



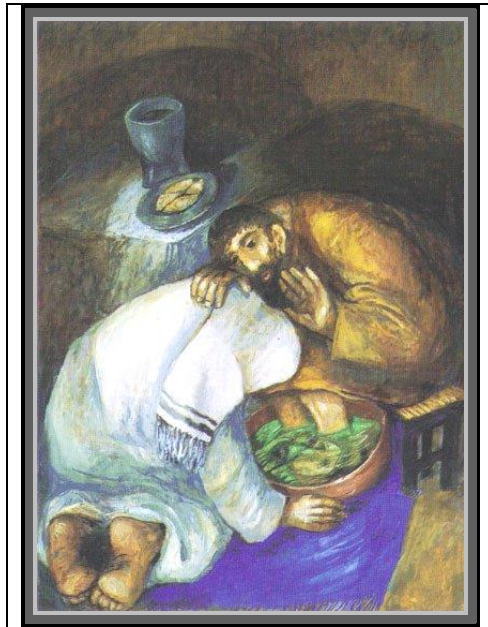
April | May 2022 Issue No. 65

The Cheapstreeter

CHEAP STREET CHURCH, SHERBORNE, DORSET
A Church at the heart of the Community with the Community at heart

The artist's inspiration for this painting is the account, found in the Gospel of John, of how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples at their Last Supper.

All the drama and intimacy of the encounter between Jesus and Peter are focused where their two heads meet



Sieger Köder is one of the most famous religious artists of modern time in Germany. His works, whether large paintings or altar-pieces, illustrations for religious books, posters or small card reproductions, always reveal inner strength and commitment

The Washing of Feet

by Sieger Köder

MAUNDY THURSDAY this year falls on 14th April. This commemorates the Last Supper that Jesus had with his disciples at which He breaks bread saying, "This is my body," and pours wine, saying, "This is my blood." He then asks the disciples to "Do this in *remembrance* of me". This was the first Holy Communion. It was on Maundy Thursday that Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, teaching them to be servants. It is the ultimate act of "servant leadership". Jesus instructs his followers *to love and to serve*. Maundy Thursday was also a sad occasion, when Jesus foretold of his death, saying: "One of you will betray me". Shortly afterwards, Judas Iscariot committed the act of betrayal with, of all things, a kiss, normally an indication of love and affection. This led to the arrest of Jesus and to His Crucifixion – but then to His glorious Resurrection. So much happened in just four days – and it changed the world forever!



The Cheapstreeter

Issue No. 65

April | May 2022

Four of our regular contributors have not submitted anything for this issue, so I am afraid I have had to find various pieces (of interest, I hope) to fill the spaces

Editor

Letter from our Minister

EASTER RESURRECTION LIGHT IN THE MIST OF THE DARKNESS

There is sense, with the Russians waging war in Ukraine, that the darkness of Good Friday, when Jesus is executed on the cross, constantly surrounds us, with the news reports telling or showing the ongoing death and destruction. The charge that brought about Jesus' death was a political one, 'King of the Jews', an act of disloyalty to Caesar and the occupying Roman Authorities. At first it seemed that the forces that opposed Jesus had won

Fortunately, we have the resurrection light of Easter Morning when the formally well-guarded tomb is found empty, and the stone rolled away for all to see. In Matthew, we have the guards of the tomb being persuaded with a large sum of money to tell a fake news story, that the disciples had taken the body while they were asleep. It would no doubt cost the Chief Priests a lot to smooth that one over with Pilot, as falling asleep on guard would have normally been death sentence for the guards

In the Easter story the resurrection of Jesus takes most people by surprise, especially the disciples and those who were close to Jesus. It is only Jesus' enemies that take the possibility seriously in advance of it happening, because of the threat it poses to them. The resurrection increasingly poses a threat today, because while the damage and destruction the forces of evil can still cause is very real, it declares they cannot ultimately win out, because with Jesus' death and resurrection they have already lost
We Celebrate Easter because in Jesus' death and resurrection we have God given hope for now, the future, and eternity

Duncan

Lives Remembered

They are not dead who live in hearts they leave behind

8 th April 2001	Robert Patrick
20 th April 2010	Pamela Hall
28 th April 2014	Peggy Smith
24 th May 2002	Charles Collis
1 st May 2018	Eileen Selby
4 th May 2018	David Smith

April Birthdays

3 rd	Don Farquharson
7 th	Geoff Tapper
8 th	Pat Leadbetter
12 th	Jane Billington
16 th	Jeff Hassell
17 th	Janet Le Moignan
20 th	Sandy Hassell
21 st	Janet Baker
21 st	Carol Jones
23 rd	Jim Walker
25 th	Marjorie Kett
25 th	Pat Heal
25 th	Paul Hodges
25 th	Ruth Rogerson
27 th	Molly Hooper

May Birthdays

1 st	Barbara Austin
2 nd	Revd Sue Litchfield
2 nd	Jim Cockerham
4 th	Peter Gould
5 th	Revd Duncan Goldie
8 th	Angela Langrick
21 st	Joseph Crocker
26 th	Anne Dearle

Wedding Anniversary

14th May – Peter and Denise Gould

~~~~~  
 Lord, take my hand  
 and hold me in the dark  
 when I can't see the way ahead.  
 And if at times I stumble,  
 as I know I will,  
 tighten your grip on me and don't let go  
 ~~~~~

Praying for Vladimir Putin

One of the TV images from Russia that struck me most, at the beginning of the war in Ukraine, was of Vladimir Putin praying in the Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Moscow. Whatever was he doing? Was it pure hypocrisy - a publicity stunt to convince people that he had religious reasons for doing what he went on to do, visiting the appalling destruction we have seen him unleash on the people of Ukraine? Or was he seeking God's blessing for what he was planning without any consideration of whether this was a course of action God could possibly bless? Or could he possibly have been asking God whether this was what God wanted, and deciding that God was saying 'yes'?

It is not for me to judge Vladimir Putin, nor am I likely ever to know what he was doing. But it started me thinking about how we pray when we're making our decisions. Do we pray at all - or do we just go ahead and do what we want? Do we pray for form's sake, because we know we ought to, but without any real desire to know what God thinks about our plans? Do we ask ourselves whether our plans are ones which God *could* possibly bless? What do we do when we can't decide whether God approves or not? With prayers, as with action, people's consciences need educating - as every parent knows. And I guess that this education needs to be life-long. There are things that we do not realise are wrong until we see that other people are hurt or offended by them. There are good things we cannot decide to do until we realise what other people's needs are; there is much less excuse for ignorance these days when information is so much better, but we cannot learn all at once. And when we know the need, then we have to learn to decide what we can do about the situation, and then to do it. Perhaps above all, we have to learn *how* to pray, both to guide our action, and in those situations where we truly cannot act

I cannot know about Vladimir Putin's prayers. But I do know that I ought to be better at praying for him than I am. I guess that most of us find it much easier to pray for people who are suffering evil than for the people doing it. But do we not want to be prayed for when we are doing evil - that we may see what we are doing, and repent of it, and change our ways? If we

want that for ourselves, then do we not also need to pray it for Vladimir Putin? Of course our sins are not like his (we don't have the power that he does, for one thing), but we, like him, are sinners. And every sinner needs praying for. Will it do any good? That is a very complicated question, and even if I were sure of the answer, this is not the time for it. All I know is that Jesus wants us to keep praying - and I can't think that there is anyone he doesn't want us to pray for

Christina Le Moignan

You are you

- whether you like it or not. As a follower of Jesus Christ, there's no getting away from that fact and there's no getting away from yourself. Because God wants, God *calls* you to be *you*. When we start on this journey, when we ask God to make us more fully who we really are, the fear, the sense of inadequacy, the sense of failure falls away. Steadily, we become much happier, more relaxed, more fulfilled. Ultimately, more ourselves. Such is the transformational power of God.

This calling, this purpose of becoming truly who we are, is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian. It is the nub of the Christian journey, of our pilgrimage in this world. Because becoming more truly who we are, is how we begin to reveal in ourselves that image of God woven deep within us. It is how we walk ever more in the Way of Christ who is the truth and the life, how we grow and deepen in Christ-likeness

The Revd Tom Mumford

Diary Dates

3rd Apr Church Meeting

14th Apr 7.00pm Maundy Thursday Communion

15th Apr 2.30pm Good Friday Service

17th Apr 10.30am Easter Sunday Worship

6.30pm at Longburton Easter Songs of Praise

8th May 10.30am Service *including speaker from*

Open Doors about links with persecuted Christians

4th Jun 10.30am Service celebrating the

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

2nd Oct 10.30am Service celebrating 50th

Anniversary of the founding of the URC

Church Secretary

Janet Le Moignan 01 935 389662

I normally write the main points of the last Church Meeting in the Cheapstreeter. I know that George Faris will be writing about financial matters and that Eirwen Cox will do a pastoral report, but it is important to record here that at the start of this meeting we remembered Church members who had died: Phyllis Batchelor on 8th January and Martin Heal on 9th January. We gave thanks for their lives among us, influencing both Church and community for good over many years. We prayed too for all within the Church who had been bereaved

Information from other teams shows that Covid has still been affecting some of our activities, but we are gradually opening up. There are more opportunities to mingle and chat over coffee after services now. Although we have not had Junior Church for a while, Sticky Church is going well with children keen to come. It is hoped to organise the return of Senior Service on a monthly basis soon. There will be special services in Holy Week and for Easter Day we intend to decorate the cross in the garden with spring flowers. The morning service will include the reception of new Church members and Communion and the Music Group will help us to celebrate

Community & Wider World hasn't met recently, owing to Jackie Bullen's health difficulties but she has reported that Acts 435 in Sherborne had now organised the distribution of £2,000 for urgent essential small items for people in need. The Family Team did a fine job in providing refreshments in the Digby Hall after the Thanksgiving Service for Martin, and they are hoping to be organising one or two social events in the near future. In regard to Property, the main gain has been in preparing a key system to shut off parts of the church, so that the worship area could be accessed by people wanting to have a look, or to pray, without having stewards in attendance. The church would be open whenever The Pod was open

The Church Secretary and Treasurer are appointed annually. Janet had said she would stand down at this meeting, having taken over the Secretary's job on a short term basis.

Duncan thanked Janet for all her cover during a difficult time. The Council had met to discuss a successor, but had failed to bring a name to the meeting and thought the post could be split. This was referred back to the Council with the expectation of getting a name/names authorised at a Church Meeting after a Sunday morning service soon. George Faris was unanimously reappointed as Church Treasurer and thanked for his expertise. Christine Rogers was retiring as a Councillor, having been Church Secretary before that, and we were so grateful for all she had done. 3 names were brought forward to serve as new Councillors - Don Farquharson, Rob Hooper and Janet Le Moignan (after finishing as Secretary) and they were all elected unanimously

Lynn Heaton reported on The Pod, which was going well. Volunteer helpers were now coming from other Churches as well as our own. This was a place for giving information, free Christian resources including Bibles and Sticky Church bags - but also for receiving from members of the community: knitted items, jewellery, money and offers of help. The current special collection was for the people of Ukraine. It was hoped to start a new project soon - an Activity Cafe for people to meet others with table games, art/craft, knitting and jigsaws available and hot drinks and cake funded by donations on the door. The meeting were happy to approve this

It was felt it was now time to consider other ways in which the Church could move forward. We wanted as many as possible to be involved, so it was agreed to hold another **Church Meeting on Sunday 3rd April**, after the morning service in the hall for about an hour. Please do think about this beforehand and come. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

Thank you to everyone who has supported me as Secretary, and to all Councillors who will be carrying on, on our behalf
Janet

Father, help us to see the opportunities that lie ahead, and give us your strength to face whatever challenges might come our way. We ask this, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Folk who leave
rich memories**

Taking services at churches around the area I have met some lovely Christian characters just like Charlie Bird at Longburton whose life appeared to be dominated by the Methodist chapel

The chapel in picture postcard Branscombe was the first I visited when we moved to East Devon and that was run by the local blacksmith Harry Lazell whose thatched smithy is something of a tourist attraction today. Cheapstreeters will remember a family service led by the greatly missed John Wesley Green when he used songs from the Cliff College chorus book. I was asked by Harry to use the chorus book before the children left for their classes at Branscombe. I was told, however, he would prefer me not to choose "I am feeding on the Living Bread". Having just arrived in Branscombe, I was puzzled by this request but I soon realised the reason for it. Just up the road was a pub called 'The Fountain Head' and the second line of the chorus is "I am drinking at the Fountain Head", which I was told the children sang with too much gusto and lots of laughter

Another of the devout church secretaries I met several times in Devon was Mr Stamp at Awliscombe Baptist Church which was built at a crossroads in the middle of nowhere and served a widespread farming community. The services were at 6.30pm but they seldom started before seven, Mr Stamp apologising to the preacher and explaining that members of the congregation had to finish the milking before coming to worship. After several such delays, I asked Mr Stamp if they might change the service time so that preachers could eat their tea at leisure. His reply was: "We can't do that. It says 6.30 on the notice board". It was at Awliscombe I enjoyed announcing a four digit hymn number for the first time as they still used the Sankey book. And it was here I asked for the toilet and was handed a jam jar and advised to "chuck it down the stream outside"

Another character I loved was Mrs Partridge at Winsham, near Chard in Somerset. Her job was to greet the preacher and to say a prayer in the

vestry. She might not have been prepared to read a lesson or speak in public but boy could she pray. Never underestimate the effect of vestry prayers on a service - they can and do inspire the speaker. Mrs Partridge said: "We like you coming Mr Heal, we never know what you are going to say next" to which I replied: "That's funny, neither do I". I explained to her that sometimes God gives you a word which you have not planned

On one occasion at Winsham I took the wrong sermon notes and a member of the congregation told me the unplanned sermon I gave was exactly what she needed at a difficult time in her life. It was also at Winsham that a furious lorry driver burst through the doors during my prayers shouting that the cars outside the church were blocking the road. The church secretary took him outside and it happened that the vehicles complained of did not belong to the congregation. We prayed for the embarrassed driver

When we moved to Sherborne one of the loveliest characters I came across was Mr King at Milborne Port URC. He also prayed with preachers before the service and kissed them before they climbed the pulpit steps, regardless of their gender. It seemed strange the first time but it was Mr King's way of showing love and giving encouragement

There have been and still are wonderful fellow Christians here in Cheap Street who have made and are making excellent memories for me. If only I had the time and the space

oOo

Martin himself was one who has made excellent memories for us all. He came to mind recently, when I read this passage from Daniel 12:3:

Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever

But I rather like the version contained in The Message: *Men and women who have lived wisely and well will shine brilliantly, like the cloudless, star-strewn night skies. And those who put others on the right path to life will glow like stars forever*

Raymond

We have enjoyed many of 'Martin's Memories' but, sadly, the above is the last one

My Story



Photo: Tony Cole

Peter Jackson
Organist and Pianist

When I was chatting to Raymond after the Thanksgiving Service for Martin, I happened to say how much I enjoyed reading the little insights into the lives of Cheap Street's members and now, oh dear, here I am! So, as the great Julie Andrews once famously sang: "Let's start at the very beginning"!

I emerged into the daylight in September 1955 at the then Yeatman Maternity Hospital, as did my younger two brothers and two sisters at various times, and we now feel like members of a rather exclusive club as Yeatman babies. Home was back up the road at Milborne Port, where Dad ran his small farm with a herd of Guernsey cows, having decided not to follow in his Dad's footsteps by carrying on the butcher's shop business (which I'm glad to say is still a thriving independent one in Milborne's High Street with Wayne Pullen running things and keeping going the long tradition begun by my Great Grandad and his sons in the early 1900s). Dad had met Mum when delivering on the meat round in the Bishops Caundle area and the farmer's daughter Joan Hannam at Butterwick Farm caught his eye after a few sessions of going rabbiting together, at least that's what he told us!

I did all my early schooling in Milborne at the Primary and the Church Schools (these days

better known as the Clockspire restaurant). My memories of helping Dad on the farm are of helping to collect and clean the eggs from under several hundred hens and steering the Massey-Ferguson tractor while the bigger local lads helped load up the hay bales and quaff the cider (we somehow survived the lack of Health and Safety rules in those days)! Having got the thumbs down at 11-plus time I went on to King Arthurs School at Wincanton then called a Secondary Modern where I spent five happy years until 1971. All this time, I had been having piano lessons in the village under two different teachers and finally got to "do my Grade 8" under the coaching of Margaret Webb whose energetic husband David founded and ran the Dorset Music House at the top end of Cheap Street. Apart from the usual O-level type subjects (English and History being my favourites, I'll gloss over the Maths!) I managed to do a CSE Music having been given permission by the woodwork master to give up that, being famously told by the plain speaking Yorkshire teacher that I had a snowball in Hades chance of passing woodwork anyway (though I thought my wooden egg rack was fairly decent)! The CSE Music was fun as I was in a class of only two with the teacher and it started my love of the music of Ralph Vaughan-Williams and others (though we still played the rock and roll records when Mr Tilley left us to it).

Leaving school I began a working life with one of Yeovil's main employers Westland Helicopters as a commercial trainee spending time in the various departments on clerical tasks, all without a desk computer to be seen. Lunchtimes were usually spent with a walk around the airfield and I was able to see the Lynx prototype helicopter being put through its paces. In 1975 the opportunity to do something with my fairly modest musical talents came along and I joined the staff of Minns Music, a Bournemouth based chain of shops, at their Yeovil branch in what was then a bustling Glovers Walk. I spent the next five years helping to sell everything musical from guitar strings to pianos and the home electronic organs which were popular before they shrunk to the small computerised keyboards they are now.

During that time I was involved in things such as being accompanist for the Templecombe Singers, helping with the St Peter's Pantomime Club in Yeovil and being part of a Concert Party Group organised by Sherborne man and talented singer John Maber. It was through our many evenings entertaining at Harvest Suppers and Care Homes the length and breadth of Dorset that I first got to know Paul Wilkins, as his Dad Ted was the warden at Sherborne's Half Acres. Our biggest gig as a humble Concert Party group was entertaining at a Lord Mayor's Dinner at the Portsmouth Guildhall, how that came about I can't recall but I can recall the nerves! We also had some great evenings working with those other well-known sons of Sherborne, The Yetties. What fun times they were.

When the music retail world changed somewhat and the Yeovil shop closed I returned to a "proper" job by becoming a civil servant and worked as an Admin Officer alongside the Fleet Air Arm at Yeovilton, but still kept my hand in with musical matters by playing for the weekly communion service at the Navy's Church of St Augustine on the air station. It was in May 1989 that I had a memorable group trip to Israel and the Holy Land sites with the Revd Dan Richards, who was then vicar of Ilchester. It was an extraordinary feeling to be standing on various spots where some of the Bibles most famous stories originated, including a trip up to the ancient hilltop fort of Masada and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. My only regret was that I didn't go for a float in the Dead Sea; we just sat on the beach and watched the others, but I did get a boat trip on the Galilean waters, though not before borrowing a pair of long trousers from a friendly Arab boatman, as shorts were not permitted! It was a time when the First Intifada of the Palestinian conflict was taking place and there was an atmosphere of great tension in the city.

I took an early retirement from Yeovilton in 2010 to help look after my elderly Auntie Sadie and Uncle Alan Coney (fondly remembered Sunday School teachers at Milborne and Alan as a popular Local Preacher). Since then I've recently been sharing the caring for my own Mum and Dad together with my siblings. Dad having recently passed away at the grand age of 92 and Mum, also nearly 92, now in the care of

the professionals at Horton Cross Nursing Home. I still have fun doing a bit of model railway work and exploring parts of the old Somerset and Dorset line with my lifelong school friend, Tom, at Wincanton which keeps us out of mischief and in active retirement So that, as they say, is the story so far! Hopefully you'll soon be seeing the back of my head again when I'm perched up on the organ stool or lurking behind that very grand piano downstairs. If you've got this far, *thank you very much* for reading!

What about YOUR Story?

If you have not yet written YOUR Story for The Cheapstreeter and are willing to do so, please get in touch with me

Raymond

He

He is the sunrise of my morning
And the sunlight of my noon,
He is the sunset of my evening
And the silver of the moon

He lights my life through every moment,
Warms my heart through every day.
He calms my brow when I am weary,
Gives me comfort when I pray

He is my guide on every journey,
And my spur in every race.
He'll catch me gently when I'm falling
Lift me upward with his grace

David R. Smith

David was a member of our Church Family. He died on 4th May 2018. His widow, Sylvia, now lives in Berkhamsted, but comes to Sherborne from time to time

Church Treasurer

George Faris 01 935 420258

BALANCING THE BUDGET

I have been in a good many church meetings in my time where the treasurer presented the problem of projected expenditure exceeding expected income. Proposals for solving this problem nearly always seemed to me to concentrate on how we could reduce expenditure. But balance sheets have two sides: what about increasing income? In other words, we could ask people to give more

Of course that has to be carefully done. We do not want to embarrass people who may truly be giving all they can. We do not know what other commitments they have, and what other good causes they are supporting. Nevertheless, I do wonder whether we should not be more up-front about asking people to be sacrificial in their giving. When we dedicate our offering the preacher often refers to what Christ has given for us, and that is surely meant to be the pattern for our own giving

What Christ gave cost more than he wanted to give - but he gave it. Is that saying something to us about our own giving?" *Christina Le Moignan*

Treasurer's report March 2022

I am grateful to Christina for the article *Balancing the Budget*. It was Christina's response to my request for her to expand on what she said at the recent circuit meeting and at an earlier church meeting

I was asked at the recent church meeting about giving to the church and gave a rather vague answer. I have since compared giving - standing orders, envelopes and loose – for the six months prior to the pandemic (September 2019 to February 2020) and the six-month period up to the end of February. The answer is that we are back where we were - £11,100 then, £11,134 now. The standing order total has risen balancing a reduction in envelopes and loose offerings. Our letting income is rising from zero at the height of the lockdown

Gift Aid - if you pay income tax and haven't completed a gift aid form please consider doing so. There are copies in the welcome area There is no need to use the new form if you have previously filled in a form

Standing order form – we have a form available for those who would like to switch to standing order giving. The form is designed for you to fill in and give to your bank but has the details you need if you bank online. The more people we have on standing orders the quicker it is for those who count the offering every Sunday

Offering envelopes – I have some spare 2022 envelopes available for anyone who would like to join the scheme. We could reuse them in 2033

Charitable Appeals - £387 was raised and has been sent to Christian Aid's Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. £400 has been sent to Red Cross for Ukraine as agreed at the church meeting. The money collected for Ukraine will be sent to Christian Aid shortly

George Faris (01935 420258)
gfaris48@gmail.com



POD PROGRESS

There is no report from Lynn for this issue. Sadly, when the magazine was in course of preparation, she was suffering from Covid

Health Hints

Dr Liz Long

Sadly, there's no report from Liz either, as she is under a great deal of pressure at present. Her work is hard and days are long

We are so grateful for all that our GPs, nurses and staff of the Medical Centres have done and, indeed, are still doing for us

The Grove Medical Centre (which I attend) has done magnificent work in carrying out the vaccination programme at Digby Memorial Hall. No one could fail but to be impressed by how extremely well-organised it was



President of Ukraine
Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Volodymyr Zelenskyy was a professional comedian and when the people elected him as President, Ukraine was a laughing-stock! But he has proved to be a wise man, a very brave man and a hero

At his Inauguration, President Zelenskyy said:

"I don't want my pictures in your offices, for the President is not an icon, an idol or a portrait. Hang your kids' photos instead, and look at them each time you are making a decision"

A very brave man, a hero

At least THREE assassination attempts have been made upon the President's life, but he is determined to remain at his post. The former professional comedian has proved to be a courageous leader

He gave a moving speech to a packed UK Parliament by video on 8th March in which there were echoes of Winston Churchill. Here are some short extracts:

Mr Speaker, all the members of Parliament, ladies and gentlemen, I am addressing all the people of the United Kingdom and all the people from the country with a big history. I would like to tell you about the war that we didn't start and we didn't want. We do not want to lose what is ours, our country Ukraine. Just the same way you once didn't want to lose your country when

the Nazis started to fight your country and you had to fight for Britain. We have all been fighting for our country, with our army.....the terror against us took place against children, against cities, and constant shelling has been taking place around the country, including hospitals, schools and even churches are getting destroyed by shelling.....in the city of Mariupol that was attacked by the Russian force they doUkraine have not been looking to become big but they have become big over the days of this war.....And I would like to remind you the words that the United Kingdom have already heard, which are important again. We will not give up and we will not lose. We will fight until the end, at sea, in the air. We will continue fighting for our land, whatever the cost. We will fight in the forests, in the fields, on the shores, in the streets. I'd like to add that we will fight on the banks of different rivers and we're looking for your help, for the help of the civilised countries..... Please make sure you do what needs to be done and what is stipulated by the greatness of your country

Glory to Ukraine and glory to the United Kingdom

Poland has borne the brunt of the problems created by the flight of the Ukrainian refugees, Over 3,500,000 women, children and elderly have crossed over into Poland (and 6,500,000 have been displaced within Ukraine itself). The Polish people, as well as other Europeans, have opened their hearts, their cars and their homes to the refugees and have been generous in their hospitality

Armishaws, the removal firm in Wincanton, are using their vehicles to take donations of goods to a collection point in south west Poland. If necessary, transport will be provided to cover the 90 miles to the Ukraine border. But with so many refugees in Poland already, it may be that the goods will be allocated to them. Two carloads of goods for mothers, children and babies, together with blankets, have gone from The Pod. It is good for us to know we have a direct link to those in need *Shirley and Colleen*

Pastoral Secretary

Eirwen Cox 01 935 815960

Pastoral Report : April 2021 - March 2022

It is good that life is returning to some sort of normality at last although we still have to be careful. We have been able to have pastoral meetings again. Deacon Rebekah Joy chaired our meeting on 28th October, 2021, as our minister Duncan was still off sick. It was the first meeting we'd held since January 2020. We met again 3rd February this year and it was good to welcome Duncan back following his illness

Thanks were expressed to Deacon Rebekah Joy for the Pastoral work she carried out in Sherborne during Duncan's illness. A letter to that effect has been sent to Rebekah

Unfortunately, at the end of last year Barbara Porter and Bryan McCleery, two of our pastoral visitors, resigned after many years of dedicated work as part of our Pastoral Team. We shall miss them both very much

Elaine Edmonds came forward when she heard we needed more pastoral visitors. She is now one of the pastoral team. Pat Heal has also joined the team and is looking after the members who were on Martin's list. We are so grateful to them both for offering their help so readily

In the afternoon of Saturday, 17th July, 2021, the family of the late Charles Pennington gathered in the church garden with our minister Duncan, who officiated at the interment of Charles's ashes, where he was laid to rest with his beloved Liz

Sadly deaths which occurred during the year are as follows

2021

1st October Charlie Clarke (Glanvilles Wootton)

19th November Timothy (Angela Langrick's son)

2022

6th January Mike Poushchine

8th January Phyllis Batchelor

9th January Martin Heal

We send love and prayers from our church family to all who are mourning the loss of a loved one and ask God's Blessing on them and their families

Quite a number of our Church Family have experienced health problems during the last twelve months. They have been remembered

every week in our Newsletter, on our weekly Prayer List and also in The Cheapstreeter

There are a few of our members who, despite their health problems, wish to remain anonymous

We remember also members of our Church Family who are no longer able to live independently and now live in a Care Home

We send each one of them our love and prayers from everyone in Cheap Street Church. As we look forward to Easter, our minister Duncan is hoping to welcome a number of new members into church membership

We ask God's Blessing on our Church Family and on our Pastoral Visitors who have carried out their duties, with love and care, despite the restrictions imposed on us all during the last two years

With love and prayers to you all

Eirwen

Leaving our mark

In one of his meditations, Eddie Askew recalled a visit to an old church, where he noticed a mark on the wall. It was the outline of a cross. The cross must have hung there for years and, when it was taken down, it left a mark on the wall. Eddie went on to say that as individual Christians, we leave a mark. Most of us may think we lead unremarkable lives – but in reality each of us has something of value to give. Our presence in the world, with our faithful performance of little acts of daily living, makes its mark

(George Eliot, in her novel, 'Middlemarch' expressed this beautifully at the end of the final chapter, a lovely, valedictory celebration of Dorothea's quiet life:

"..... but the effect of her being on those around her was incalculably diffusive: for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me, as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs")

The size of the mark is unimportant; all that matters is that the mark we leave is the mark of love, shaped like a cross



Thomas Stearns Eliot

was born in St. Louis to a family descended from New England stock. There was no smoking or drinking in the Eliot household, and the family - Tom, his brother, five sisters and

and mother - would gather around their father, a wholesale grocer, as he read Dickens aloud. In fact, frail Tom spent much of his childhood curled up in a big leather armchair reading. He was sent to New England to private schools and was accepted at Harvard University, where he completed his degree in three years

Eliot won a travelling fellowship to Germany in 1914; he barely escaped getting caught by the war and made his way to Britain. It turned out to be a long stay. He never returned to take his oral examination, which was all that stood between him and a Harvard Ph.D. After a year at Oxford University, then a stint at teaching history, Latin, French, German, arithmetic, drawing, and swimming in English schools, he became a banker with Lloyds of London. Later he became an editor with Faber and Faber

His first masterpiece, the first "modernist" poem in English, was *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*, a portrait of an aging man reviewing a life frittered away between timid hopes and lost opportunities. With the publication of "The Waste Land" in 1922, he came to international attention. The poem begins:

*April is the cruelest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.*

It expresses the disillusionment and disgust after World War I, portraying a fearful world pursuing barren lusts, yearning desperately for any sign of redemption. It is considered by many to be the most influential poem of the twentieth century

Eliot's despair, however, was short-lived. After reading agnostic Bertrand Russell's essay *A Free Man's Worship*" essentially an argument that man must worship man, Eliot decided its reasoning was shallow. He moved in the opposite direction and in 1927 was confirmed in the Church of England. The same year, he also gave up his American citizenship and became a British subject. His faith became more widely known with the publication of *Ash Wednesday* in 1930, a poem showing the difficult

search for truth ("*Where shall the word be found, where will the word/Resound? Not here, there is not enough silence*"). Though criticized sharply by the literati for his turn to Christianity, he continued to express his faith in his poetry

Eliot believed his finest achievement was writing the broadly religious poem *Four Quartets* (1943). It deals with the themes of incarnation, time and eternity, spiritual insight and revelation, culminating in an allusion to Pentecost

In *The Idea of a Christian Society* (1939), as well as other works, Eliot argued that the humanist attempt to form a non-Christian, "rational" civilization was doomed. "The experiment will fail," he wrote, "but we must be very patient in awaiting its collapse; meanwhile redeeming the time: so that the Faith may be preserved alive through the dark ages before us; to renew and rebuild civilization, and save the world from suicide." He didn't believe society should be ruled by the church, only by Christian principles, with Christians being "the conscious mind and the conscience of the nation."

Eliot turned to writing plays in the 1930s and 1940s because he believed drama attracts people who unconsciously seek a religion. The year 1935 saw the premiere of *Murder in the Cathedral*, a play based on the martyrdom of Thomas Becket, in which Eliot reiterates that faith can live only if the faithful are ready to die for it. It was followed by *The Family Reunion* (1939) and *The Cocktail Party* (1949), his greatest theatrical success. In his plays, he managed to handle complex moral and religious themes while entertaining audiences with farcical plots and keen social satire

Eliot enjoyed children, was a fan of Sherlock Holmes detective stories, addressed letters in verse and made up rhymes about cats, which turned into his *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* (1939). He was an Anglican of Anglo-Catholic persuasion and served for a time as church warden at his local parish

Eliot died at his home in Kensington in London on 4th January 1965. He was cremated at Golders Green Crematorium and, in accordance with his wishes, his ashes were taken to St Michael and All Angels' Church, East Coker, the village in Somerset from which his ancestors had emigrated to America. A wall plaque in the church commemorates him with a quotation from his poem *East Coker*: "*In my beginning is my end. In my end is my beginning*"

Eliot is commemorated by a large stone in the floor of Poets' Corner in London's Westminster Abbey

therendezvous

Helen Da Silva Wood has not submitted anything for publication in this issue

Jazz at Cheap Street

Friday, 8th April 7.30pm

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Mike Denham and Julian Phillips

::

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SUNSET CAFÉ STOMPERS

with **JULIA TITUS**

Blues and Gospel singer

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A Prayer for Ukraine

My was heart was already aching for the people of Ukraine, but then I found myself weeping, while listening to the Sunday Service “A Prayer for Ukraine” from St Martin-in-the-Fields on 28th February

The vicar, the Revd Dr Sam Wells, said:

No one is an island: everyone is a part of the whole. The war in Europe has struck fear and dismay into so many hearts. We are an interconnected people. My own grandparents were born and raised in Kiev. We search for appropriate ways to respond as we place our destiny in God’s hands

Also taking part in the service was Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, representing the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family here in London and the Ukrainian Orthodox community. Andriy Marchenko from Embassy of Ukraine was also present and gave his thoughts on the tragic situation now engulfing his country:

Dear Friends of Ukraine, I am blessed to be among so many people of faith, for faith is what brings me here to you today, faith in a God who loves the land and people of Ukraine; and my faith in a strong, determined, resilient, freedom-loving people. I wish that we could gather in different circumstances. Unfortunately, what brings us together is the shock and outrage we all are experiencing, as we see a war of aggression and occupation unfold in the heart of Europe. I appeal to you, please "Stand with Ukraine!" Give it all the support you can, for the battle is a battle of right versus might, of good versus evil. I thank you for your prayers, for your support, for your friendship. God bless all of you. God bless the land and people of Ukraine and the United Kingdom

Myroslava Matwijiwskij (Matviuski), of the Ukrainian Information Service, shared her thoughts: *Russia’s invasion is something I prayed would be avoided. Even as forces encircled Ukraine, I hoped against hope a resolution would be reached. Instead, peace has been shattered and untold pain has been unleashed. Ukraine is under attack and my heart aches with sorrow for my ancestral homeland. Especially for the millions of innocent men, women and children caught in the middle of this war, traumatised and living in fear. This unprovoked aggression is causing a catastrophic humanitarian crisis. Civilians are sheltering underground. Families have been torn apart. Children uprooted. People fleeing seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. Many brave young men and women have given their lives for freedom and for God-given dignity. All of this is overwhelming to process. We are filled with despair. But when I pause to reflect, I realise that even thousands of miles away, we can find ways to help and that there is hope. We can support those suffering. We can also pray for Ukraine and for her strength to resist this unprovoked aggression*

We continue to pray for peace, but we must also pray for victory – not only a military victory, but especially a spiritual victory. Ironically, Russia will only be saved if President Putin is defeated

We pray for our enemies, that they be enlightened by the truth of the Gospel, that their eyes are opened to the horror they are inflicting

Editor: Raymond Wood

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