

## Dead or Alive?

- I've got an Easter present for everyone!!
  - something a little different!
- *Give out beans!!*
- Has everyone got one?
- **What is it?**
  - what kind of bean? (**Broad**)
  - anyone know the variety? (**Giant Exhibition Longpod!!**)
  - **is it dead or alive?**
- Some ways looks dead:
  - like a stone, except too light...
- How might you discover whether it is alive or dead?
  - chop it open? that would kill it!
  - *as far as I know the only simple way is to bury it in the ground!!*
  - almost as if you threw it away; and once buried hard to find again!
- Jesus spoke of himself being like a seed
  - he said something we know to be true: **if a seed is kept clean and dry in a packet, it will stay just as it is;**
  - the only way in which this bean seed can do what it is designed for - **which is to produce a broad bean plant with many bean pods** - is for it to die in the ground
  - only in its death and burial does it multiply
- That's why Jesus had to die and be buried.

## Easter Events

- **OHP: Jesus on Cross**
- On Good Friday we thought of Jesus dying for us on the cross
  - in dying, he was making sure he could do what he came to do... **to give his life for other people so that they might have the life of God in them**
- Jesus said, **"I am the resurrection and the life"**
  - Easter Day was the great test;
  - if he stayed dead, then all he said was a **great cheat!**
  - if he stayed dead, then he did not have the life of God in him
  - if he stayed dead, then we cannot receive the life of God from him
- **OHP: Women and angels at tomb**
- Heard in reading how Mary went to the tomb early the morning, and saw stone rolled back
  - without seeing more she ran back to the disciples to say that Jesus' body must have been taken elsewhere
  - Peter and John ran to the tomb, found it as Mary said, no body, **but**

grave clothes next...  
– John begins to realise that, somehow, **Jesus is alive!**

- **OHP: Mary and Jesus**

- Disciples leave garden, Mary stays on, upset...
  - speaks to angels, speaks to "**gardener**"
  - who is really Jesus - speaks her name, "**Mary**"! - instant recognition!!

## So What?

- Why is all of this so important?
- **First**, shows that what Jesus said was true; he was who he said he was!
  - he really did have the life of God within him;
  - by dying and being submerged in our sin and yet raised to life it showed that he was the Son of God!
- **Second**, his dying/rising is also a picture of our spiritual life.
- Look again at bean:
  - in some ways we look quite dead; we don't have much sign of spiritual life within us;
  - Jesus offers us his life, but we have to take risks to receive it;
  - we too have to die and be buried, putting Jesus first in our lives, so that **he** is the person in charge;
  - accept Jesus as **Lord**, giving him control over the rest of our lives
- Maybe you still need to take that final step?
- So, quite a lot to learn from a bean:
  - a bean with the gift of life within it!
  - I hope thinking about beans has helped you appreciate why the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event in the whole of human history;
  - I hope also that each of us may be ready in some way to die that we might receive more of the life of God within us...
- You can do several things with your bean:
  - throw it away;
  - give it back to me;
  - take it home and keep it safe;
  - or plant it and see what happens...
- You can do exactly the same with Jesus Christ:
  - **what will you do with your bean?**
  - **what will you do with Jesus this Easter?**