



HAPPY EASTER !!



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*Petersfield Christian Fellowship
Sunday 31 March 2002*



What's it all about? A test...

- *Why now? Is 31 March 2002 special?*
- First Sunday after full moon after Spring equinox (21 March)
- Anywhere between 22 March – 25 April

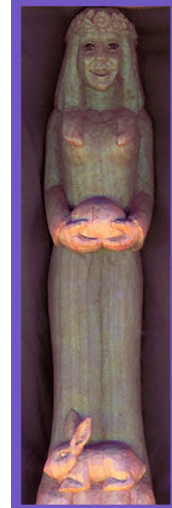


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What's it all about? A test...



- *Why called "Easter"?*
- **Eostre** – goddess of spring and fertility
- **Ostara** – festival of Eostre, in April



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What's it all about? A test...



- *Why the Easter bunny?*
- Eostre's familiar spirit was **the hare**
- Hare = fertility, moon, wisdom





What's it all about? A test...



- *Why Easter eggs?*
- Symbol of fertility
- Serpent's egg = "cosmic egg"
- Eostre's bird-hare legend



Is that it ????





Christian Easter is ...



- Jesus lived and died ... BUT ...
... *he didn't stay dead!!*
- Proof that :
 - Jesus was divine
 - His sacrificial death was accepted by God
 - There is life after death
 - We too can survive death
- Wishful thinking?

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If no resurrection ...



- Christians are pathetic losers :
 - Believe a myth
 - Pray to a dead person
 - Trust destiny to a non-person
 - Focus on imaginary heaven
 - Hope it will all turn out OK
 - Think this life has eternal value
- Christianity is a sad cruel joke

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St Paul agrees



- I Corinthians 15:13-19
 - If Jesus is still dead, faith is :
 - Pointless (14)
 - Misleading (15)
 - Futile (17)
 - Pitiful (19)
 - **BUT !!**
 - Verse 20 "But **in fact** Christ has been raised from the dead..."

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Evidence? The empty tomb



- Everyone knew the body was gone
- How?
 - Jesus wasn't dead?
 - Romans or Jews moved body?
 - Disciples stole body?
- If not, then what?



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Evidence? Sightings



- People saw Jesus alive
 - Individuals, groups
 - 11 recorded occasions over 6 weeks
- Delusion? Wishful thinking?
 - Total shock, not expected
 - Not suggestive types
- If not fantasy, what did they see?



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Evidence? The church ...



- ... then and now
- Not remembering a great teacher or leader
- But a personal daily encounter



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So what?!!

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If it's true...

- Jesus is alive today!
- You can meet him here & now
- Don't take my word for it...

He is Risen!

...find out for yourself...

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