

## Talk one

Take flower from Cross. It starts off hidden as a bulb in the ground and at the beginning of its cycle of growth it starts to show above ground. It seems to have come back to life, yet in truth it has never died. It is in full bloom, has been picked and will soon die, yet the bulb remains in the ground and the cycle, next year, will begin again.

The death of Jesus was obvious, in the full glare of public view on a cross, yet for 3 days he was hidden in a tomb. What happened in that tomb is a mystery. In faith we believe that he rose again, but like this daffodil was life still there, to come again in the natural event of things or was he really dead. (Crush flower & throw away) That is the point of Easter. On one level it is very simple. We are told Jesus died on the cross and came back to life. On another, we struggle to understand.

Yet many have put forward other ideas. He was not really dead when he was taken down from the cross and was revived by sympathisers and taken from the tomb. He was actually dead and the Romans took the body from tomb, to prevent people saying he has been raised. But would that not give wait to the very thing they were seeking to prevent? Maybe the disciples stole the body and the myth of resurrection was created. But who is going to die for a myth? How long can a story survive if it is not true, over 2000 years? If it is not true, what are we doing here? That is the crucial

point. If it is not true, what are you doing here? Paul said, if Christ has not been raised our faith is in vain.

We don't know what happened in the tomb but our rational minds seek explanations. The answers to mystery lie in faith and our experience of the risen Christ. It is not logical and never will be. One thing we know, the body was gone.

## Talk two

Mott the Hoople sing "*Roll away the stone*" from 1974

How strong is an egg? Volunteer; [Hold end to end] Ask 'do you trust me' / gradually bring out more and more towels etc.! & throw a real egg that has been boiled. It is all about faith!

We know that one of the things the egg represents is the stone over Jesus tomb that was rolled away. Did a bit of research on this.

The Garden Tomb in Jerusalem, which many believe to be the Jesus' burial place, was dug into the rock hillside to make a cave like room. The opening is nearly big enough to walk through without stooping. It would take a stone of 5-6 feet in diameter to cover it. To the right of the opening, an inclined groove or track was cut into the rock, running across the opening. It had a deeper indentation at the tomb's entrance. Help you picture that – see image on screen

We're told that a large round stone about a foot thick was placed in the track when the tomb was built and blocked to keep the entrance open. After the body was placed in the tomb the block was removed allowing the stone to be rolled down the incline and dropped into the indentation to cover the opening and lock the stone in place. It would have taken several men a considerable amount of time to dislodge the stone and open the tomb. The stone might have weighed 1-2 tons.

Not only that, the stone was prevented from falling over by a stone wall that stood in front of tomb opening i.e. the rolling stone was sandwiched between the tomb entrance and stone wall

Could Jesus have got out this tomb? Unlikely! He had no grip from inside and the stone had to be pushed up hill! And think what he had just been through!

Resurrection is a mystery: it is all about faith. It goes beyond the physical, what we see and understand.

Resurrection is a miracle: it is all about faith. It goes beyond what can be proved.

To the mystery and miracle of the stone that was rolled away, there are not answers maybe except one... I will let you fill in the blank!

Give out mini eggs.