

## An Easter Message to Members

*'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'* 2 Cor. 12: 9

As I read Sheran Harper's message to indoor members, I am touched by the love and appreciation she expresses to those long-serving faithful members who have given many years of prayer and active service. Her letter includes an uplifting prayer written by our own Margaret Devlin, the words of which remind us that we find sanctuary in God's love 'just as we are'.



No matter what our faults, failings, limitations of age or circumstance, Easter is evidence of the grace of God and unconditional love in Jesus Christ. The Easter Candle burns for the 'Alpha & Omega' in our lives. It is a sign of the Christ-love which burns within us from our beginning to our end... and into new life.

It is tempting to imagine, especially as we grow older and stiffer, or when circumstances limit our activity, that we have nothing to offer. Not true – for God always has a purpose for us... in the way we smile, in every kindly deed, in each encouraging word, and in holding someone's need in quiet prayer.

As a chaplain my life was blessed by Ellen who was elderly, frail and living with dementia. Her last words were a prayer, which became a blessing to many.

Dear God,  
You are all that matters.  
Help us to be happy.  
Help us to be welcoming.  
We need each other.



*Ellen's prayer: Ashgrove, Newcastle 1996*

So whatever your circumstances, may the Lord bless you this Easter-tide with the fellowship of those you love, with the memories you treasure, and with a warm and welcoming heart.