



The Bishop of Lincoln

Easter 2025

We sing a special song at Easter and it's one of my favourites. It's called 'Now the green blade riseth.' It's like a poem. The words might sound strange, but they're beautiful:

*Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:
love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

Can you picture this in your heads? A field full of wheat. That field begins with a little seed in the soil. The sun shines, the rain falls, there's goodness in the soil, and the seed begins to grow. A small green shoot grows up towards the light, and one day, there's a field of wheat, ready to be picked.

This is a picture of life growing in the ground. A picture of light in the darkness. A tiny seed becoming wheat, ready to feed others. This is a picture of Easter.

We believe that Jesus, the Son of God, died on the cross, was buried, and rose again. This is at the heart of our Christian faith. We believe that Jesus invites everyone to share the gift of new life. A new beginning for everyone.

In our Easter song, the seed helps us understand more about Easter. The seed in the earth is like Jesus. The green shoot is like Jesus rising again. The wheat is like Jesus' gift of life which changes our lives for the better.

Sometimes, we need to change so that something good can happen. The seed changes so that it can grow into wheat – which we can eat! Jesus died and rose again so that he could share his life with everyone.

My hope and prayer for you this Easter is that when things change for you, you will see and feel good things – just like that little seed changing into a lovely green shoot.

I hope that when you see signs of growth all around you – green leaves in our trees, colourful flowers, and the smell of Spring in the air – it will remind you that God is with you. May his gift of life and love lead to wonderful things for all of you.

Happy Easter!

The Rt Revd Stephen Conway
Bishop of Lincoln