

EASTER THOUGHTS – Hilary Edgerton – Easter Day 2015

Can you spot the connection between...

- frayed rope
- jigsaw not complete
- rubik cube not managed
- gift box with wrapping not taped down
- Schubert's 8th symphony
- 'Edwin Drood' by Dickens
- a newborn baby

The connection? They're all things that are not finished....

Because they're not quite finished they're missing something: the rope won't be as safe or strong as it's meant to be; the picture is spoilt without the middle piece; the cube isn't quite so satisfying with its colours mixed up; the gift doesn't look so lovely; the music is still beautiful but you have a sense there could be something more; the book is the same – and some people have tried to finish it off; then there's the baby...like all of us, potential not yet reached.

And yet there's nothing 'wrong' with those things. In fact, how many parents would say their baby is 'perfect' the moment they're born without having to achieve anything or prove what they can do.

We're going to think a little more in a few minutes about things that were finished and things that were not, when Jesus died and rose again.

First let's hear the story of the resurrection, as it's told by just one of the gospel writers.

BIBLE READING – Mark 16:1-8

There are lots of things in life that are unfinished- frayed ropes, puzzles, music, people. That resurrection story can be a bit unsettling. It doesn't have a nice, neat, lovely, comfortable ending either. Instead, when those

women get to the tomb, they hear something they don't understand and can't quite believe because it's never happened before. They don't turn round and see Jesus and they don't go happily off to tell everyone. They run away trembling and bewildered. They don't quite know what's going on. It's very confusing even though I'm sure they'd heard Jesus talk about being raised from the dead and even though they'd want to believe and even though in a little while, they really would see him again. For the moment they were trembling, they were bewildered; things hadn't ended as they expected.

Well I think that's actually quite a comfort.

First, it shows that when you think some good things have come to an end, it isn't always true: there was much more life and joy to come that they just didn't know about yet!

Second, it helps me because I don't always understand what's going on as I try to follow Jesus, but I have this sense that it's going to be worth it, even when sometimes I'm bewildered and maybe I'm frightened too.

There have been lots of people in the Bible who trusted God even when things didn't seem complete or clear or finished.

There were people like Abraham and Moses who set off for a Promised Land but didn't get there. They were on the way – and it did happen later but they didn't set foot there themselves. The Bible says it's because God wants us to look even further than a patch of ground and aim for heaven itself.

Then there were people who sang psalms and said to God they wished they didn't have so many enemies but that even so they will praise God in trust that he will sort things out one day.

Then there are those disciples who stuck with Jesus and so much of the time they frankly didn't have a clue what he was on about! Yet he convinced them there was more to life than what they'd known before. So they took what they had got and lived on in the belief that one day everything would be finished, would be complete.

And perhaps you remember that Jesus on the cross, who, with a last gasp of

his breath said 'It is finished'. He had done everything that was needed to give us that way to heaven. That's what makes the difference. He was perfect – 'no spot or blemish' is how the bible puts it. Without any character defect at all is how we might think of it. His aim is to help us so that one day he can bring us to God and say 'This isShe's perfect now because I've made her that way- even though it took a lot of effort and she's stubborn and didn't trust me enough....'

None of us is the finished article and there are lots of unfinished, loose ends in life: incomplete pictures and things that make us bewildered. Yet Jesus IS the finished article and that makes all the difference.

Resurrection shows us, there's more to come, even when you think it's all come to an end. Look up, and keep on.