

FROM OUR MINISTER

Dear Friends,

Debbie and I have some family legal matters we are working through. We are setting up Lasting Power of Attorney so that if either of us ever loses mental capacity our children can act on our behalf. My sister and I had that for our parents, and it was so helpful when they began to decline in health.

We have also decided to update our wills. We made them when the children were small and we had very different questions in our minds, like guardianship were either of us to die before they reached the age of majority. And would they be sensible enough to act as executors as adults? We are rather more reassured on that question now!

We spend our younger years living as if we are immortal, but the time comes when we must frame our lives in the light of that one certainty, death. While we see many brave and moving examples in society of people facing that, the Christian faith has a transformative approach to this.

There is no doubt in our faith that death is an enemy - 'the last enemy', as Paul calls it. But the death of Jesus changes everything. His death conquers the sting of death, in that through it our sins are forgiven and evil spiritual forces are put in their place.

Not only that, but we are also assured that death does not have the final word. The resurrection of Jesus is what Paul calls 'the first fruits.' In other words, a later 'harvest' will come when we are all raised from the dead. Here is the seed of eternal life.

And when we entrust our lives into God's hands, believing in Christ's death and resurrection for us and responding to his love by becoming his disciples, then that eternal life is ours. Moreover, God wants us to know this for sure. The Christian doctrine of assurance says that we can be certain of God's redeeming love for us in Christ and our place in his kingdom. For not only do we have the promises of Scripture, but we also have the witness of the Spirit in our hearts, who pours God's love into us.

So, as we come to Easter, this great time of the Christian Year, let us find that rock solid certainty in God's love for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

And as we come to terms with our own mortality in this way, then we shall be able truly to live with freedom.

Your minister and friend,

Dave Faulkner

