



## 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

The Revd Duncan Goldie  
01935 812916

### 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 389662

### Church Secretary

Sue Way  
01935 804553

## NEWSLETTER

### 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020

#### PREFACE

It's not every day I get an email headed 'Romance!'. Read on for the explanation.

George Faris

#### DUNCAN'S MESSAGE

Pentecost

Psalms 104, Numbers 11:24-30, Acts 2:1-21,  
1 Corinthians 12:3-13, John 20:19-23.

Like the early church, we are in a position due to the Coronavirus where we are waiting for promised things to happen and life that has been on hold to begin again in a new way. With the coming of the Holy Spirit, the church broke free of its isolation and found its ability to tell and bring the person of the crucified and risen Jesus into the lives of others, three thousand on the first day.

In the time of the lockdown and with the suspension of all activities that require us to meet together, the church has not been silent but has been finding new ways to speak to people through online services and messages as well as more traditional ways such as posted letters. The Holy Spirit has been moving us all in different ways.

In John's gospel, Jesus breathes on the disciples and the unseen Holy Spirit changes the lives of the disciples. A change that Paul talks about in his letter to the church at Corinth. Not everyone receives the same gifts, but everyone's lives are changed and will never be the same again.

At the moment with the Covid-19 pandemic, we are very familiar with something unseen changing the way we live and the world we live in. In a different way the Holy Spirit changes us bringing life and joy, unlike Coronavirus that brings isolation, sadness and death. As Christians we are not immune to the effects of Covid-19 but with God's Spirit within us we have a far more powerful and positive force shaping and changing us and the world about us.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 394 *Spirit of God, unseen as the wind*. Click for: [Salisbury Cathedral YouTube version](#)

#### 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 continue to hold in prayer all those who are in special need: Phyllis Batchelor; Duncan's mother; Gill Hunt; Kathy Crew; Colleen and Don Farquharson; Clive and Jill Turner, Ellie and Sophie; Janet Dolling and her family; Judith Hayward and her family; Eileen Higgins; John Hicks's family; Rebekah-Joy Spinks and her family; the Miller family; Janet Baker; Martin Heal and Alex Palmer.

#### CHRISTINA LE MOIGNAN'S THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

So, we are coming out of 'lockdown'. While this is welcome news, it doesn't seem to be as simple as going into lockdown was. When we had to stay at home except for a few, clearly understood, situations, we knew where we were. Now we don't. What does 'staying alert' mean? What will 'maintaining social distance' mean for people having to organise their shops for returning customers? Will customers return anyway, or will they decide it is better to shop on line? Will our high streets survive? How long will governmental support for businesses go on, and what will the tax bill be at the end of it all? The questions are endless.

Of course some people, though I guess quite a small minority, are not even trying to be responsible about being 'unlocked' and are simply doing whatever they like. But many of us, who would like at least to aim at doing the right thing, are genuinely confused about what the right thing is. What about visiting family? When is it OK to go to the beach? What should I be doing about getting my hair cut? Again, the questions keep coming.

Some people have shown real imagination about how to adjust to this complicated situation. I was moved by the report on the television about a care home that had arranged 'drive-by' visits by the families of its elderly residents. These fully observed social distance, but relatives who had not seen each other for weeks, and who must have feared that they might never meet again, were able to talk to, and be with, each other - and they were thrilled.

The apostle Paul has some wise words to say about how to use freedom. Writing in the letter to the Galatians (ch 5, v 13), he says, 'For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence.' More positively, he says in his letter to the church at Philippi (ch 2, v 4), 'Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others'. And in the next verse he gives us the secret of doing that: 'Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus'. Perhaps the best contribution we can make, then, in coming out of lockdown in the right way, is to look at all the complex and difficult questions with the mind of Christ; to pray that we shall discern what that mind is; and to ask his help, for ourselves and others, in following that mind.'

Hymn 504, Singing the Faith 504, Hymns & Psalms 739: *May the mind of Christ my Saviour* ([a YouTube version](#)).

## PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Islamic extremist ideology persists in Iraq, despite the apparent demise of the so-called Islamic State. But violence against Christians is far from over. Attacks, abductions and murders are still happening, and Christians from Muslim backgrounds are particularly vulnerable. To add to their problems, Covid 19 cases are increasing sharply, with over 5,000 confirmed and a substantial number of deaths.

Lord Jesus, we praise You that the number of Christians attacked or killed decreased in 2019 and pray that this trend would continue. Please enable Iraqi Christians to return safely to their homes and communities and give them the strength and hope to rebuild for the future. Amen

## NEWS

*Ali Berry writes:*

One of the ladies on my meal delivery round is desperate for romantic novels to read! Can anyone can donate books? They can call me on 07814784732.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

BBC1: 10 am Celebration for Pentecost from Gorton Monastery, Manchester.

BBC1: 11 am - this week from Hereford Cathedral.

Radio 4: 8.10 am – Pentecost Service from City Church Cardiff (Elim).

Methodist resources: [click here](#).

URC resources: [click here](#). The digital edition of the URC monthly magazine *Reform* is on free access during the lockdown: [click here](#).

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

## URC WESSEX SYNOD PENTECOST SERVICE

*An invitation from the Revd Clare Downing, Moderator of the URC Wessex Synod:*

You are warmly invited to join the special synod service being held at 4 pm on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May. Members of the Synod Team will be leading our worship to celebrate Pentecost together.

Among other contributions, Ruth White will be leading some interactive prayers for all ages. She has asked that if possible you can bring a sheet of paper or light card, a pen (or several coloured pens if you want), some light paper - tissue, kitchen roll, toilet paper - and you could bring scissors, but they are optional. All will be revealed on the day.

We are using *Zoom*. Those who are taking part in the service will be visible on the screen, but those attending will not appear on screen, so you don't need to worry about having a camera. It also means that we don't have a limit on the number of people who can join in. The link for the service is: [Wessex Synod Pentecost Zoom](#). Should you need them, the meeting id is: 893 4602 2745 and the password is: 766783. You should be able to join in simply by clicking on the link. There will also be a link on the synod website to a recording of the service if you are not free on Sunday afternoon. I hope that many people across Wessex Synod will be able to join in worship together to celebrate on this special day.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

The newsletter is compiled by Penny Gardner or George Faris so please send contributions by midday Wednesday to:

Penny Gardner [pennylgardner@gmail.com](mailto:pennylgardner@gmail.com) 01935 389153  
and to George Faris [gfaris48@gmail.com](mailto:gfaris48@gmail.com) 01935 420258