

NEW HOPE WHEN A DROUGHT BREAKS

A marvellous thing happened the other day and it has happened again several times. John was so excited about it he jumped up and down and ran around the house and at school he wrote a story about it. They even cut out cardboard shapes and coloured them in. You guessed it, I'm talking about the rain we have received recently.

Now seemingly the drought is breaking, God has answered our prayers for rain and we trust that God will give us the wisdom we need to make the right decisions as we move on into a recovery phase. It is great to see the green coming back into the landscape, there is a sense of new beginning and a general air of celebration. Celebration because there is a new beginning. Almost 2000 years ago a group of people found themselves in a desperate situation. All their dreams and hopes for the future seemed dashed with the death of their leader Jesus. But his death was not the end of the story, it like our drought, was only the start of a new beginning. Because 3 days after Jesus was laid in the tomb, (which was guarded by soldiers) the tomb was found to be empty. Jesus had risen from the dead. The authorities had no way of disputing the claim, as they could not produce the body, and what's more their guards had made sure no one had stolen it.

One of Jesus' disciples unsure of the claims, had to check it out for himself and asked Jesus to let him see and touch the nail hole scars in his hands. The rising of Jesus from the dead authenticates his teaching (what we read in the New Testament). The Disciples celebrated because out of their despair suddenly came new hope.

As we celebrate the dawning of a new hope with the breaking of the drought, why not come and celebrate the dawning for hope of all humankind - Easter - with us.