

Faith Comment published in the Petersfield Post

7 April 2010: Rev'd Peter Barnett, Minister of Petersfield Methodist Church

Cross talk should not be avoided

"To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood... be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." (Revelation chapter 1 verse 5)

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect upon the above verse and upon what Jesus achieved for us when he chose to go to the cross.

We all tend to have a sanitised view of the cross but crucifixion was a messy, shameful, agonising and ugly form of execution.

For a number of years Christians have been told they should no longer talk about the blood of Christ because people find it offensive and unpalatable. However, blood is back on the cultural agenda. Look in any bookshop and you will find a large part of the teenage fiction section taken up by books featuring vampire stories. The popular films *Twilight* and *New Moon* feature vampires and werewolves. Self-harmers cut themselves to see if they bleed, to see if they are alive.

So often, those of us within the church are seen to be out of step with the culture we are a part of. Let us not pass up the opportunity for sharing the gospel we now have before us. May you know the presence of the risen Christ this Easter season and ever more.