



CHEAP STREET CHURCH

To know the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit and with Jesus as our teacher to show and share our faith.

Minister:

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NEWSLETTER

31st March 2021

Cheap Street Zoom Coffee Morning

The joining instructions for our Coffee Morning on Thursday, 1st April at 10.30am are in this week's email.

From the Church Secretary

Next Sunday we shall be celebrating Easter Sunday, and for a number of us that will mean coming back to church to worship God together. Coming back to church is something to celebrate in itself, but Easter makes it much more special, as we remember Jesus rising from death. His followers, who had been so shattered, found he was alive and still with them – they had hope and new life.

And Easter offers us hope and new life too, but we cannot really celebrate Easter Sunday unless we remember Good Friday and the days that led up to the death of Jesus. He died for people of all times and places, including us and our world today. I was reminded last week, as I read Muriel Martin's revealing poem on the thoughts of Pontius Pilate, that our thoughts can sometimes be not so different from the thoughts that brought Jesus to the cross. Thank you, Muriel, it will stay with me.

You will also find thoughts for Good Friday and Easter Day in our new Cheapstreeter, at the beginning and the end of the magazine, with lots more articles in between. We are so grateful to Raymond for his regular production full of good things. Thank you, Raymond.

The church will be open on Good Friday from 10.30am to 12.00noon for anyone who would like to come for a quiet time of prayer. And, when Easter Sunday comes, may we celebrate with joy the gift of life we have through Jesus Christ, whether we are in church, at home, or elsewhere.

Happy Easter everyone.

Janet Le Moignan

Thought for the Day

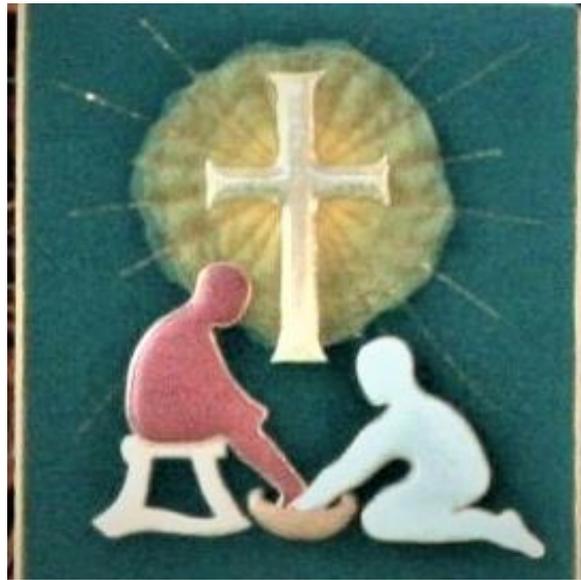
Today is April Fools day. It is also Maunday Thursday.

Have you laughed today at an April Fool joke? I heard that this year's joke will be the change of name for Volkswagen to Volts wagon. (Electric cars?)

For Christians this week – Holy week – is a time for contemplation on Jesus and his road to the cross. When I first became a Christian it surprised me that many people stopped all worldly activities this week to meditate on Jesus' death. No socializing. No going to see films and hear music. In general it was a sombre time. That does not seem to happen so much these days.

Because of Lockdown I have found it much easier to spend time meditating on the Passion narrative in Mark 14, without distraction. It is not an easy thing to do. On Sunday we read Mark's complete account of the last days of Jesus' life on Earth. Read slowly and in one sitting you can feel the passion of the betrayal, the jealousy, the regret, the physical pain and the love.

What Mark does not mention in his account is that on His last night at the Passover supper Jesus washed His disciples' feet. This is often practised on Maunday Thursday. Often times it is the minister who washes feet, though many churches have the congregation washing each other's feet. Whoever's feet is washed often finds it more difficult than the one doing the washing. How can you allow someone you love and respect to wash your feet?! Like Peter who initially refused to let Jesus wash his.



I remember hearing of a woman in Southampton who regularly washes the feet of homeless people. She has nothing else to offer them but the temporary relief and acknowledgement of their suffering. I was aghast at the idea. And full of admiration. Can you imagine the filthy feet of someone who has been tramping around without a bath?!

I clearly remember that when I found my brother living on the streets he was filthy and his shoes were full of holes. He was delighted at the suggestion that I buy him some new trainers and socks. And it did make quite a difference to his comfort. But it never occurred to me to wash his feet. And he was my own brother. What I would give to be able to wash his dirty feet now.

John 13: 12-14

*“Do you understand” He said “what I have done to you?”
And He went on to say “If I, then, the Lord and Master have washed your feet, you should wash each other’s feet.”*

This is our Lord. He loves us so much that he not only washed his disciples' feet but he gave up his life for us. That is a lot to contemplate.

Let's also remember that Jesus was human. Like us. He enjoyed the company of others and the night of his last supper I would like to think he enjoyed being with his friends and that there was shared laughter.

So I would say do take time to meditate on the Passion story. But also take time to laugh and joke and care for those we love.

[Oh Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go](#)

Penny Gardner

Cheap Street Worship

Easter Sunday there will be a service at Cheap Street at 10:30 am, all the social distancing requirements from before apply including not stopping to talk to people inside of the building and moving quickly through narrow areas and doorways. There will be no Zoom service on Easter Sunday, but there will be one the following week when there is not a service in the church building. *Duncan*

Order of Service for Easter Sunday:

WELCOME & SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP Revelation 1:18.

PRAYER & LORDS PRAYER

READING Psalm 118:1-4 & 14-24.

MUSIC/HYMN: STF 298. Christ the Lord is risen today,

OFFERTORY BLESSING

READINGS: Mark 16:1-8. & John 20:11-18.

SERMON

MUSIC/HYMN: STF.295. Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks for the risen Lord,

PRAYER Intercessions

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER

THE NARRATIVE & COMMUNION

PRAYER

MUSIC/HYMN STF.313. Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son

BENEDICTION

Duncan's Message

Lectionary Readings for Sunday 4th April 2021 Easter Sunday.

Psalm 118:1-2 & 14-24, Isaiah 25:6-9, Acts 10:34-43, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Mark 16:1-8 & John 20:1-18.

The resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday can seem to be like a bolt from the blue, but in reality it is the culmination of a series of events that began centuries before Jesus was born into our world, that reached a crescendo with the events of Holy Week. The authors of our New Testament often look back to writings of their bible and our Old Testament and see events and words that were a part of Jesus' journey to His death on the Cross and resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The simple message of Easter Sunday is 'Christ is Risen!' It is the message that is at the heart of all of Paul's writing, it is at the heart of the preaching and teaching of Jesus' disciples as recorded in Acts, and

it is at the heart of all that we continue to do and declare. It is the simple truth that Jesus has risen and is alive that changes the outcome of everything, and makes us all a part of God's family. What the original ending to Mark's gospel was we can only guess at, but there is something powerful in it ending at verse 8, before anyone has had an encounter with the risen Jesus, in that it is our encounters with the risen Jesus today that are a part of the writing of those missing chapters. We and our response to the risen Jesus along with Mary Magdalene and the first disciples are a part of the Easter resurrection of God's Son.

Hymn Singing The Faith 298. Christ the Lord is risen today. [click here](#)

Pastoral News

Kathy Crew fell at home injuring her pelvis and hip which resulted in a three week stay in Southmead Hospital. Kathy is now home and managing remarkably well with the help of carers. We send her love and best wishes from all at Cheap Street Church.

Best wishes to Denise Gould following her cataract eye surgery on Monday.

Easter Egg Appeal.

A sincere thank you to all who responded to the appeal for Easter Eggs for The Yeatman Hospital . On Monday, Jenn and I were very pleased to send 88 eggs to be shared amongst the staff during Easter weekend.

I received a thank you letter from The Chairman of The Friends which you will be able to read elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Birthdays

Saturday 3rd April Don Farquharson

Wednesday 7th April Geoff Tapper

Thursday 8th April Pat Leadbetter

Happy Birthday and best wishes to you all, from our Cheap Street Church Family.

With Easter Greetings to you all.

Eirwen Cox

Letter from the Chair of Friends of the Yeatman Hospital:

Dear Eirwen,

I am aware that, along with many generous Members of the Congregation of Cheap Street Church you have been extremely generous in your thoughts, time and money towards providing Easter Eggs for all the Staff and patients of the Yeatman. While one Member gave a private donation of £20.

Such a gesture is hugely valued by the recipients who, as they go about their daily duties or ponder their future medical treatment, suddenly realise that there are many good people thinking about them in gratitude for their dedicated work, or wishing the patients a comfortable and speedy recovery. Please be assured your commitment and that of your fellow Members is highly valued and appreciated.

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, I wish you and your Congregation a happy and healthy Easter and indeed springtime ahead.

Yours sincerely,

David

Fellowship of Prayer

Whenever and wherever we pray in the silence of our hearts, we are part of a rich and powerful fellowship, which serves to sustain everyone in our Church Family. Anyone can join the prayer group by just praying.

We hold in prayer Kathy Crew, Tom and Marian Carmichael, Barbara and Dennis Porter; Clive and Jill Turner and Ellie and Sophie; Yve and Ken Ackroyd and all the family; Janet Baker; Phyllis Batchelor; Duncan's mother; Alex Palmer; Peter and Marjorie Kett.

We continue to remember the families of those who have died recently: Derek Hayward, Ron Dolling, Charles Pennington, Gill Hunt, John Hooper, Hilda Clarke, John Green, Graham Penlington and Brian Crew.

The Prayer Ring is available for an urgent need or situation.

Call any of these numbers and the circle of prayer will begin:

Eirwen Cox 01935 815960, Penny Gardner 01935 389153, Janet Le Moignan 01935 38966



Please note:

A gentle reminder about our prayer day on April 6th, there are still plenty of slots left if you would like to join us. Contact Jan on 01935 389774 or email jandixonwallace@gmail.com

Prayers for the persecuted church

Yemen The ongoing war in Yemen has led to a deeply unstable country, in which Islamic militant groups have dangerous power and Christians have little defence against attack. Most expatriate Christians have fled, so the small number of Christians in Yemen come from a Muslim background. Because of that, they face the death penalty. Leaving Islam is illegal. During the humanitarian crisis, it's not only the dangers from government, family and militants that believers have to be afraid of. Anybody suspected of not being a devout Muslim is deliberately neglected when vital aid is distributed.

Let us pray that secret believers will have wisdom and discernment as they support one another; for those taking great risks to provide seekers and new believers with aid and discipleship support, and that peace will return to Yemen. Amen.

The Cheapstreeter - Erratum

I am afraid the piece written by Christina, which appeared in the latest Cheapstreeter, was incomplete, due to carelessness on the part of the Editor (that's me!). The complete article is printed at the end of this newsletter, with my apologies to Christina.

Raymond

Happy Easter



An Easter Hallelujah [click here](#)

Poem for the Week



54 Cheap Street

APPORTIONING BLAME

Who crucified our Lord we cry?
Who crucified our Lord?
The soldiers who drove the nails in His flesh
Or the one who thrust in the sword?

Judas, who sought a Kingdom on earth
Or the whole of the Jewish race
Peter, who failed at the crucial hour
Or Barabbas released in Christ's place?

Pharisees, Sadducees, Sanhedrin committee;
There's a case against Herod, the King
And Pilate, who stood for the rulers of Rome,
On whom shall we judgement bring?

Maybe the crowd – now called 'Rent-a-Mob',
Demonstrating against the state,
Or two thieves, those couple of militants, who
Regretted their hot headed hate?

Who do you think should carry the blame?
Are WE possibly also accused.
Do you remember a story of stones
And "Let him without sin throw first."

Surely, we too helped to crucify Christ.
We stand in the judgement hall.
None can escape; we share in the shame.
Oft, I feel the most guilty of all.

But, praise be to God, t'was for this that He died.
His life given free for our sin
And praise be to God, for guilty no more,
Through His cross a new life can begin.

Muriel Martin

Worship Resources

Radio 4 Sunday Worship at 8.10am: Easter Sunday – A celebration of the Eucharist with the Archbishop of Canterbury's Easter Message. [click here](#)

Methodist resources: [click here](#). URC resources: [click here](#).

URC: [daily devotions and a Sunday service \(click here to subscribe\)](#).

The Census

Censuses are not what they once were. For us, they are something of a chore, which we are pleased to have to do only once in ten years. But they do not cost us too much in time, and they cost nothing financially: you only have to put the form in the post (and Freepost at that), or send it on line. True, there is a legal requirement to complete the census form, but the consequence of failure to do so is unlikely to be too serious. In the Bible it is very different. For Joseph and Mary it was a long trek to Joseph's birthplace (Bethlehem) to register; yet the consequence of failing to do so would clearly be trouble from the Roman authorities - and you did not mess with them if you had any sense. Censuses in New Testament days would not have been looked on favourably by the Jews

In the Old Testament it depended on what the census was for. To count soldiers who were going to fight God's battle was fine (see Numbers 26:2ff.); so was counting the Levites who were in charge of the people's worship of God (Numbers 26:62). To count people for one's own glorification was quite another matter. When David decided to 'number the people' it was considered to be a great sin, and God punished it as such. (The story is in 2 Samuel ch. 24.)

Perhaps that gives us the clue to understanding our own census: does God approve of it? Well, He must, mustn't He? Certainly there is no mention of God's interest in counting us on the the census form. But surely God is interested in the public services which are mentioned on the front of the form? - 'We need your help to run the census which gathers vital information to help plan services such as transport, education and healthcare.' God is interested in these things because He loves us and wants us to be looked after. So perhaps filling in the census form would be less of a chore if we thought of it as a tiny contribution towards putting into practice God's love for his children? After all, He thinks it is worth counting the hairs on our head; what better justification for our counting could there be?

Christina Le Moignan

Contributions to future newsletters

Please send contributions by midday Wednesday to:

Penny Gardner pennylgardner@gmail.com 01935 389153 and

Ruth Rogerson rogersonruth@gmail.com 01935 813498.