

Hello friends,

Thank you, as always, for your friendship and prayers which we really appreciate. A more 'official' CMS Link Letter will come soon but here's a short update in the meantime.

### Church Life

Easter day was so joyful. The Anglican congregation met together in our new venue for the first time, beginning first with an Easter Egg hunt which the children loved and then to gather for worship. We rejoiced in the new life that Jesus brings and prayed that this 'new beginning' for the church community would be full of resurrection life, bringing hope and joy to those we serve. We sang familiar hymns and songs and finished with lots of Czech cakes and sweets.



*Finding the final few eggs after the service.*

We've been encouraged by new people, particularly international students, who have joined us. Although interestingly, given that we currently worship in English, most of our people are Czech. We did produce a Czech copy of the sermon this week for any that need a little extra help.



*Lea at a recent event welcoming internationals to the city with the question 'How do you care for your spiritual life?'*

Lea will be licenced this coming Sunday at 11am in Prague. The service will be led by Archdeacon Leslie (in the Diocese in Europe) and attended by the Czech bishop under whose authority we minister in the country. After such a long wait and several postponements, we are very much looking forward to it.

## Refugee Crisis

The refugee crisis is still very real. The government/agencies are trying to transition from short-term crisis activities to more long-term support, but people are still arriving from Ukraine, usually with very little. The situation has shaped our ministry activities these past weeks. Petra is working with an organisation in the city centre, which was formally a women's refuge, but is now centred on helping refugees with everyday essential such as clothes and toiletries, sorting and distributing donations, and providing care and support.



*Petra assisting - she looks thrilled!*

This organisation was gifted the use of a former monastery by the Catholic Church and work is now underway to furnish it ready for it to be used as short-term accommodation for women and children. The situation is heart-breaking, but it is wonderful to see people coming together to provide care and hospitality for those in need. Next door to our home more women and children from Ukraine have arrived. The kids like to come and play with our rabbit and hamsters, as well as Ted and Olivia. They can all play outside for hours, and the language barrier doesn't seem to get in the way!

When we left for the Czech Republic, we had no idea that the world would change so much, or that our ministry would be shaped in such a way, but we're praying that the Lord would use us as he wishes and that we can respond to this very present need.

## Family Life

We are thankful for answered prayer! About a month ago both Ted and Olivia started at a local Czech school who have experience of integrating children of other nationalities. They love going and have made strong friendships already. This week they are attending 'school in nature', the school's annual week away. It is rather strange not to have them here, the house is very quiet.



*Obligatory first day at school photo*

Thank you again for your prayers and fellowship. Please let us know how we can be praying for you and your church too.

In Christ,

Lea & Petra







