

# Allen Writes

Dear Friends,

When I was asked to write the letter for the April magazine my thoughts turned to Spring – sunshine, brighter days and new life. However as I write this at the end of February the skies are dark and heavy with rain and many people are suffering from the effects of recent flooding – and dreading more rain yet to come. What will Spring bring for them? What hope do they have of brighter, better days?

Seeing the floods on television and the strength of water reminds me of the power of nature and the destruction that we are bringing on the earth – destroying God's creation, the effects of our greed and the abuse of the earth's resources.

So what hope is there of new life, of a new beginning for those suffering from flooding, a new life for us?

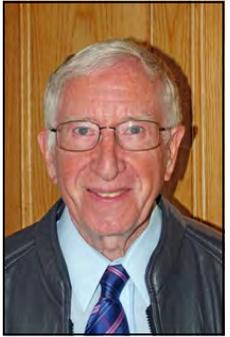
We cannot physically clear the mess from the homes which have been flooded, but we can help by praying for them and we should change our life-style so as not to add any further to the earth's abuse and destruction. We should also look at our own lives. Are they totally clear of debris? Are we living as God would want us to? Are we travelling along the road He has called us along? Or are we going our own way, in our own strength, struggling, feeling lost and lonely?

Lent is a time of reflection. A time to reflect on what God has done –and is doing for us, a time to reflect on the many blessings He has poured into our lives throughout the years. It is also a time to look forward to a new life. On Good Friday we reflect on Jesus death on the cross. It is called "Good" because of the good Jesus did for each one of us – He willingly gave His life so that we could have the free gift of eternal life and so glory in the victory of the resurrection on Easter Day.

That is new life. A new life offered to us by God. It won't sweep away the debris of the floods but it will sweep away our sin, it will be a bridge over the gulf of our sins which separate us from the love of God.

As we move through lent to Easter, do remember those suffering from the floods, reflect on how we can change our lifestyles to limit the damage we are causing to God's creation, but above all accept Jesus as Saviour and through His death and resurrection experience the free gift of a new life – eternal life. Wishing you all the blessings of Easter

*Allen*



*Allen's thoughts on Lent and Easter were written some time before the corona virus situation hit us, but feel even more relevant now.*