of the world’. From *‘The Passion’* by Adrian Snell.

If we had the power to forget something deliberately or unlearn one thing, like a Groundhog Day moment, what might we choose? It might seem an odd choice to want to forget the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But it might be a way to experience the delight and joy, and wonder of realising something so mind blowing, captivating and inexplicable for the first time again.

For we know how the story of complete desolation, Christ ridiculed and hung naked on a cross, with no apparent happy ending, ends. Because love wins, it always will. Might is not right, and life has more meaning, purpose and hope, than we can ever imagine.

I once experienced some news that I found hard to take or believe was true. The next day I remember thinking, did I dream it, only to realise that it really did happen.

So, I wonder if the first followers of Jesus waking up on the day after the resurrection, wondered too if it had all been an amazing dream. It wouldn’t have taken long for them to realise that they couldn’t all have had the same dream, so a new dawn brought new life to every one of them. What seemed impossible, became possible for all time.

And two thousand years on, people are still coming to faith in the one who is the resurrection and the life, for it's extraordinary, unbelievable, incredible, unexplainable, stupendous, joyous, amazing, life changing, beautiful, glorious, wonderful, fabulous, news, that the tomb was empty.

I wrote this Easter hymn in 2015 at one of my lowest points as I came to the end of a 12 week sabbatical that wasn't. Easter Sunday was my first Sunday back after it and I shared this with our church family.

Sing Christ is alive, Sing Christ is alive, Sing Christ is alive today.

Let all the bells ring to make a loud noise, that all who have ears may listen. The stone rolled away that all may go in to tell all the world He is risen.

Let all earth declare and angels proclaim To tell of God's love abroad. for death is no more to all who believe that Jesus is Lord over all.

Let children cry out, the trees and birds sing, creation all rings God's praise. For this we now tell to all who will hear that Jesus is not in the grave.

The stone wasn't rolled away to let Jesus out, but to let everyone in, 'for when an egg is broken from the outside life ends, but when an egg is broken from the inside, life begins.'
Jim Kwik

We never have to wait for an Easter Sunday to declare that Christ is risen, for he is risen today, yesterday, tomorrow and every day, for we are always Easter People.

And as Joseph of Arimathea's wife discovered when she asked her husband why he let Jesus use the family tomb, Joseph replied, because Jesus had said, that he only wanted it for the weekend. For God has the last laugh.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Keep the faith, but never ever to ourselves.

Love Philip x