



# 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

## Church Secretary

Sue Way  
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# NEWSLETTER

11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020

## PREFACE

This is the 13<sup>th</sup> newsletter. Penny and I welcome contributions. It's really helpful if we have them by lunchtime on Wednesday.  
George Faris

## DUNCAN'S MESSAGE

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Psalms 100, Exodus 19:2-8a, Romans 5:1-8,  
Matthew 9: 9-23 & 9:35-10:8.

In this week's reading from Matthew's gospel, Jesus picks his leadership team and gives them authority to act on his behalf, along with instruction on how they should use that authority. They are to act in accordance with the love of God and bring that love into the lives of the people they meet.

When Jesus called Matthew to be one of his disciples, most people wondered why Jesus called someone like him. For most people Matthew, as a tax collector for the Romans, was one of their own who had chosen to side with occupiers and oppressors. Matthew is certainly not a perfect individual, and whether it was for financial gain or necessity, he has become a part of a repressive regime. In Matthew, Jesus saw something that everyone missed, and was different to Matthew's outward appearance; this enabled Matthew to leave behind his old life when Jesus called and begin a new one.

In this last week it is not only Covid 19 that is changing the world in which we live but also the protests in America and around the World, triggered by the murder of George Floyd by four policemen in Minnesota. Certain actions and ways of doing things are just not acceptable. There has to be a new way, a new normal based on justice and love of God for all people. It is a week that has tested the character of political, civil, police, religious, and military leaders in how they use the authority that has been entrusted to them for the good of all. Some, even while making mistakes have risen to the challenge while others have not.

It is always a challenge to do what is right, as Paul notes in our reading from Romans, but meeting that challenge in the right way shapes who we are becoming in Christ and through the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 1 *All people that on earth do dwell.*  
Click for: [Westminster Abbey coronation 60th anniversary.](#)

## MARTIN HEAL

Martin is home after a week in hospital. He returns next Monday for yet more tests to determine what is wrong. Pat writes: *Both Martin and I would like to thank all our Church family for your wonderful support during this difficult time. Your love and prayers mean so much to us.*

## 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.

## BARBARA PORTER'S THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A few weeks ago I walked through Pageant Gardens, newly opened. It was a delight to see a few people sitting on benches in the sun, a dad playing with a small child and a couple of lads, twelve or thirteen years old, kicking a football to each other. A woman went up to them, shouting and wagging a finger. 'Can't you read? You can't bring a ball in here.' Poor lads. The woman was perfectly correct but where else in Sherborne could they kick a ball about? Should I have defended them? I didn't. I thought of families stuck in high rise flats with stroppy teenagers or troublesome two-year olds. A nightmare. How do they decide what activities they can allow their children to do – keeping social distance but promoting their physical and mental well-being?

There has been controversy recently about whether or not children should go back to school. Ever a teacher, my view was 'yes. It is vital for their education, their social interaction and their mental health.'

Last week I saw a picture in the newspaper of a four-year-old on her first day at school. She was being greeted at the gate by two people in masks, plastic gloves, all the protective gear. They looked as though they had come off a spaceship, scary. The child was having her temperature taken, her hands sanitised. Her teddy taken away. No longer was I so sure of my views. If I were a young mum what would I do? I was glad it was not a decision I had to make.

In our current situation we are all having to make decisions about our own safety and the safety of others. Advice and regulations change from week to week. One week we are not allowed to do such and such. Next week that is acceptable. Can I bend the rules to do this week what I know I shall be allowed to do next week? Should I visit the supermarket? Mask? Gloves? Could I buy a takeaway coffee and sit on a bench in front of the Abbey? Is it all right for me to invite a friend for tea in the garden if we are careful to keep a safe distance? What to do if it rains? We each have to decide what is right for us and that will obviously depend on our circumstances, our own health and if we have someone for whom we are the carer. Our decision will also depend on the level of our fear.

Every day our newspaper carries a banner headline:  
YOU ARE NOT ALONE

A great headline but I would add five words to it.  
YOU ARE NOT ALONE FOR GOD IS WITH YOU.

Indeed we are not alone! And indeed God is with us! No

matter if we live on our own, unable to see family and friends, the Lord our God is with us.

There are dozens of short passages, texts, in the Bible, which bring us comfort, help in times of need. It would be easy to cherry pick, but I am sure that you will have favourites of your own. My two favourites are:

*When I am afraid I put my trust in you.* Psalm 56.3

*He helps us in all our troubles so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God.* 2 Corinthians 1.4 (Good News Bible)

Hymn: *Singing the Faith* 465: Guide me, O thou great Jehovah ([YouTube version](#))

Reading: Psalm 23

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for our many blessings. We ask forgiveness that we sometimes take them for granted. We pray for guidance and courage in a situation which none of us have experienced before. Strengthen our faith. We pray for those, wherever they are in the world, who are living with fear. Bring hope and comfort to them. We pray that you will guide our leaders and their medical advisers as they struggle to find a way forward. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

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

#### PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Extreme pressure from state and family makes it very difficult for Christians to live out their faith in **Algeria**. The government imposes strict rules on churches - they mustn't hold Bible studies, host foreign preachers or even run a Sunday school. In practice they can't function as churches. Let us pray that the government will relax its harsh laws and allow Christians to share their faith, so that the churches may flourish despite opposition and be a great witness to Christ.

Bless the work of Open Doors partners supporting the church in North Africa through training, distributing Christian literature and advocating for the rights of believers. Amen.

#### A POEM FOR JUNE 2020

*Barbara Porter also offers us this poem by Jez Alborough:*

Smiling is infectious  
you can catch it like the flu.  
When someone smiled at me today  
I started smiling too.  
I passed around the corner  
and someone saw someone grin.  
When he smiled I realised  
I'd passed it on to him.  
I thought about that smile  
then realised its worth.  
A single smile, just like mine  
could travel round the earth.  
So if you feel a smile begin  
don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic quick  
and get the world infected.

#### NEWS

*Jackie Bullen writes:*

Hope in Africa Covid 19 Appeal: We are delighted to be able to announce that £1, 075.50 has been donated by our church congregation in support of those suffering in Uganda, Kenya and Malawi. This is a wonderful response, for which we are extremely grateful. You can be assured that these funds will be put to very good use to assist those in greatest need.

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP

BBC1: 10.45 am - this week from Holy Trinity Platt, Manchester.

Radio 4: 8.10 am – Mass for the Feast of Corpus Christi from Westminster Cathedral.

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

#### METHODIST HOMES SUNDAY SERVICE

Methodist Homes (MHA) is hosting a service on YouTube at 3 pm on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June (also available later). Click on this link for more information: [MHA Sunday](#).

#### CIRCUIT ZOOM PRAYER MEETING

There will be a Yeovil & Blackmore Vale Circuit prayer meeting on Zoom on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 7.15 pm. Click this link [Circuit Prayer 19 June](#) from 7 pm to participate. Additional information: Meeting ID: 837 1661 2235, password: 547191.

#### THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF A CHURCH MEMBER

Dear Lord. My hair is such a mess that I might cover all the mirrors in the house, so I won't be able to see myself. I'm not vain – nothing to be vain about - but even if I wear a hat I look like a frightened witch who has lost her broomstick. I need a hairdresser. A friend tells me that his hair is nearly down to his shoulders. I've promised to buy him a ribbon to tie it in a ponytail. He was amused - I think.

In the beginning eggs flew off the shelves. Then it was self-raising flour. One could get it from the internet at £10 a bag but I was not prepared to pay that much. Last week it was caster sugar. I managed to get some and bought beetroot to make a beetroot cake before I remembered that it needed cocoa. Cocoa has gone with the wind.

I usually buy batteries from a man on the market. He hasn't appeared for months. In March my watch stopped, short. In April the kitchen timer pinged its last and since May the kitchen clock has stayed at ten to three. I never know what the time is. Lord, life is sometimes quite confusing. I often don't know what day of the week it is and when I look for the date in the newspaper I am not sure if I am looking at yesterday's paper.

It is good to see the family on Zoom and Facebook, but I want to give them a cuddle. Three family birthdays this month and no get-together.

Lord, when will the churches open? Even if it is only for quiet prayer? We could keep social distance and manage without singing. Streaming church services is all very well, but it isn't the same. Yes, I know that the church building is not the Church. I've said it often enough but nevertheless the building is a special place. I miss being part the church family, worshipping together.

Dear Lord, forgive me for troubling you with these trivialities. I know that they are negligible compared to the tribulations of others. Their tribulations are huge and may go on for a long time. Please give them strength, courage and hope. Guide us all Lord. I promise to try to be positive. Amen.

#### 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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and to George Faris [gfaris48@gmail.com](mailto:gfaris48@gmail.com) 01935 420258

