



## The Bishop of Lincoln

### Easter 2025

There is an Easter hymn, sung to a beautiful melody, which is a real favourite of mine during the later months of Spring. It's called 'Now the green blade riseth.' The first verse is this:

*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 image in your heads? Imagine a field full of wheat. This all starts with a seed, a grain, planted in the soil. With all the right ingredients, such as light and warmth from the sun, water and nourishment from the soil itself, the seed changes and begins to grow. It puts forth roots into the earth, a green shoot begins to grow, and eventually we have our field of wheat ready for harvesting.

This is an image of new life springing from the earth. Light emerging from the darkness beneath the soil. A single grain becoming an ear of wheat, ready to feed and nourish others. This is an image of Easter itself.

We believe that Jesus, the Son of God, died on the cross, was buried, and then rose again to glorious new life. The death and resurrection of Jesus are at the heart of the Christian faith – our belief that Jesus conquered sin and death and invites all people to share in his gift of new life. A new beginning for all.

This wonderful Easter hymn uses the image of the grain as a way to explain the Easter mystery. The grain is buried, just as Jesus lay in the tomb. It puts forth a new, green shoot, just as Jesus rose again from the dead. It becomes an ear of wheat ready for harvesting, just as Jesus' gift of new life nourishes us and changes our lives for the better.

What we learn from this is that sometimes, things need to change in order for something good to happen. The grain changes so that a new shoot can emerge, producing wheat that we can eat. Jesus died and rose again in order to share his new life with us all.

My hope and prayer for you this Easter is that when things change, whatever that may be, it will bear good fruit in your lives, just like the green blade rising from the earth, from a single grain of wheat.

And I hope that when you see signs of growth all around you – green leaves appearing, colourful flowers, and the smell of Spring in the air – it will be a reminder to you that God is at work in your lives. May his gift of life and love lead to new and wondrous things for each of you.

I wish you a blessed and joyful Eastertide.

The Rt Revd Stephen Conway  
Bishop of Lincoln