

Many of us were brought up on the old hymn, 'Count your blessings, name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.' But 'Count Your Blessings' is also the name of a Christian Aid programme. For quite a few years now Christian Aid has invited people to use the period of Lent to think about their own blessings, while thinking also about their Christian brothers and sisters in other countries. Each day there's a suggestion of something to think about, and something to do. Here's an example:

Monday 19 February: Nana and Ibrahim's village in Nigeria was taken over by Boko Haram. For the past year, they've survived in a displaced people's camp with their three children

Home is an important place for us all

Give 50p every time you walk through your front door today

NB This sounds a rather expensive way of keeping Lent. *Please note:*

a) the response suggested does not always involve money

*b) the programme form makes it clear that the amounts suggested **are only suggestions** - it's giving what you can afford, not what you can't*

c) the people you are giving to will know all about not having a lot to spare

I have done this for the last two or three years, and found it a much more rewarding way of keeping Lent than something like giving up chocolate (which I often haven't managed anyway). If you would like to look at the programme, I have a copy which I should be glad to show you. And Jackie Bullen, would be pleased to order you a copy if you would like to take part. Please let her know a.s.a.p. - Lent begins on February 14th. Jackie's phone number is 813112, and her email is jackobullen@gmail.com *Christina Le Moignan*

Yeovil Street Pastors continue to be a Caring, Listening, Helping and Praying presence on the streets of Yeovil on a Friday and Saturday nights. A team of four to six Street Pastors and two to four Prayer Pastors meet at the base at 10.30pm, get uniforms on, pack the rucksacks with water, wipes, first aid kit, flipflops and Bibles, and have a time of prayer and worship. The Street team then head out to give practical help to people who may have got into a vulnerable situation having had too much to drink, or to be a caring listening friend to those who are experiencing difficulties or sadness in their lives, showing how Gods love is for everyone. If we feel led by the Holy Spirit we offer to pray for people, and that offer is usually accepted. It is a real privilege to pray for someone in the middle of the night on Middle Street. Every night is different. Meanwhile, the Prayer team is praying into situations phoned in by the Street team, and covering the town with prayer. We see amazing answers to prayer; solutions to difficult situations suddenly happen, tension and aggression subsides, the right people come along at the right time. We shouldn't be surprised by these answers to prayer because we know our God is loving and generous and powerful, but we are amazed and thankful, and joyful and excited to be part of His work.

Being a Street or Prayer Pastor is open to anyone who is a Christian, has a heart for the community and wants to see lives changed by Jesus. There will be Street Pastor training starting later in the year, and Prayer Pastors can join the team anytime. Please prayerfully consider whether this is something God is calling you to do.

If you are interested please speak to Ali Berry (Street Pastor), Lynn Heaton or Colleen Farquharson (Prayer Pastors)

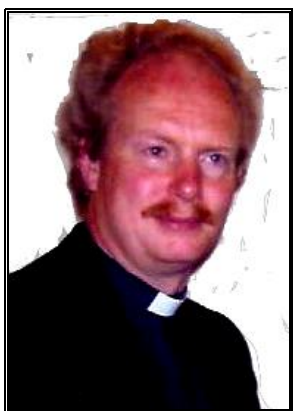
There is no prison in the world into
which Love cannot force an entrance
Oscar Wilde

Editor: Raymond Wood
DEADLINE for next issue
Tuesday, 21st March 2018
raymondwood1@btinternet.com



The Cheapstreeter

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



We are overjoyed that The Revd Duncan Goldie will be joining the Circuit in a few weeks' time

His Induction Service will be on
Saturday, 21st April at 3.00pm

He will lead Morning Worship at
Cheap Street on 22nd April at 10.30am

Hello

Easter is a time of God's new beginnings for all of creation, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's Son. And Easter this year will mark a new beginning in a different way, for you and for me, when I will join you in your journey of faith, and telling of what Jesus has done, as your minister. It is an exciting time (even if there is for me a sadness at leaving a pastorate that I have the privilege of being the minister of, for over eleven years), and I look forward to being with you and learning first hand about you and getting to know you all, as we go forward together trusting in our saviour, Jesus Christ, and the grace that comes to us all, through the victory the he won for us on the cross

Duncan

Mothering Sunday



The Cheapstreeter

Issue No. 41

As you read through this issue, you will see there have been lots of contributors. This has made for varied and more interesting reading. I hope more people will be inspired to send me contributions
Editor

Pastoral

Pastoral Secretary: Eirwen Cox 01 935 815960

We are at the beginning of the second month of 2018 already. We are also about to start a new chapter in the life of Cheap Street Church. In two and a half months, as the church family we will be welcoming our new minister Revd. Duncan Goldie, a stranger in a new church, a new county, surrounded by strangers. We in Cheap Street are known for our friendliness and warm welcome. I sincerely hope we will all pull together to make his time with us happy and successful

With the recent cold weather, a number of members have fallen victim to the winter bugs and other incidents. John Hicks and Ken Bonney have been laid low since before Christmas. Ken is now feeling better, but John Hicks is still in The Willows

Tony Field is now in Abbey View (Room 29), but it is a very confusing time for him. Visitors may go at any time

Barbara Porter and Pam Tapper suffered what seemed to be minor accidents and both have been immobile for quite a while. David Smith also had an accident last week falling on an escalator resulting in very bruised and sore ribs

There is encouraging news from Jan Legg who has restarted her Chemotherapy treatment. Ada Hooper is currently undergoing tests to find the cause of a problem she has been experiencing for some months. Mike Hooper has recovered from his hip surgery but is now undergoing tests for cancer. Molly too has had a rough few weeks suffering a chest and mouth infection

Our love and prayers are with all our members and their families going through very worrying and stressful times

Some good news!! Eileen Selby has shown much improvement since she moved to the nursing home in Banbury. Charles has moved to his new home in Newbury and is slowly settling down. Phyllis Batchelor is also moving to a new home - but not very far to St.Johns in Half Moon Street. We send our love and best wishes to them in their new homes.

This is a busy time for our Pastoral visitors and we thank them for all their loving care and support. One of our long standing pastoral

visitors, Margaret Walker, has decided that she is not able to continue. We are very grateful to Margaret for the many years of pastoral care she, together with Brian, has given to members of our church family, and we are very grateful to them both. Thank you so much Margaret and Brian

We are in need of more pastoral visitors, if anyone reading this feels they would like to help please contact me, Eirwen or Christine Rogers for more information

New Year greetings and blessings from your Pastoral Team

Eirwen

Thank you

Several years ago I joined the Tuesday Prayer Group (originally to pray for Joe Heaton who had been badly injured in a car crash) and we began to pray for Alex. He is the son of friends of ours in Glasgow - then a teenager who had got into a bad crowd and ended up in prison. I write to him regularly and always tell him of the Tuesday Group praying for him. Over the years his replies have

become more upbeat and he always ends with best wishes and thanks to the Tuesday Group. The good news is that, because of his good behaviour, he is being given early release and is due out on 2nd February! We have all signed a card to wish him Good Luck and God's Blessings as he returns to the real world. While 'inside', he has received training in plumbing, dog-handling and gardening and he will be living with his married sister who is a Social Worker, so we are hoping for the best. I would like to thank the Tuesday Group for their prayers and support over the years
Shirley Fry

Health Hints from Dr Liz Long

With the current financial constraints on the NHS, making sure we make appropriate choices for where to seek advice will help the resources go further. For example, there are a lot of things your pharmacist can deal with; medication queries, advice about new medications, advice on coughs, cold and flu like illnesses, minor rashes and conjunctivitis. You can now buy antibiotic eye drops or ointment from a pharmacy if you have a straight forward eye infection. Previously "prescription only" medications for indigestion and reflux are also now available "over the counter" at a pharmacy

Doctors are taught very little about dental matters in medical school and beyond, so problems to do with your teeth, gums or jaw will be more accurately and appropriately managed by an appointment with a dentist

We have the benefit of a Minor Injuries Unit at the Yeatman Hospital, which can deal with lacerations, minor injuries to arms, legs and head. But there is due to be a closure of the Xray services at the Yeatman from early February until mid/late April (essential works/refurbishment), so you will have to go onto Dorchester or Yeovil if imaging is needed

GPs would advise managing flu like illnesses or diarrhoea and vomiting at home, due to the risk of spreading infection when visiting the GP surgery. All GP surgeries offer telephone consultations, so can assess you on the phone and advise if you need their input, or that of the health care team

And finally the 111 telephone service is there to offer advice if you don't know which health provider you need, and to give information about self care if that's appropriate

SHARES

Over the last six weeks our work has not been so intense. The Alasaly family are settling into Sherborne and becoming involved with the schools, colleges, local groups and even volunteering with other Syrian families that are being resettled. The youngest child is now being assessed at Yew Stock School. So Cath and I are involved in driving him. It has been a pleasure to see the support for the family taking effect. Cath, in the meantime, continues to organize the sorting of donations and the transport to RAFT in Taunton. (Whilst befriending the Sherborne family!)

Recently we were asked to support a touring musical called "Transport" that performed at the Octagon in Yeovil. That, along with Don's recent service around the Old Testament book of Ruth, has really driven home the plight of strangers in a foreign land. Refugees. People who have become immigrants following the collapse of their society/country or family

We are delighted to announce the arrival of 2 Syrian families in Shaftesbury. Another family is expected soon in a nearby village. AND another generous donor in Sherborne has offered to rent their house for the resettlement of a Syrian family. 2018 promises to be very busy

We thank you so much for your support - in many forms - which has enabled so much to happen in the last year
Penny

Jazz at Cheap Street

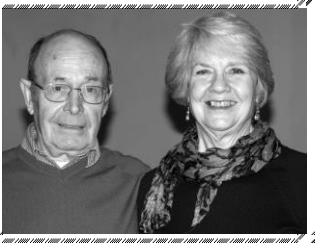
Contact: Raymond Wood 815565



The lovely **Joy Parke** will be appearing with The Sunset Café Stompers on Friday, 9th March at 7.30pm. Not to be missed!

In aid of Mandalay School for the Deaf
Tickets now on sale - see Anne Dearle or Raymond Wood

Our Story



Geoff & Penny Gardner

Little known fact: Geoff is Canadian and only discovered this in the last 18 months. He says he has had to make a big life adjustment with this bit of information. So what this means is that we both hail from the same side of the Atlantic! Geoff's father was a pilot in the RAF. My father was a pilot in the USAF. But there the similarity stops. My father returned from the war. Geoff's father never returned. His plane went missing and information on his final flight, even to this day is scarce.

Geoff and his brother were brought up by their mother. After her husband went missing she was sent back to the UK and lived for the rest of her life in London and Brighton. It was really tough and she worked hard to scrape through. Geoff has many happy memories of a house full of aunts, uncles and cousins. It was quite an extended family and when the cousins get together today there is lots of laughter as they try to remember who was who. Geoff went to Grammar School in Wallington and when he finished school went to work as a heating engineer. In his early 20's he met and married Pat. They both had a passion for scooters. As the children came - there are three - they added a side car and moved down to Crewkerne, where Geoff helped to set up a business.

After several years both the business and marriage collapsed. Geoff then tried out several career changes. I met him when we were in the Life insurance business. We were together about 4 years before we discovered The Lord. Our lives did a complete U turn. We got married in Sturminster Newton Methodist Church.

We then lost everything - the house, the business and many of our creature comforts. We struggled to pay rent, to put petrol in the car and pay bills. As Geoff had free time he began to do volunteer work in the local youth club. This led to training and before he knew it a new business working with young people in his own OUT of School Club in Blandford. Full time Youth Work grew out of that and eventually he was employed by Yeovil College

I too retrained and became a counsellor. After a few years of volunteer work I went to work for NHS Mental health services as a Psychological Therapist with the Children's and Adolescent Services. By this time all of our children had grown up and left home. Through our work we were meeting lots of troubled youngsters and because of the persuasive persistence of friends we decided to try our hand at Fostering. We fostered for about 15 years spending most of that time with 3 siblings who arrived when they were 5, 7 and 8 years old. They are still part of our family today and Geoff and I feel enormously proud to be grandparents to our children's children and the foster children's children

We feel that God turned our lives around in ways we couldn't imagine. Surely we owe it to Him to help others whose lives have been wrecked through no fault of their own

Many years ago, we had a supernumerary minister in our circuit in the North East called Joseph Heaven. When he answered the telephone, he always said: "Heaven here"!

Raymond

The Stanfield Memorial



The last issue contained a piece about the Rededication of Wesley House, Cambridge, which houses The Stanfield Memorial, a permanent memorial to The Revd John Howard and Lillian May Stanfield who served the mission in China between 1910 and 1952. Here is but a taste of their remarkable life:

In 1910, Lillian May Harris went to teach at the Methodist Central China Girls High School in Hanyang; she later became Principal of the school. It took her six weeks to get there and she did not get home again for seven years. The last Manchu Emperor was still on the throne but, in 1911, there was an armed rebellion which changed China into a Republic. The boarding school became dangerous. May escaped with students in an open rowing boat, under fire, across the Yangtse River to the safety of the French Concession in Hankow

In 1912, after ordination, John Howard Stanfield went to Wesley College, Wuchang, China, where he studied Mandarin Chinese. He had been appointed to serve in the Hunan Province and in 1913 was sent to Ping Kiang. There, in 1915, he met May Harris who was visiting with other missionaries. They married in 1916 and were to spend most of their mission years in a few cities in Hunan, a province of 60 million people, through the wars, revolutions, war-lord incursions, famines, floods and many other upheavals and dangers! At the beginning of their time in China, Christians were numbered in thousands and there were few Chinese at Methodist synods; at the last Hunan synod in John's time, there were no British in attendance. *more in a later issue*

Napoleon said: *Let China sleep for when she awakes, she will shake the world*

How right he was! China is the second largest economy in the world and within five years will overtake the USA - and it is on course to become the world's most Christian Nation

Hope for Lugazi

I first became involved with this small charity about ten years ago by sponsoring a couple of girls through their schooling, and then in assisting John Ray, the founder, with the administration. We all work on a voluntary basis. Then, 3 or 4 years ago we started to support a small church and school in Malawi, and we are so grateful to Cheap Street Church for providing some much-needed financial support for that project. During our recent visit to Uganda John and I spent much of our time helping to set up the necessary procedures and controls for the running of a small children's home which has been developing over the past 6 months, and now houses 9 children, aged between 1 and 9. This is run by David (who is Director of Studies at our High School) and his wife Betty, who felt led to dedicate their lives to helping orphans and children who, for numerous reasons, cannot be cared for by their families. It was wonderful to see the children blossoming as a result of the love they are receiving from David, Betty and a young woman helper named Mercy. They are receiving 3 meals a day as well as something at tea-time; they have Bible-story time and are learning Bible verses by heart; they sing and dance to hymns and songs, and are all learning to care for each other. We have just purchased a lovely field on which we plan to build a children's home, so we are praying that the Lord will provide the funding to enable the home to move from its current cramped, urban situation to the countryside where the children can flourish. This is just one of the many projects in which we are involved, and I look forward to sharing more with you in the future

Jackie Bullen

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday goes deep. Rightfully, we give thanks for the faithful and sacrificial care and devotion of mothers who loyally exercise domestic duty and love on our or other's behalf. Yet on Mothering Sunday we also need to pause to reflect and offer to God the mothers whose passage has not been easy or straightforward. Mothering Sunday is a day of quiet reflection and reverent sensitivities, about women who, painfully, have not been able to have children of their own; mothers who still carry the bereavement of handing over their children for adoption; all women who have experienced broken hearts and pain and whose life has not in its mystery been fair to them - and also those who have tragically lost their mothers through premature death *Revd Stephen Gray, Chaplain of Sherborne School, 2010*

Church Anniversary

On the 1st April, Easter Day, Cheap Street Church will celebrate its 24th Anniversary. At the Family Service in January, when we sang "Bind Us Together, Lord", I was reminded that this was our 'theme tune' back in 1994. The Lord certainly has bound us together - and with cords that cannot be broken! Our Union was blessed by God and we have become a loving, caring Church Family. So, come Easter Day, we shall have much to be thankful for! *Raymond*

Something for the Women

and Something for the Men!

There are two conferences coming up very soon in Yeovil. The Women of God "Dangerous Women" conference at The Gateway on Saturday, 17th February, 10.00am-4.30pm and the CONNECT Men's conference entitled "What makes men come alive?"- a day of worship and inspiration at Elim Church, Southville, Yeovil on Saturday 3rd March, 9.30am-4.00pm. Both have powerful speakers that I would recommend. I saw Nichola Neal at New Wine last year and she is very inspiring with wonderful stories of God in action. Also, Les Isaacs, the founder of Street Pastors, will be speaking to the men. He has a life story well worth reading about (I can lend you the book if you wish!) and I have heard him speak on a couple of occasions. Don't miss the chance to hear what these speakers have to say. You are guaranteed to be uplifted and blessed by the experience. Tickets can be bought on line

Lynn Heaton

Favourite Things

In September 1939 and living in South London, my parents arranged for my sister and me to be privately evacuated. This was to a friend from my mother's youth. He and his wife had offered to take us. Their home was in Staffordshire, near Alton Towers - only a park then. Years later, I acquired two Doulton figures of a girl and boy evacuee. The girl looked just like me as a child. I have treasured these ever since. However, if I could take only one object from a fire, it would be a copy of a 17thC Dutch painting depicting a group of men gambling with a dice. One is young, inexperienced, and obviously losing his money. This picture, as well as several others, was painted by my father during those war years and is an abiding reminder of his many talents *Muriel Martin*

Muriel added a postscript: *Geoff says that he hasn't got a favourite thing - apart from ME!*

The smell of new mown grass as I stand at the top of my garden in the cool of an autumn evening and see the results of a day's work. The grass smooth, the edges trimmed, the beds weed free, shrubs and flowers at their peak and fruit ripening on the trees. I thank God for the joy of all this. My despair is the family of badgers that have a sett under the oak tree in the next door garden and do their best to spoil this by digging up the grass in their search for worms and other badger titbits

Ron Dolling

Lives Remembered

<i>Ken Smith</i>	<i>3 March 2006</i>
<i>Revd Ken Southern</i>	<i>4 March 2007</i>
<i>David Gibson</i>	<i>19 March 2009</i>
<i>Beryl Bonney</i>	<i>21 March 2012</i>
<i>Peter Hattersley</i>	<i>24 March 2017</i>
<i>Robert Patrick</i>	<i>8 April 2001</i>

Church Secretary

Christine Rogers 01 935 815216

It seems a long time since our last Church Meeting at the end of November, but here are a few points from the minutes

Lyn Crocker and Mollie Hooper are now leading Junior Church

The Budget for 2017/18 shows £22,000 for giving to good causes. Giving to Church-linked charities same as last year. Agreed to give £1,500 to "Hope for Lugazi", (education charity based in Uganda and Malawi with which Jackie Bullen is involved), and similar amount to the Myanmar DEC appeal, for which a retiring collection was also held

54 Cheap Street, the Jeweller's, to fall vacant at the end of January. Church Council to set up a working party to consider its possible use for outreach purposes

Our six beautiful banners which were displayed again during the Christmas Tree Festival, were embroidered by a former church member, Margaret Bacon, who celebrated her 100th birthday on January 19th. Margaret now lives in Cumbria, still independently in her own home but near to family. George Hamill made her a lovely card, showing the banners, and we sent flowers for her birthday

Some ten years ago, Don Farquharson took over organising the Christmas Tree Festival from its founder, Yve Ackroyd. As Don now hands over to Colin Billington, we should like to express our huge debt of gratitude to him and to all the team who have given so freely of their time. The Festival has given great pleasure to people of all ages who have come flocking through our doors, and it has helped many to appreciate the meaning of Christmas. In addition, we have been able to donate many thousands of pounds to good causes of our choosing. Thank you so much, Don

During what has seemed like a very long wait for a new minister, we have been very fortunate for the care and support received from so many people - from supernumerary URC Ministers, Margaret Tilley and Colin Marsh, from the Abbey staff and from the Circuit, especially this last year from Bryan Coates whose preaching has inspired and challenged us. Christina Le Moignan has always been there for us, and we are grateful to Stella and John Hayton for seeing us through the process of calling a URC Minister. Exciting times now lie ahead. As we prepare to welcome the Revd Duncan Goldie to the Sherborne and Shaftesbury Pastorate, we are only too aware that we need to prepare ourselves for a renewed vision as Christ's hands and feet in Sherborne. Our Covenant Service pointed the way. Lent is a good time to begin the journey

Dates for your Diary

14th February - Ash Wednesday 11.30am Service led by Revd Bryan Coates followed by a frugal lunch

2.00pm Meeting of the Church Council

2nd March - Women's World Day of Prayer 11.00 am at the RC Church

11th March - Mothering Sunday

13th March - Church Meeting 7.00pm

NB - changed from 8th March (original date) 25th March - Palm Sunday

with Revd Bryan Coates

29th March - Maundy Thursday

7.00pm with Revd David Marl

30th March - Good Friday Walk of Witness Meet at the Green at 10.50am. Church open from

10.30am - 3.00pm for private prayer

1st April - Easter Sunday.

WFA with Holy Communion and a celebration of our **Church Anniversary**

led by Revd Christina le Moignan

When you feel alone, remember Me

*When your heart is heavy with sorrow,
think of Me*

And when you long for peace,

feel My hand upon your brow

Do not forget I am with you always
