

Dear Friends

Easter comes a(LIVE) as hundreds share their lent reflections on the web

You may not use a computer or a hand held device, but it is interesting to see how other Christians who are into the instant messaging scene are using this facility to share comments on their faith and to encourage others to reflect upon what Easter means to them this Lent.

Ranging from 'history's defining moment' to a 'chocolate-scoffing bonanza', hundreds of musings on the meaning of Easter have been posted on Facebook and Twitter in this year's interactive Lent reflection. More than 1,000 people are following Easter (LIVE) on the social networking sites, and church leaders are being invited to use some of the tweets and messages for inspiration during their Easter services. Easter (LIVE) asks the simple question: "What does Easter mean to you?"

Twitter answers have to be short, a maximum of 140 characters to each 'tweet', so people have to be succinct with their thoughts. The answers range from the clever - "Easter is when grace is free but not cheap and when chocolate is cheap but not free" to the personal - "A time when Jesus kept his promise to me and every other human being on the planet." There are honest reflections - "as a Christian Easter should mean something, but I don't know what" and more tongue-in-cheek offerings - "A hot cross! [No bun intended]." Even the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, has posted his view: "Remember God's Son was raised 2new life so that we might live. We are an Easter people & Alleluia is our song."

Alistair Johnson, from Cliff College, and Huw Tyler, from Share Creative, created Easter (LIVE) as part of the Biblefresh movement of churches and agencies, which seeks to help Christians gain confidence in and appetite for the scriptures. Alistair said: "I have been amazed at the varying responses to Easter (LIVE), from the creative to the common place. We have seen lots of people engaging with the truth behind the veneer. Easter (LIVE) has brought home the importance of taking some time out, from our busy lives, to remember why Easter is the pinnacle of the life of Jesus."

So, you may not be a 'tweeter', but what would your answer be? What does Easter mean to you (in under 140 characters)? Or perhaps this process of musing and reflecting makes you realise you need more than 140 characters to express yourself adequately.

As we celebrate the events of Holy Week and Easter Sunday together, we gather to remember the story of Jesus and reflect on what it means to us. It would be wonderful to see you at one of our special church services this week. Perhaps the different preachers might rise to the challenge of a 140 character sermon. However I fear that we will all take the opportunity to speak at much greater length than that, such is the specialness of the season!

Yours in Christ

Mike