



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
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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

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Sue Way
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NEWSLETTER

4TH JUNE 2020



Thursday - Thought for the Day -

By Christine Rogers

For a few weeks now Local Preachers and Worship Leaders have been meeting on Tuesday mornings for a chat on Zoom, organised by Kate Rawlins. There were about ten of us linked together last week when Kate asked us what we were enjoying most about lockdown. I must admit that my first reaction was one of shock. What was there for us (mainly) golden oldies to enjoy about being told to stay at home, keep two metres apart from everyone, with all social events and gatherings cancelled and the outing of the week being an early morning visit to the supermarket with the added burden of deciding whether or not to wear a mask.

So here we are at the end of Lockdown! Or are we? What a confusing time. I think Christina talked about the confusion last week. In a way I feel like someone about to make a parachute jump for the first time. The door is open and I am clinging fast to the door, not sure that I want to step out.

It has been a sad week. We have lost a good friend from Cheap Street Church (See news below)

Most of us have been praying for Martin Heal who has been extremely unwell for all of the lockdown period. Yesterday's news was that Martin has been taken into hospital with a perforated stomach. We await further news of a CT scan that he had on Monday. I feel sure that Pat and Martin are aware of the amazing prayer support that you are giving them.

The world news is upsetting too. George Floyd's death at the hands of a police officer in the USA has unleashed an underlying fury worldwide. How will it end? What can we do? (See Sojourners below) What I find I am doing is crying. What about you? I think it might be far more constructive for me to do as suggested. Spend time with Jesus. Listen to what the last few weeks have taught me. Pray a lot more. Then let go of the door and step out with confidence that we have a God who is with us.

May you have many blessings in the coming week.

Penny

So what would your answer be? Mine was to say how much I've enjoyed the morning bird song in my garden, which seems to be much louder than in "normal" times. I've just discovered that one reason for this may be that blackbirds are building a nest in the corner at the back of a dense shrub. A lot of people mentioned the benefit of a slower pace of life, the cutting out of so much, especially meetings, providing much more time for reading, reflection, prayer and chatting on the phone.

This led me to wonder what we've enjoyed most about the new ways we've used to be "church" at this time. We have no doubt all concluded that a building does not define the church and is actually immaterial to its existence. In a small measure, we have experienced what it means for those who were and are followers of Christ who cannot show their faith by coming together in an overt way because of the hostility of the environment in which they live. Well, the church has so often flourished in such circumstances, and we have all heard accounts of those who have found a new or renewed faith in this time of lockdown. Ruth Farrant talked about one church which had begun to run an alpha course on line in the evening and was amazed by the numbers signing up for it, especially younger people, people who would normally find it difficult to leave home because of caring for their families. As we begin to wonder how to open up our buildings – and it will be lovely to be able to meet again – let us remember the lessons learnt over these last weeks and how they might impact on future plans. Do we really just want to return to the old normalities?

Last weekend Pentecost brought home to us the experience of the coming of the Spirit with the rush of violent wind and the descent of forked tongues of fire

on those fearful, self-isolating disciples. This was how the church was born – in power, and very publicly. We all found our own way to celebrate this tremendous event, many on our own physically but together through a service on the radio or television or on line, or perhaps just reading the scriptures and a hymn and spending time in prayer. I've enjoyed all sorts of services during these last weeks, across many denominations – denominations now also seem to have become remarkably irrelevant. I particularly appreciated the URC service last Sunday on U-tube, having lit my candle and prepared my bit of brown bread and (very small) glass of sherry to join in communion. The whole experience was as moving and challenging as any service in a church building.

Some words from **Psalm 104**

Bless the Lord O my soul, Lord God how great you are.

Wrapped in a garment of glory and might. Clothed in light as in a robe.

Lord my God, great are your works; in wisdom you made them all.

Rich is the earth and filled with your life. Bless the Lord, O bless my soul.

All of your creatures look up to you to give them their food in time.

You give with abundance they gather it up. By your hands they have their fill.

Send forth your spirit O Lord and renew the face of the earth!

Singing the Faith 394

Spirit of God Unseen as the Wind

Margaret V Old (1932-2001) © Scripture Union Tune: Skye Boat Song

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,

gentle as is the dove;

teach us the truth,

and help us believe,

show us the Saviour's love.

1. You spoke to us, long, long ago,

gave us the written word;

we read it still, needing its truth,

through it God's voice is heard.

2. Without your help, we fail our Lord,

we cannot live His way;

we need your power, we need your strength,

following Christ each day.

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Pour down your Spirit on us, so that we may be made new and strong, and - through our words and actions - show your love to all those with whom we come into contact today and in the days to come. Amen

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: Martin Heal; 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; Alex Palmer.

PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Prayers for the persecuted church: Egypt - At least 23 Christians were killed in Egypt in 2019, and the level of violence Christians face remains high. Religious freedom for Christians is not fully guaranteed, and I.S. have vowed to wage war against them. Let us pray

for Christian women and girls, who are often vulnerable to abduction and forced marriage, and that the Egyptian police and courts will treat Christians justly and without discrimination. Amen

Ministers thoughts for next Sunday June 7th.

By Duncan

Lectionary Readings for week beginning 7th June 2020.

Psalm 8, Genesis 1:1-24a, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20.

Despite Paul's instruction in his letter to the church at Corinth, one thing which we cannot do at the moment is greet each other with a holy kiss. But what we can do is reflect on the wonder of God, and pray God's blessing on one another. The bible begins with a reflection on the greatness of God, as seen in creation, something that we find again in Psalm 8, as it reflects on the wonder of God and how God chooses to relate to us.

This Sunday is often called Trinity Sunday, and we reflect on the wonder of God, through the doctrine of the Trinity, the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three persons in one Godhead. As we reflect on the wonder of God, it is something that takes us beyond the limits of our minds and imagination. We may never fully understand the wonder of God, but it is good to spend some time reflecting on the wonder of God, and all that God means to us. It is something that helps to understand and live out the roles that we have, in the world we live in.

In our world today we have spent a lot of time reflecting on the virus, Covid-19. While knowledge of it has increased, there is still much we do not know, or fully understand. But in the light of current knowledge, incomplete as it is, we are working out how we live our lives.

In our world today, it is important that we use our reflection on the wonders of God, to guide us as to how we live out our lives and change our lives and our world so that it better reflects the love of the wonderful God who created it and us. One instruction from Paul, that we can follow that will help us do this, is to bless one another with the grace of God.

'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.'

Hymn Singing The Faith 82. **O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder**

From Sojourners

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

- Isaiah 58:6 (NIV)

If you live in this system of white supremacy, you are either fighting the system or you are complicit. There is no neutrality to be had towards systems of injustice, it is not something you can just opt out of.

- Ijeoma Oluo

Dearest Jesus, come and sit with us today. Show us the lies that are still embedded in the soul of America's consciousness. Unmask the untruths we have made our best friends. For they seek our destruction. And we are being destroyed, Lord. Reveal the ways the lies have distorted and destroyed our relationships. They break your shalom . . . daily. Jesus, give us courage to embrace the truth about ourselves and you and our world. Truth: We are all made in your image. Truth: You are God; we are not. You are God; money is not. You are God; jails, bombs and bullets are not.

- Martin Luther King Jr.

'We are sad to tell you that **Charles Pennington** has died. Charles lived latterly in a nursing home in Newbury, and suffered from Parkinson's disease. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, but is now reunited with his beloved wife Liz, (the Revd Liz Pennington, who died in 2016). Please remember Michael and Mark, Charles's two sons, and say a thank-you prayer for Charles.'

Thank you.
Christina Le M.

Please note there has been this week a fraudulent e-mail pretending to be me so please be aware. Seeking to gain money. One give away is not only the poor English, but it does not use my e-mail address.
Duncan

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: 10.45 am Trinity Sunday from St Davids Cathedral in Pembrokeshire..

Radio 4: 8.10 am – Sunday Worship from Northern Ireland

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 \(click here to subscribe\)](#).

STPAULS@THEGRYPHON service is live at 10.30 am on YouTube

CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

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

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