



The Acting Bishop of Lincoln

Easter 2026

There are so many different parts of the Easter Story. We hear in the Bible of Jesus' betrayal and arrest, his death on the Cross, his burial in the tomb, and then his glorious Resurrection.

After the Resurrection, we hear about all the different ways in which the Risen Jesus appeared to his friends and followers. One of my favourite Easter stories in the Bible is when Jesus appears to his followers who are huddled together in an upstairs room. They are uncertain and afraid, but Jesus comes into the room and he says 'Peace be with you.'

This is a greeting that Christians all over the world use with each other. It's important for Christians to be talking about Peace, especially here and now.

In church, we will often use these words to greet one another during the service. Sometimes people turn to each other and wave, and sometimes people like to shake each other's hands. With our friends and family, we might share a hug as well. We say to each other: 'Peace be with you' just as Jesus did.

These are words and actions that symbolise a deeper meaning. We use them to express our hope and our prayer for our fellow Christians. We use them as a sign that we are 'at peace' with each other. We offer them as a prayer for peace in the church and in the world. What does the word 'Peace' mean to you?

In the context of the Easter Story, when Jesus says 'Peace be with you' he is saying it to his followers who are afraid, to comfort and reassure them. We can do the same. Our words and actions can bring peace – comfort and reassurance to those in need.

At the end of a church service, we will sometimes say 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.' Peace isn't just something we say, it is something we do! How can you share Peace with someone else today? What words can you say, or what things can you do, that will bring some Peace into someone's life?

We are experiencing many challenges, in the world, in the church, perhaps in our day-to-day lives as well. This Easter, I invite you to remember those words that Jesus spoke: 'Peace be with you.' Remember that God gives you his gift of peace, and he wants you to share it with others. My prayer is that we can learn to share that gift with the people around us, and that the world will be a more peaceful place.

Peace be with you, and happy Easter!

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