

## As I See It by Joan Barnett

### The Cross

Ephesians 5:1-2 NIV. Follow god's example therefore as dearly loved children and live a life of love such as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering in sacrifice to god.

When Easter comes round each year, I am always reminded of one particular good Friday Family service in the 1970s. The late Martin Hughes was vicar in those days. He was keen on carpentry which led to him simply knocking up a cross at the beginning of his sermon. This had the children eagerly wondering what would happen next.

They did not have to wait long because they were all asked to bring a small posy of flowers for the Easter Sunday Family service.

Easter Sunday and the cross was standing in the area behind the communion rail. Now it had been covered with wire netting. During the sermon the children were invited to bring their posies of flowers to the front and insert them into the netting. The result was a coming alive of the cross giving a visual reminder of Jesus' resurrection.

When I heard the above verse from Ephesians it seemed to fit in with this month's article. Children, love, fragrance and suffering sum up Easter for us with its new life and beginnings. Spring flowers are appearing in the surrounding area, lambs gambolling in the fields and those bunnies resuming their visits to our garden. The sighted assistant is regularly opening a window and clapping his hands to frighten them away. Unfortunately these attempt to mimic Beatrix Potter's Mr Macgregor do not appear to be working.

This is the time of year I think back to my sighted days and our regular trips down South to visit my parents. I loved to follow the changing seasons with the fresh green leaves on flowering trees and shrubs as we drove by. Now I have to rely on the sighted assistant remembering to tell me what transformations are taking place in the surrounding scenery.