

## **Paul's Ponderings May 2011**

Really, I shouldn't be surprised. I have known all about the new life around us in spring since I was a toddler. And I have know the Easter story from about the same age - over 55 years now.. And yet I can still be caught out when I find that something that had seemed dead and going nowhere is suddenly bursting with new life and possibilities!

I had been marking the passage of spring - swallows on 7th April this year, compared with 18th April last year - and really enjoying the snowdrops, then the daffodils and now the emerging bluebells - wonderful. I had been journeying through Lent, with its inner disciplines and outer observance, and at times feeling drawn into the deep mystery of the incarnation. And yet, looking back, I do wonder what was going on!

I was not in any way doubting the faithfulness of God, nor His power to save. I hadn't started disbelieving the Gospel stories, or preaching an alternative Gospel. But without doubt I had begun to get puzzled by events, and confused, even to the point of suggesting the children of Israel had it easy in the desert! All they had to do was move when the pillar of cloud moved, and stops when it stopped - simple!

**We have to test, weigh, search, discern, wait on God, and reach a "right judgement".**

Bursting into my "What next?" prayers and my "Have we missed a step?" questions has come a totally unexpected opportunity, from an unknown (in human terms!) source. It is as if Easter has come a few weeks early (I heard the news I am talking about on April 5th) -

**God has surprised us - again - with His plans, His purpose, His timings.**

And ultimately this is good, because it becomes clear that the outcome is about His glory!

If you want to read the details of what I am talking about, read elsewhere (for example on our web pages: [www.spsj.org.uk](http://www.spsj.org.uk)) the latest on the FLIC project. But regardless of what the application is, the message that we hear again in this resurrection season is that nothing is beyond God's knowledge, nothing is beyond His reach.

**"To God be the glory, great things He Hath done"**