

## **It's already been done**

Imagine for a moment that you are driving home from work after a busy day, but you know that when you get home, you will have no time to relax. There is a very major task that you will have to start on immediately you get home. It is of the utmost importance, and it cannot wait. You know it is going to take several hours, but you simply have to accept this and get started.

Now imagine that when you get home, you suddenly realise that this major task that you have been bracing yourself for all day, has been done already! It has been completed down to the very last detail. There is nothing more for you to do at all. Your feelings will be a mixture of total surprise, utter relief and not inconsiderable gratitude for the person who has done it for you. You will do virtually anything to show them how grateful you are.

Similarly, if you think of the days leading up to Easter, the disciples were in an almost constant state of anticipation: what on earth is Jesus going to do next? But in the days after Easter, the tense changes to the past: Mary Magdalene saying "I have seen the Lord!"; the disciples saying "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon". What we would never have dared to believe has come true. All the anguish of 3 days ago has been swept away.

As Christians, we often come frighteningly close to missing the point. We spend so much time planning what the church should organise next, how we will organise it and who will help to make it happen. But if we are not careful, we will get so swamped by this that we will forget the foundation of it all. Jesus HAS died for us, the way to God HAS been opened up, Jesus HAS defeated death and evil. Our predominant feeling should be that heady mixture of relief, wonder, excitement and gratitude. Jesus HAS risen. It's happened already. It's already been done. We can only laugh with relief and sing as we realise this and think how we can best express our gratitude.