

**BRADMORE  
METHODIST CHURCH  
@ THE LABYRINTH**



**Easter 2021**



On the third day Jesus rose again,  
in accordance with the scriptures.

Allelujah!

Friends,

Isaac has a new tactic for getting out of trouble. He is quite a character as he pushes the boundaries much more than Alice ever did. We are quite stern when he oversteps the mark. What he does is he starts getting upset. I often think it's because he feels a bit ashamed, and then he opens his arms out wide for a hug and runs to you. The inner workings of a 2-year old makes my mind boggle. But, it often works. A child, upset, arms open wide, seeking comfort from a parent.

It's that image of the arms open wide. It's a symbol of love for me. Opening up for an embrace from a loved one. It's also the position Jesus was in when he died on the cross. His arms were spread open for all to see. You may consider that a coincidence, but sometimes life goes far beyond coincidence, especially where God is involved. The most horrific form of punishment and execution, being nailed to a cross, show Jesus with his arms stretched open wide. The pain, the suffering and yet, God's way of saying "I love you", "I will always be there for you".

The reality is, as Christians, we believe Jesus went to that cross to take on that punishment we deserve. So that our wrongdoings, our sins, might be forgiven. Let's be honest, we can get life horribly wrong. We choose ourselves before God. We know what we've done. We feel that guilt and shame. We are upset, because we cannot go back and change things. Just like a 2-year old toddler, we just want to cry, open our arms and embrace God.

The Good News is, he is always there. Easter reminds us that at the worst possible moment, there he is on the cross. Arms open wide, always open for us to come to him. God will always be there for you. Will always love you. Will always be ready to forgive. Won't you come to God and embrace that unconditional love?

Happy Easter,  
Simon Rose

Fun and entertainment for the Family. Have you seen **Virtual Sunday School** with a new enjoyable free video to watch anytime each week! Lots of episodes on YouTube. Tell your friends, start a club. Tell me if its good or bad, why? [johnrandall941@btinternet.com](mailto:johnrandall941@btinternet.com)



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**Our minister the Rev Simon Rose will be on sabbatical leave from 12 April for 3 months; during his absence you can contact Rev Nichola Jones (Ruddington) via any of the above,**

**The Bradmore Methodist  
Church community  
wish you all  
a joyful and safe Easter-tide**

Easter design by Jean Pooley