



February | March 2020 Issue No. 53

The Cheapstreeter

CHEAP STREET CHURCH, SHERBORNE, DORSET

A Church at the heart of the Community with the Community at heart



Eric Gill (1882-1940)

The Annunciation, the event recorded in the first chapter of Luke's gospel, when an angel appeared to Mary and told her that she was to give birth to a son and that she was to call him Jesus, is celebrated by many Christians on 25th March, nine months before Christmas day. It is a frequent occurrence in mediaeval and renaissance Christian art and features in the work of artists such as Botticelli, da Vinci and Caravaggio, as well as in the décor of churches. But it was also depicted in a modern style in 1912 by Eric Gill (*above*). This picture is in the Methodist Modern Art Collection. It is often said that Methodism was squeamish when it came to discussing the role of Mary, perhaps because it was thought a little too high church for some tastes! But we have a lot to learn from Mary, especially as we look to the Annunciation, in terms of discipleship and following Christ. We learn from Luke that Mary responds to the angel by saying 'Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word'. John Wesley notes that Mary's humble faith, consent and expectation might well have been the time of her conceiving. This same challenge is made to us in those unique moments in life when we are conscious of being invited to say 'yes' to God's will in something important. As the Methodist Covenant prayer puts it, we say 'I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will... I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours.'

A challenge to us all indeed - to say 'yes', as Mary did, to God's calling

Adapted from a piece by Matthew Barnard



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From your Minister

Look Forward to Lent?

We might well look forward to start of Lent and the cooking and eating of pancakes, and perhaps the odd party. Mardi Gras is, I believe, French for Fat Tuesday [Shrove Tuesday], when food especially rich food that would go off before the end of the fast of Lent, that leads up to Easter and the celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection, is over. But Lent itself and fasting is not something that we tend to look forward, even though there are health and spiritual benefits to be had. Some times we talk about 'less being more,' and it can be good to take everything back to the bare essentials, to gain a true perspective on what is most important.

When Jesus spent his forty days in the wilderness fasting and praying, it was a time when everything was taken back to the bare essentials. Without all the normal distractions, Jesus could reflect on what it was his heavenly Father wanted him to do and how is He wanted him to do it. It was a time that Jesus explored all the options available to him and, in what we call the temptations, his rejection of the ones that were not the way of his heavenly Father who had sent him to our world. Jesus' time of being tempted did not end when he left the wilderness; they came back frequently throughout his active ministry, which is in part why Jesus would regularly take time out to pray alone, without all the clamour that was normally going on around him.

Lent should be time when we take time to reflect on our lives and our walk with God. And whether do it as individuals or as a part of Lent group, it is good, following Jesus' example in the wilderness, to work out which of all the competing claims on us is the most important.

Duncan

Lives Remembered

They are not dead who live in hearts they leave behind

Mollie Clark	24 February 2015
Sheila Davies	17 February 2017
Ken Smith	3 March 2006
Revd Ken Southern	4 March 2007
David Gibson	19 March 2009
Beryl Bonney	21 March 2012
Peter Hattersley	24 March 2017



John Hicks

3rd May 1941 – 22nd December 2019

On 28th January, Duncan conducted a very moving Service of Thanksgiving for John's life. And we were especially touched, when his fellow-firemen stood up to recite the 'Fireman's Poem' and John's daughter read 'Goodbye Dad'. The large attendance at the service was a measure of how much John was loved and respected. John wrote a piece for this magazine about four years ago of which this is an extract:

I joined the Church with the help of Eileen Higgins and now I feel privileged to think that I know all of you as friends. I have been in Sherborne all my life and think all the people are kind and generous and I have no desire to leave the town which I love, except in a wooden box when it's time to go. God bless you all and thank you for letting me be a member of this Church

oOo

Margaret Bacon

I spoke to Margaret, only briefly, on her 102nd Birthday. She'd had a lovely celebration with her family. She sounded wonderful, but frail, and was feeling well which, she said, must be due to the sea air! She asked me to give her love to all who know her at Cheap Street *Raymond*

*As God adds years to your life,
let him add life to your years*

I don't normally do New Year's Resolutions, and there's evidence that some might not be good for our mental health. Make your resolution a goal too hard to achieve or something that's neigh on impossible to give up, and you're setting yourself up for failure which brings negative emotions to what should surely be a positive activity. But there's so much talk about Dry January, Veganuary, and many more that it's easy to get sucked into the trend. But unless you have serious problems in your relationship to alcohol or liver disease, there is no definitive benefit in completely giving up alcohol; better to keep your intake to 3-6 units/week. Whilst there are definitely ecological benefits to making your diet more vegetable based, there's currently more evidence for better overall health for those having small amounts of low fat dairy products on a daily basis, compared to those having no dairy.

So all this brings me back to all things in moderation, and thinking about making positive changes but remaining flexible in your approach. Try to eat less meat, and perhaps less of the high fat dairy (hard cheese, cream), eat more vegetables, try making them take up 50% of your plate for your main meal (we're talking colourful veg here, not potatoes), and try to keep your drinking to a couple of days a week of 2 units of alcohol (e.g. 1 pint beer, large glass wine). Add to this doing more exercise than you did in the latter part of last year and that's all positive, and achievable steps to a healthier and hopefully happier you in 2020



Reading about the theft of an 18-carat gold lavatory from Blenheim Palace a short while ago reminded me of this men's toilet at the hotel we stayed in, when we went to Oberammergau in 2000. It had to be seen to be believed! As you entered, music by Mozart started to play!



Birchfield Primary School in Yeovil is part of a Erasmus project called 'No problems, only solutions' alongside a school in Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and France. Before Christmas all of Year 5 were asked to apply for a trip to Italy as part of this project.

Ada decided to apply and had to put together a presentation to her Headteacher, explaining why she should be considered for the trip to Italy, why she would make a good ambassador for the school and suggest her ideas for communication projects between the schools and the students

Last week Ada gave a powerpoint presentation to the Headteacher, a governor and several ex-students - and she was selected as one of six students to represent her school in Italy. The trip leaves on 2nd March for a week and includes a visit to the Italian host school, Naples, and Pompeii. Ada is really pleased and excited to be selected and is looking forward to flying to Italy in a few weeks

Sharon Hooper

Congratulations, Ada! We look forward to hearing all about it, when you get back. And, perhaps, you could write something to go into *The Cheapstreeter*

2020 will be a year of change and transition for our nation. Our leaders are calling us to be one nation and to put behind us the divisions which may have separated us in the past. The Christian faith requires nothing less. But we must remember that for us Christians, one nation also means one world and one humanity. The decisions we make here in this country touch and shape the lives of people in other countries. We cannot properly look after ourselves unless we are also taking account the needs of others. And this must be true in every aspect of our lives, in our nation, but also in our families and our communities. The Christian faith is always universal and always particular and local

Bishop Stephen Cottrell (the next Archbishop of York)

The first report of 2020 begins with the very sad news that John Hicks died in Yeovil Hospital on 22nd December. A Memorial Service will take place in Cheap Street Church on 28th January at 2.00pm, followed by a short Family service and cremation at Yeovil Crematorium

On 16th of January, we received the sad news that Derek, the husband of Judith Hayward had died in Yeovil Hospital. Derek's funeral will take place on 4th February at Yeovil Crematorium at 2.00pm We send our love and prayers to Eileen and to John's family and also to Judith and her family

Last October, Ron Dolling fell while out in the garden and suffered a very nasty injury, which resulted in surgery and a lengthy stay in hospital. I am pleased to say Ron is now making steady progress at home. Janet and Ron are both very grateful for the love and support they have received

In early December, Anne Dearle developed a serious eye problem. I am pleased to say that she is now well on the road to recovery and is able to drive again

This week John Green told us that he will not be preaching for the next few months, as he will be receiving further treatment for a health problem. We send him and Sheila our love and prayers with best wishes for a quick recovery

Last year, Penny Gardner led a very interesting discussion entitled 'Listening and Healing' with the Pastoral Team. It was so successful that another date has been booked for Monday, 24th February in the Church Hall. The title this time is 'More Listening'. We will start with Coffee at 9.45am. This is also open to anyone who would like to join us, when we can exchange experiences and ideas. At the end of the session a soup lunch will be available for whoever would like to stay and share

We ask God's blessing on our Church Family and on our Pastoral Visitors, who carry out their duties with loving care and devotion Eirwen

+

During the coming weeks, please remember in your prayers:

Pastoral Visitor Penny Gardner and those in her care: Renee Bennett, Alison Berry, Phil & Lyn Crocker and Joseph and David, Kevin & Kate Fisher, Eileen Higgins, Sharon Hooper and Jan Wallace



WANTED!

- **AT LEAST 3 COUNCILLORS**
- **CHURCH SECRETARY**
- **WELCOMERS**
- **FLOWER ARRANGERS**
- **SOUND OPERATORS**
- **COLLECTION COUNTERS**
- **REFRESHMENT PROVIDERS**
- **OPEN DOORS VOLUNTEERS**
- **SENIOR CHURCH HELPERS**
- **STICKY CHURCH HELPERS**

A special plea for Open Doors Volunteers....

We are having great difficulty in finding enough people willing to help keep the church open in the mornings, and are seeking your help. We would love to be able to have two people present from 10.30 - 12.00 on every occasion, so that you would have company and also for safety reasons. So we are earnestly asking you to consider whether this is something you might be willing to undertake, so that we can continue with this important outreach of keeping the church open in order to welcome visitors and to collect donations for refugees. Do please contact Jackie Bullen or one of the Councillors if you would like to help

Thank

you

A prayer:

Father help me to respond to your call - in ways big and small to help accomplish Your will here on earth. Help me respond without hesitation, whenever I perceive Your voice calling me into action Amen

Finding time and space

When I hear discussions about the huge implications developments in Artificial Intelligence are already having on employment patterns, my mind goes back over thirty years to a meeting I attended. It was entitled The Problem of Leisure; one of the participants was heard to mutter he'd never really seen leisure as a problem. Behind it was the notion that with the coming of new technologies, we would find ourselves with a vast amount of time on our hands - and so we would need outlets for our energy in new activities like gardening or playing the recorder. Well, it didn't quite turn out like that for everyone, although I fancy many who are without a job, would happily trade their free time for work and the growth of artificial intelligence will place an increasing number in that position. Yet the problem for others isn't filling time but *finding* it. They never have enough time to do what they're supposed to be doing. Mobile phones and emails mean that they're on call every hour of every day. The potential problem of leisure seems to have been replaced by the very real problem of stress as people buckle under the strain. Finding space to rest is difficult. And yet, never-ending activity isn't good for us. I suspect that most would agree that we do need to rest - to step back from constant activity - the problem is that we never seem able to find space. Or is that just an excuse we make? In St Mark's Gospel there's a description of how the apostles told Jesus all about what they'd been doing. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' Come away and rest. *Lord, help us to find space to rest, be still and know that you are God. Amen.*

The Revd Bert Tosh

'Man Born to be King'

I have been persuaded to arrange readings of 'Man Born to be King' again this year. However, this will be a shortened version, probably over four weeks and on Sunday afternoons at 4 o'clock. Dates have yet to be fixed - so, watch this space... or, more likely, the Pewsheet

Margaret Field

material from time to time but, for now, here is a poem that caught my eye

AGE RAGE

(The joy and the wisdom of getting older!)

'Grow old gracefully' they say
Who are they?
How dare others lay down rules
I must obey - they're fools.
If I want to tint my hair,
Wear a bikini or swim all bare
Why should I listen to some arbitrary quorum
That say I ought to act with more decorum?
If I want to dance or ski or skate
What right have THEY to tell me it's too late?
They say 'Grow old with dignity'
I say 'Not me'.
When young my life was tough - I just got by,
Now I want some fun before I die.
Despite my age of threescore years and ten
I'll not be told what to do and when.
My body may be old, but I am alive
And deep inside my mind I'm twenty-five.
So young at heart and passing time I'll rage
And NEVER will you see me act my age!

A Peep into the Past

An extract from *Cheap Street News* our previous excellent church magazine edited by Janet Le Moignan (February 2007)

On 11th January, the Councillors, along with The Revd Nigel Coke-Woods (Superintendent) and Christina were visited by The Revd Sooncheol Choi and his wife Sarah, who had travelled down from Skelmersdale, where Choi is minister. We had the opportunity to get acquainted with them and find out more about their background and family. We can only be delighted that our ministerial vacancy has been filled and we look forward to an exciting and challenging five years, as we continue to grow and develop our calling to be a 'Servant Church' in Sherborne. *Brian Walker (Church Secretary)*

Muriel Martin has given me enough material, in the form of poems and stories, to fill endless issues of The Cheapstreeter! I shall dip into this

Ron & Janet Dolling



Ron

My parents were Methodist Missionaries in West Africa. When my mother was found to be pregnant she was sent home as hospital facilities were not suitable in Africa. She went to live with her parents in Inverness, so I was born in Scotland. My

father returned soon after and took up circuit work in the Methodist Church. At the age of 4 I went to live with my paternal grandparents in Wolverton for a short while as my mother was expecting her fifth baby

At the beginning of World War II, my father, a member of the TA, was called up and the family had to leave the Manse. My mother and the five children went to Inverness and lived with my Mother's parents until the end of the War. When I was 10, I went to Kingswood, a boarding school founded by John Wesley for the sons of Methodist Ministers. When I was 18 my headmaster considered me not academic enough to benefit from university and suggested an apprenticeship which resulted in me spending 4 years with GEC in Birmingham, then I was posted to London to join the team of engineers installing and commissioning large electrical machines in a variety of locations. The biggest job was at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough. After a couple of years I was encouraged to join the staff of RAE and spent the remainder of my working life there. In 1956 my father died and my mother, sister, Roberta, and I combined to purchase a house in Coulsdon, Surrey. I became involved with the involved with the nearest Methodist Church and became Youth Club leader. Roberta soon persuaded me to take her to Coulsdon Wesleyan Tennis Club and there I met Janet



Janet

I was born on 29th February 1940, shortly after the outbreak of WWII and spent my first five years living within range of Liverpool and other German targets and also became "big sister" to Judith who was born 3 years after me. I saw

very little of my father during the war because he was at work during the day and out on ARP duties at night. My main memory of the War is wearing red, white and blue hair ribbons to celebrate VE

Day. After the War my father was promoted to a demanding post in London and the family moved to Coulsdon, from where I travelled daily by train to school in Caterham. After A Level, I enjoyed a secretarial course and then was appointed to a secretarial post at the BBC and stayed there for 3 years. During this time I attended Coulsdon Methodist Church and ultimately was received into Church Membership. My attendance at the 18-25 Seniors Club led to my introduction to the Coulsdon Wesleyan Tennis Club – and there I met Ron

Our Story

We were married in March 1962 at Coulsdon Methodist Church, and were happy to welcome a former colleague of Ron's father as one of the officiating ministers. We lived in the Fleet/Farnborough area where our three children were born – Alan now living in California with wife and three children, David now School site manager in Wincanton, with one daughter, and and Heather married to another David, living in Barmouth and running a holiday accommodation business. Friends introduced us to North Camp Methodist Garrison Church where each of our children was baptized. Ron's brother, John, a Methodist Minister, had been unable to attend our wedding because he was a missionary in West Africa, but we were delighted when he accepted our invitation to conduct Alan's baptism service on his first furlough

As the children grew older we were able to travel more freely and have visited various European countries and further afield to America, Australia and New Zealand where Robert now lives. Our next move, in 1969, was back to the Fleet area. At the time there were two Methodist Churches in Fleet. The proceeds from the sale of the Church in the town centre went towards financing the building of a new, modern church a short distance away where we soon became involved in Church life and our children joined the Sunday School. We are still in touch with friends from those days and have been pleased to welcome occasional visitors to Somerset. Ron retired in 1991 and we found a pleasant house in West Camel. We quickly became involved with village activities but failing eyesight and only 2 buses a week to Yeovil involved a move to a more central site. One day, a spontaneous visit to Cheap Street Church prompted us to come again the following Sunday, where we were made most welcome – and we are still here!

For your diary

Monday, 3 February 10 am

CWW Team meets at Jackie's house

Tuesday, 4 February 2.00 pm

Funeral of Derek Hayward at Yeovil Crematorium

Wednesday, 5 February 3 pm

Property & Finance meets in Vestry

Thursday, 6 February 11 am

Family Team meets in Prayer Corner

Friday, 7 February 11.30 am

Snowdrop Memorial Service

Sunday, 9 February 12.30 pm

Café-style worship in the Hall

Wednesday, 19 February 7 pm

Church Council meets in Vestry

Monday, 24 February 10 am

Pastoral Training in Hall

Thursday, 12 March 7 pm

Church Meeting in the Hall

Monday, 30th March CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Thursday, 9 April 7 pm

Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion

Friday, 10 April 2.30 pm

Good Friday Service

Easter Sunday 12 April 10.30 am

Service with Holy

Communion

Saturday, 15 May 12 noon

Christian Aid Service in the Hall

***jazz* at Cheap Street**

Friday, 3rd April

EMMA FISK a stunning jazz violinist
with **Mike Denham, piano**

Friday, 22nd May

JULIA TITUS

Empress of the Blues and Gospel Songs
with **The Sunset Café Stompers**

Concerts start at 7.30pm

Tickets £15.00 (incl light refreshments)

In aid of The Rendezvous

Tickets will be available one month before each concert, but reservations may be made in advance

- by email only, please Raymond

therendezvous

For most, Christmas is now gone and forgotten but the Rendezvous team remains grateful to all those who helped give so much pleasure to some of the most vulnerable young people in the Sherborne area at what can be a very bleak time of year. As a result of the understanding and generosity of local people we were able to provide gift parcels for young parents, toys for their children and food parcels for those suffering food poverty. Whilst we are fortunate to live and work in such a beautiful town, there is a layer of poverty that often goes unseen and people new to the area are often surprised to find out about the level of deprivation that exists. Sherborne East for example now ranks in the lowest 30% nationally for deprivation (four years ago it was in the lowest 40%)

Often less visible than inner city deprivation, rural poverty is slowly beginning to be talked about. Poor transport, few employment opportunities, lack of affordable housing and limited access to services all play their part whilst at the same time, others (often older) who are asset rich and cash poor are having to choose whether to 'eat or heat'. Sherborne has a number of organisations and individuals supporting those who need help across the age groups and we continue to be amazed by and grateful to our supporters and our amazing band of volunteers. However, times are tough for the voluntary sector and as multi-year grants come to an end with no chance of being renewed, the Rendezvous is facing a drop in regular income of c£50k in the coming year alone. Low interest rates mean that larger funders have seen their funding pots decrease in value and are increasingly placing focus on supporting single issues – e.g. domestic violence. Whilst every year we support young people facing a range of significant problems small charities like us simply can't guarantee that there will be enough people at any one point to run single issue programmes. We are therefore ineligible to apply and having to find alternative funding is a constant battle. Later in the year we will be supporting Dorset Community Action run an event in Sherborne to explore local rural deprivation and build a more in-depth picture of the needs. We believe that it is only by increasing the awareness and understanding of the problems that exist in our area we will be able to persuade funders (both statutory and charitable trusts and foundations) to invest in supporting small towns and rural areas. It's going to be tough but we remain optimistic. Happy New Year!

Helen da Silva Wood

Internment on the Isle of Man



*Christine
in 1944, aged 3+*

Christine Rogers gave a talk to the Macular Society about her family and Internment during World War II. This is the final instalment

Coming back to Yorkshire

Gradually, the British Government began to release the internees, no doubt realising that they were not spies nor enemy agents but ordinary people who just happened to have been living in the country when war broke out. I remember leaving the Isle of Man with my father in December 1944 as clearly as if it was yesterday, although I was only just four. My mother stayed behind because she was expecting my sister, who was almost due. We left on a ferry that was packed full, mainly with men and soldiers and we landed in Liverpool. My father must have been given some sort of voucher in order to buy our train ticket to Rotherham and he went off telling me to “guard” our pile of luggage in the chaos of that busy, smoky station. I took my job very seriously and when he finally returned I told him

that I had not let anybody touch it. I was always a “goody-good” little girl. My sister was the rebel of the family. My father had no job and no money when he left the Isle of Man, so he brought me back to my grandparents’ house to start our new life in England. Again, I can clearly remember arriving, feeling very shy and finding everything so different from my previous life. All the aunts and uncles and great-aunts had assembled to greet us and I took fright and said to my father: “Daddy, can we go to our room?” I think that I always felt shy as a child and became quite secretive because I felt different from other people. On the Isle of Man I had been the only English girl playing with German children and back in England at first I felt again that I was a foreigner, the only part German pupil at an English school!

Well, children are very adaptable and I soon got used to living with my grandparents and Uncle Alf. I loved living in my grandparents’ house, which had the mysterious name “Endymion”. I discovered later that my mother had named it after a poem by the romantic poet, John Keats. There was a lovely rockery at the front and apple trees in the back garden. I used to go walking with my grandpa in the woods and he always brought back a sack of loam (a rich soil made from rotting leaves) for his garden. My father found a job teaching Latin in Bradford, where he could live with one of the great-aunts, my mother came back from the Isle of Man with my little sister. Since we were living “in crowded circumstances”, I was sent to the local primary school although I was a year younger than the other children. I could already read quite difficult books because my mother had taught me, so the teacher thought that she had a real little prodigy on her hands and I had to stand on a chair and read to the class, which made me feel even more shy and different

It is interesting to look back and think about how children are affected by war and changing circumstances, although on the Isle of Man we were far removed from bombs and destruction. On the whole, I did not know a lot about the conflict which was going on, but in some ways I was very puzzled. I remember one day at school when we had the story of Hansel and Gretel, which I knew from German kindergarten, I began to tell it in German, to the horror of my teacher and the laughter of the other children. I never spoke a word of German at school after that and did not want anyone to know that I was part German. Similarly I soon learnt not to put up my hand and say “Heil Hitler” at home, copying my German playmates on the Isle of Man. I realised that this was not acceptable. I remember being put under the very solid kitchen table when we heard planes fly overhead and I remember being frightened on finding sinister looking gas-masks in the wardrobe, although I don’t think I ever had to wear one. I knew that there were bad things going on and because I was “both”, half German and half English, I somehow secretly believed that I ought to be able to make everything better, if only I could find a way of doing so. I don’t remember ever experiencing any discrimination because of being half German and I don’t think that my father ever experienced anything but kindness from his colleagues at work. In spite of retaining a bit of a German accent all his life, he ended up as Headmaster of a comprehensive school in Hull and lived until he was three months short of his hundredth birthday

As we go to press, we learn that **The Revd Canon Eric Woods** is retiring at Easter, after serving at the Abbey for 27 years. Throughout his time here, Cheap Street Church has had a good and fruitful relationship with the Abbey for which we are very grateful. We send our warmest good wishes to Eric & Sandra and may God bless them in their retirement in Sturminster Newton

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**Please send items for next issue by
Tuesday 24th March 2020**
Distribution date: Sunday 29th March

