

## Tony Thinking aloud cii

It was a big treat – a boiled egg for breakfast on Easter Day. My mother had drawn flowers on the egg and my name. I did not know whether to eat it or look at it. This was the middle of the war – eggs were very scarce. No Chocolate Easter Eggs. My auntie had a cardboard one which she filled each year for me, and I had to hand it back for next time!

The Easter Egg is of course a symbol of new life, the chick breaks from the shell, the Easter symbolism of Jesus breaking out of the garden tomb.

There are endless traditions about the egg at Easter. Remember all the eggs were to be used up in the pancakes on Shrove Tuesday so no eggs in Lent. This makes eggs at Easter extra special. Traditions about Easter Eggs go back many centuries. Chocolate Easter Eggs began in 1873. They were made by Fry's, a family firm which had very strong Christian connections! So, the religious symbolism would have been there from the beginning....

Now to think about the egg. The chick breaks from the shell, we think of Jesus breaking out of the tomb (you cannot enjoy an egg until it is cracked – open!). We see in Jesus hope of a new life beyond the confines of the tomb. Jesus had to rise from the tomb to help us understand ongoing life with him. Death is not the end.

This helps us remember that Jesus is with us all the time. Reflect - Mary Magdalene had to look before she found Jesus in the garden, but he was there all the time, she had mistaken him for the gardener. Perhaps we have to look and pause awhile to realise Jesus is there all the time for us.

So, the egg – it needs to be cracked to be enjoyed. We need to think beyond Jesus on the Cross to Jesus breaking out of the tomb to understand this life not being an end in itself. Enjoy your eggs, share them with others and share the message of Easter as well.