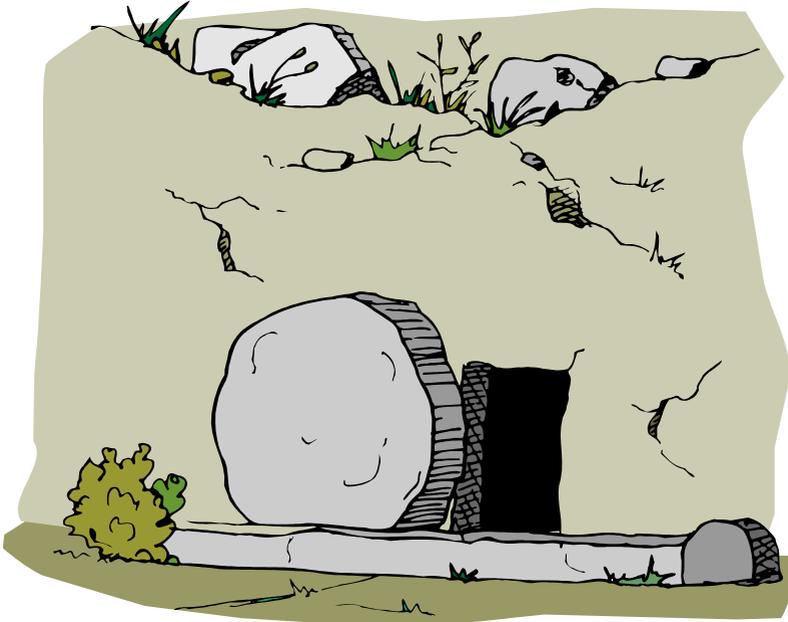


APRIL 2022

TOGETHER



METHODIST CHURCHES

PORTISHEAD
High Street

REDCLIFFE BAY
Queens Road

Minister: Revd Nick Moxon
Office 01275 844917 Manse 01275 398881
e-mail: nickmoxon@btinternet.com

From Rev Nick Moxon

This week I led collective worship with the children and staff at both St Peter's school and Trinity. Unfortunately we continue to share worship on the computer because of COVID. However we do what we can. During lent we are looking at single words and exploring what it might mean for us as followers of Jesus. So this week we looked at 'Silence'.

In my preparation I came across John Cage, an American composer who died in 1992. One of his most famous compositions was called '4 minutes 33 seconds' which he first performed in 1952. What was unusual about it was that it was 4' 33" of complete silence. When Cage performed it he sat down at the piano, placed a score on the stand, set a stopwatch, closed the lid – and sat quietly for 33 seconds. Briefly opening then re-shutting the lid, he re-set the stopwatch and sat for two minutes 40 seconds, occasionally turning the score's pages. At the end of his performance some people were amused and thought it was a practical joke, others were outraged. The purpose of the piece, cage said, was for people to stop and listen to the sounds around them.

So this week with children aged between 5-11 we sat and 'listened' to part of John Cage's piece. We sat - in silence - and listened. In preparation I said that in silence we can hear many things including the voice of God. I talked about the story of Elijah who encountered God in the stillness.

In the busy-ness of our world and in our lives where is your stillness and silence? Where and when are those times when you stop to hear the small, still voice of God?

Why not stop and 'listen' to John Cage's unique piece sometime soon and note what you hear.

Nick

Sunday Services in Church are at 10.00 am at Portishead and 10.30 am at Redcliffe Bay. Pre booking is not required. Other events are listed in the Calendar.

Covid 19 precautions are being maintained.

You will see in the middle of this magazine worship material that you can use at home throughout the month. If you are unable to attend church please know that the readings, prayers and hymns will be used during the time.

You are also in our prayers.

CHURCH CALENDAR

April 2022

- 2nd Saturday 10.30 am Book Club (Portishead)
7.30 pm ZA Concert (Portishead)
- 3rd Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Mr Martin Buckley
- 4th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)
- 6th Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
7.30 pm Wednesday Focus (Redcliffe Bay)
7.30 -9.00 pm Lent Study Group (on Zoom)

- 7th Thursday 10.00 – 11.30 am Baycon Butties (Redcliffe Bay)
10.30 - noon Lent Study Group (Portishead)
- 9th Saturday 9.30 am Working Party (Redcliffe Bay)
10-00 till noon. Coffee Morning in the Beacon Hub
- 10th Sunday PALM SUNDAY
10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead) Mrs Jane Mason
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon
- 11th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)
- 12th Tuesday 10.00 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon
10.30 -noon Coffee and Chat (Redcliffe Bay)
- 13th Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
7.30 -9.00 pm Lent Study Group (on Zoom)
- 14th Thursday 10.30 - noon Lent Study Group (Portishead)
7.30 pm Joint Holy Communion (at Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon
- 15th Friday 9.30 am Good Friday Reflection (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Nick Moxon
10.00 am Good Friday Reflection (Portishead)
11.00 am Walk of Witness from St Peter's Church
- 17th Sunday EASTER SUNDAY
6.10 am Sunrise Service at Battery Point
10.00 am All Age Worship and Holy Communion
(Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon
10.30 am Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev David Harris
- 20th Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
- 24th Sunday 10.00 am Morning Service (Portishead) Rev Nick Moxon
10.30 am Morning Service (Redcliffe Bay)
Rev Michael Pullan
- 25th Monday 9.30 – 11.30 am Little Stars (Redcliffe Bay)
- 27th Wednesday 10.00 – 11.00 am Prayer Meeting (Portishead)
8.00 pm Bible Study – on-line.

GENERAL NEWS

ZA CONCERT



The Long Ashton Orchestra presents an evening of music by Rossini, Webber and Beethoven Conductor: Dimitri Chrysostomon, Leader: Oliver Humpage, Clarinet Soloist: Laura Sweeting, Saturday 2nd April at 7.30 pm. Free entry, but retiring collection in aid of the Za Foundation.

EASTER SERVICES



Palm Sunday - 10th April

Maundy Thursday 14th Joint Holy Communion at Redcliffe Bay 7.30 pm

Good Friday 15th Reflections Redcliffe Bay 9.30 am and Portishead 10.00 am

Walk of Witness* 11.00 am from

St Peter's

Easter Day Sunrise Service* at Battery Point 6.10 am

All Age Worship and Holy Communion (Portishead) 10.00 am

Holy Communion (Redcliffe Bay) 10.30 am

* Churches Together in Portishead Event

FROM THE METHODIST PEACE FELLOWSHIP

To the People called Methodist,

The invasion of Ukraine calls us to step up. As people that want to promote peace as a way of life, we cannot ignore events between Russia and Ukraine. The invasion of a country, the suppression of its people and the annihilation of its culture is contrary to the Gospel imperative for all to have 'life in all its fullness'. We may feel helpless and powerless but we need to find ways to counter the narrative of aggression and to support by prayer and practical action the people of Ukraine. We cannot sit back, we need to step up. The invasion of Ukraine also calls us to step back. As people who see peace not simply as absence of war, but as the shalom of struggle within all human relationships, we need to be mindful of the bigger picture.

Offering hospitality to Ukrainian refugees is paramount, but we must not forget the needs and stories of other refugees from other countries. Whilst we want to support Ukrainians at this particular time we need to be alert to any tendency to privilege White Europeans when we offer hospitality. Compassion is always unconditional never selective. The invasion of Ukraine calls us to step forward. We are surrounded by rhetoric, so we need to strive for truth. We need to be careful that we are not simply inhabiting the echo chamber of our own prejudices. Situations like this are complex and nuanced. We need to be mindful of hatred at every turn, not least towards the people of Russia. Whilst we are criticising oppressive and aggressive actions, we must not demonise a whole nation because of the actions of a despot. We must always step forward to challenge vitriol, even when it is directed to people whom the conflict styles as 'enemies' The Methodist Peace Fellowship is calling all Methodists, all people of faith, all humanity to take steps of prophetic action in the face of the current invasion of Ukraine. We are compelled to step up, to step back and to step forward, with courage, insight and wisdom, mindful that all are loved equally in the light of God's love.

Yours Sincerely Barbara Glasson President The Methodist Peace Fellowship www.mpf.org.uk

Join us for prayers for Ukraine on zoom on Friday evenings at 7.30 pm: registration details at

www.for.org.uk/ukraine

MUSEUM

CAFE

CHAPEL

**MEETING
ROOMS**

WELCOME



**JOHN WESLEY'S
NEW ROOM**

**EVENTS AT JOHN WESLEY'S NEW ROOM
IN BROADMEAD.**

Join us on an Easter tour of 4 Charles Street this April. Explore the home of one of the world's most famous hymnwriters. Enjoy Easter hymns, Spring floral displays and discover how Lent, Easter and the season of Spring were marked in the 18th century. Finish with an Easter biscuit and a sing-along in the family music room.

Group bookings accepted – The perfect Easter social for your church home group or social club. Email Kate to make an enquiry: community@newroombristol.org.uk or call 01179264740

Access requirements: Since this listed building is entered by steps and has five floors linked by a steep and winding staircase, regrettably disabled access cannot be provided.

Book online : www.newroombristol.org.uk via the events 7th April.



130+ LEADING VOICES CALL FOR AN END TO VACCINE MONOPOLIES AFTER TWO YEARS OF PANDEMIC

The Rev Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, have joined more than 130 former world leaders, Nobel laureates, leading scientists, economists, humanitarians, faith leaders, business leaders, trade unionists, and celebrities in calling for urgent action to vaccinate low and middle-income countries and bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a letter coordinated by the People’s Vaccine Alliance, the authoritative voices united on the second anniversary of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) declaration that the COVID-19 outbreak had become a pandemic. They urge world leaders “to do what is necessary to end this crisis” and unite behind a People’s Vaccine, based on the principles of equity and solidarity; accessible to everyone, everywhere; and free from patents and profiteering.

They warn that “despite what some leaders in wealthy countries would like us to believe, the pandemic is not over”. But an end to COVID-19 is “within our grasp”, they say, if we give “everyone, everywhere access to safe and effective vaccines and other life-saving COVID-19 technologies”.



DONATIONS FOR THE UKRAINE

The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) of which All We Can is a part has raised £100m for its Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal in just four days, which is the equivalent of more than £1m an hour since its launch. The appeal raised £55m in its first 24 hours. This figure included £25m in match-funding from the British Government. Thank you to everyone who has contributed or is about to contribute.

HELPING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

If you would like to offer accommodation to Ukrainian refugees please e-mail details of your offer to North Somerset Council at:

refugeeresettlementteam@n-somerset.gov.uk

PORTISHEAD FOOD BANK

Please keep up your contributions, with many families feeling the financial crunch, which is going to get worse, the Food Bank is busy. They are particularly short of Long Life Milk. Long Life Fruit Juice. Smash type packet instant potatoes and Long Grain Rice (such as that you would eat with savoury food).

BUT please DON'T donate pasta or cereal at the moment.

Do you not know that God entrusted you with that money (all above what buys necessities for your families) to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to help the stranger, the widow, the fatherless; and, indeed, as far as it will go, to relieve the wants of all mankind? How can you, how dare you, defraud the Lord, by applying it to any other purpose?"
— John Wesley

Worship for Easter

If you have a candle I invite you to light it now and say this prayer:

Risen Lord,
in the stillness and wonder of this moment,
we hardly dare to believe that you are indeed alive!
Yet our hearts are filling with faith, hope and love,
and our souls are beginning to believe!
Wonderful Lord, we fall on our knees with thanksgiving.
Amen.

Let's sing: 'Christ the Lord is Risen Today'

We pray:
Amazing God, we praise you that
from the silence of an empty tomb,
a message of joy has spread around the world.
From the brutality of a death on a cross,
healing love has touched the whole of creation.
From the initial uncertainty of the first disciples,
your Church has grown and reached out in faith to all.
Thank you for Easter; thank you for life; thank you for everything.
Amen.

We are sorry, Lord, for the times when we stay in the tomb
of
our lack of belief and fill it with our fear.

**Forgive us, and release us to be your witnesses in
your world today.**

We are sorry for the times we are sceptical when others
share

the power of the Resurrection in their lives.

Forgive us, and release us to be your witnesses in your world today.

We are sorry for the times when we live as if there were no Easter.

Forgive us, and release us to be your witnesses in your world today.

Amen.

Our Bible reading is from Luke chapter 24 verses 1-12.

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” Then they remembered his words.

When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

Questions to ponder on:

- **How have you** celebrated easter in the past? What do you remember from those times?
- **'Goodness is stronger** than evil; Love is stronger than hate; Light is stronger than darkness; Life is stronger than death; Victory is ours through Him who loves us.' (Desmond Tutu). How far this has been true in your own experience?
- **How can** the new life Jesus offers be seen in the world today?

Hymn: 'Low in the Grave he lay'

We bring our prayers for the world to God now.

Let us pray for those for whom today is just another day:

those who have to work;

those who have not yet encountered the risen Christ;

those who do not celebrate his love.

For God gave his Son,

to show his love and bring life.

We pray for all who flee their homes in desperation,

and travel into an uncertain future.

Strengthen them on their journeys,

and keep alive their vision of finding a secure and welcoming home.

For God gave his Son,

to show his love and bring life.

Let us pray for those who grieve today:

those recently bereaved;

those for whom this is a time of anniversary;

those who wait beside a loved one who is dying.

For God gave his Son,
to show his love and bring life.

Let us pray for all in need throughout the world:
those without access to clean water;
those with insufficient food;
those who cannot access the health care that they need.
For God gave his Son,
to show his love and bring life.

Let us pray for each other and for ourselves,
that we may have wholeness, peace and hope
through the presence in our lives of the risen Lord.
For God gave his Son,
to show his love and bring life.
Amen.

*We join all our prayers together as we say the Lord's
Prayer*

Final Hymn: 'Thine be the Glory'

Risen Lord,
you always go before us – preparing the way,
leading us further along your path of life.
Today of all days, there is no more fear.
We praise and adore you! **Allelulia!**
Amen.

ARE CHRISTIANS PERSECUTED IN UKRAINE AND RUSSIA?



Open Doors

keeps a watch on the world wide persecution of Christians and comments on the situation in the Ukraine:

Ukraine achieved independence from the USSR in 1991 and there is religious freedom in most of the country. However, in Russia and Russian-controlled areas of Ukraine, religious freedom is increasingly in decline.

Russia has appeared in the top 50 of Open Doors' World Watch List in the past, as recently as 2020. In the current list, the country lies just outside the top 50. The persecution largely stems from localised pressure and violence against believers in Muslim-majority regions, such as Dagestan and Chechnya.

Since 2016, following the introduction of the Yaravoya law (also known as the 'anti-missionary law'), opposition against Christians actively sharing their faith has intensified. This applies not only to Russia but to regions in Ukraine under Russian influence and control, such as Crimea.

The U.S. Committee on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) found that, 'in Russian-occupied Crimea, the occupation authorities continued to enforce Russia's repressive laws and policies on religion, which has resulted in the prosecution of peaceful religious activity and bans on groups that were legal in Crimea under Ukrainian law'. In fact, USCIRF even recommended that Russia be placed on the State Department's list of "Countries of Particular Concern".

Russia's support of breakaway regions is also troubling for Christians in Ukraine. Luhansk and Donetsk – two regions that have declared independence – have imposed rules requiring religious organisations to register. Complying with the rule has been difficult for many Protestant churches – for example, a December 2019 list of 195 registered religious organisations by the Luhansk authorities showed that no permission had been granted to any Protestant community.

In June last year, three Protestant churches were banned by authorities in Donetsk and others had their buildings confiscated. In

August, books by Charles Spurgeon and Billy Graham were placed on a list of banned 'extremist' literature by a court in Luhansk.

Consequently, as far as Ukraine is concerned, while most believers can freely express and share their faith, there are some areas where Christians are feeling the pinch of persecution.

How is the church responding to the crisis? Despite pressure and persecution, and the wider crisis facing Ukraine, believers are united and determined. "Those [churches] that are in the western part of Ukraine... told our brothers and sisters in other parts of Ukraine that if something happens, we will open our homes and our churches to you," explains Yarsolav 'Slavik' Pyzh, president of the Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary.

Looking ahead, Yarsolav adds, "I think that we will rearrange, reorganise, and still do what we always do: still preach the gospel."

PRAYERS



From the President and Vice President of Conference the Rev Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton :



FOR UKRAINE

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ, wept over Jerusalem.
Today, we weep over Ukraine.
We weep for those uprooted from their homes and lives.
We weep for those cowering in basements.
We weep for those who have witnessed death and destruction on their streets.
We weep for those separated from parents, from children, from spouses and siblings.
We are amazed at the resilience of people seeking to comfort those in need and so we pray for Governments opening up borders so that

Ukrainians can have safe passage.

We pray for churches and individuals providing food, clothing and shelter.

We pray for medical workers ensuring that shattered bodies are put back together again.

We pray for ordinary Russians demonstrating and voicing their disapproval of the military actions in Ukraine.

May the Holy Spirit give us the willpower to turn our tears into action also.

May we, through our words, prayers and example pursue the things that make for a just peace in the world today and especially in Ukraine.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen

Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

Lord have mercy.

Amen

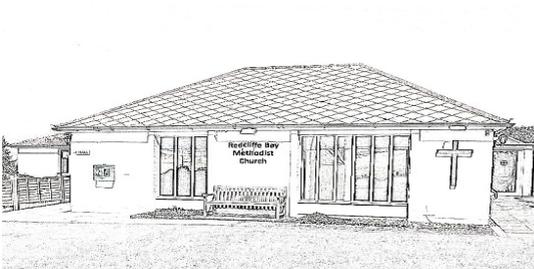
A Children's Prayer for Ukraine

Loving God, we pray for peace in Ukraine.
Help keep people safe and protect them from being hurt.
Please care for children separated from their families,
Please help people who have had to leave their homes.
We pray for love and peace, everywhere.
In the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace,



Amen.

*You can join in prayers for Ukraine with the Methodist Peace Fellowship and the Fellowship of Reconciliation on Zoom on Friday evenings at 7.30 pm – **Register free at for.org.uk/ukraine***



REDCLIFFE BAY

Website:

www.redcliffebaymethodistchurch.org.uk

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

After a long spell in the clear several members have tested positive for Covid 19, fortunately all seem to be recovering quite quickly. We hope to see you all back in church soon.

BAYCON BUTTIES

Our popular meeting for men, with bacon butties and coffee, Thursday 7th April 10.00 till 11.30 am. All welcome

WEDNESDAY FOCUS



The meeting on 9th March had Philip Baldwin playing organ and or piano requests, these included The 3 Elizabeth suite by Eric Coates; Sailing By Ronald Binge (Shipping forecast music); Showboat selection; Bach Prelude and Fugue in G minor; Lara's theme from Dr Zhivago and Exodus; Bohemian Rhapsody -Queen; Music from Around the World in 80 days; Entracté to Swan Lake; Ballet from Spartacus Khatachurian (Onedin Line); Music from West Side Story, Sound of Music and Phantom of the Opera; and as an encore ...an arrangement of Thank you for the music by Benny Andersson of ABBA fame. £100 was sent to the Ukrainian Appeal.

The last meeting of this session will be on 6th April- the AGM followed by Rev Nick Moxon 'Travels with my Trombone'. All welcome. 7.30 pm start.

UKRAINE APPEAL. We have been able to forward £400 last week to "All We Can" and we offer our thanks to all those who contributed.

WORKING PARTY

The March Working Party was badly affected by Covid infections, but Charles and Rachel did some sterling work. The April Working Party will be on Saturday 9th April - to tackle small jobs particularly in the flower beds and garden. Come for however long you can manage between 9.30 and noon.

PLANT SALE

We are planning to have a Plant Sale (on Saturday 14th May), so hope our green fingered members have been sowing seeds so that we have a stock of plants to sell.

PRAYER CHAIN To take part, or if there is a prayer need, please contact Sue Mason Tel. 849553.



PORTISHEAD

Office:01275 844917

Websites: www.portisheadmethodistchurch.co.uk

[The Beacon Hub | Home](#)

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/portisheadmethodistHighSt

BEACON HUB COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 9th April 10-00 till noon. Plus 200 knitted chicks (with Easter Eggs) waiting adoption at £2 each. Cash only event.



The post of Café Manager has been advertised and interviews are planned early this month

BOOK CLUB

The next meeting will be on the 2nd of April 10.30 am at The Beacon Community Hub.

We are going to read and discuss The Salt Path and the Wild Silence by Raynor Winn.



POSTSCRIPT

What Does The Easter Bunny Have To Do With Jesus And Is The Easter Bunny Mentioned In The Bible? by Nancy Lee Grace

Don't worry, you didn't miss anything in Sunday School. A magical bunny that delivers chocolate eggs is not mentioned in The Bible or any other religious scripture. There isn't even a vague reference of an Easter Bunny or a creature delivering gifts to celebrate Jesus rising from the dead. So where did the Easter Bunny come from?

Here's the strange story on why the Easter Bunny was hatched by America's German immigrants in the 1700s and how this folkloric figure became the international symbol of Easter.

Every year Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus by searching for colourful eggs hidden by a rabbit. But why? Where did the Easter Bunny come from? The Easter Bunny isn't mentioned in the Bible and rabbits don't lay eggs. It doesn't make any sense, or does it? Here are the weird and unbelievable reasons why Christians observe Easter with chocolate, bunnies and eggs.

Connection Between Christianity And Rabbits
Rabbits have been associated with fertility for centuries. The hare's ability to reproduce has always amazed humanity. As far back to Pagan society, Eostre, the Pagan goddess of fertility, was symbolized as a rabbit.

The symbolic connection between fertility and rabbits jumped from Pagans to Christianity, and the hare became a popular theme in Christian church art.



Rabbits reproduced so freely that, during Medieval Times, it was widely believed that they were hermaphrodites. The ability to reproduce without loss of virginity led many religious leaders to associate the hare with the Virgin Mary. Through the years, rabbits were often depicted in the boarder decorations of religious illuminated manuscripts and in paintings of the Virgin Mary and Baby Jesus.

One of the most popular depictions of rabbits in the Christian religion is the Three Hares motif. The symbol shows three rabbits in circular connected pattern and is commonly found in churches in both England and northern Germany. However, the origin of the symbol can be traced back to the Buddhist cave temples of 6th century China. The Three Hares motif likely made its way to England via the Silk Road trade route where it caught on with Christians already enamoured by the connection between rabbits and the Virgin Mary.

*Please pass copy for the May 2022 issue to:
Ray Burgin, 11 Hillcrest Rd. Portishead BS20 8HS
Tel. 844115 e-mail rayburgin@hotmail.co.uk
by **SUNDAY 24th April***

*Christ the Lord is risen to-day, Sons of men and
angels say. Raise your joys and triumphs high; Sing,
ye heavens, and earth reply."
- Charles Wesley*