



The Bishop of Lincoln

Easter 2025

There is an Easter hymn, with a beautiful tune, which is one of my favourites during the Spring season. It's called 'Now the green blade riseth.' Let me share the first verse with you:

*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? Imagine a field full of wheat. That field starts with a tiny grain planted in the soil. The sun shines, the rain falls, there's goodness in the soil, and the seed begins to grow. It grows roots and a small green shoot begins to grow up towards the light. Eventually we have our field of wheat, ready for harvesting.

This is a picture of new life growing from the earth. It's a picture of light growing from the darkness under the soil. This tiny grain 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 then rose again to new life. The death and resurrection of Jesus are at the heart of the Christian faith. We believe that Jesus overcame all the evil in our world, and he invites everyone to share the gift of new life. It's a new beginning for all.

This wonderful Easter hymn uses the grain as a way to explain Easter. The grain in the earth is like Jesus in the tomb. The new green shoot is like Jesus rising again from the dead. The wheat is like Jesus' gift of new life which changes our lives for the better.

Sometimes in life, things need to change so that something good can happen. The grain changes so that the new green shoot can make something – wheat – which can feed us. Jesus died and rose again so that he could share his new life with everyone.

My hope and prayer for you this Easter is that whatever change happens in your life, you will see and feel good things from it – just like the 'green blade' rising from the soil, from a single grain of wheat.

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 remind you that God is with you. May his gift of life and love lead to wonderful things for you.

I wish you a very happy Easter!

The Rt Revd Stephen Conway
Bishop of Lincoln