



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

25TH JUNE 2020

PREFACE

As well as the usual contributions, this week's newsletter has some poems written by Cheap Street members and a member's daughter. Many thanks.
George Faris

DUNCAN'S MESSAGE

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 13, Genesis 22:1-14, Romans 6:12-23,
Matthew 10:40-42.

Obedience to rules and regulations have been a feature of the battle to defeat Coronavirus in the current pandemic. Obedience to various rules that, given a free choice, we would rather not keep, is likely to be a feature of our lives for some time to come. In our reading from Genesis, Abraham has a very painful test of his obedience to God, with instruction to go and sacrifice his son Isaac. Isaac is the child that God has promised Abraham, that his descendants will come from, having sent away Hagar and his other son Ishmael. The sacrifice of Isaac is not a request that Abraham wishes to carry out and hopes not too, but his obedience to God means he will.

In many of the rules we obey, it is not for our own immediate benefit but for the benefit of others. In this past week it was good that the premier league and England footballer Marcus Rashford spoke out on the need to provide free school meals to children of poor families over what would normally be the summer holidays. His action will benefit not him, but many of the poorest children and families in our country.

Our obedience to God means that we are not slaves to vested self interest but we will speak out against injustices that have to be put right, whether that be racial, economic or social injustice. In our reading from Matthew, Jesus makes it clear this does not go unnoticed by God; even the smallest individual acts are important.

Hymn: *Singing the Faith* 470: Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided ([Click for Christ's Hospital Chapel Choir on YouTube](#)).

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 hold in prayer Paul Wilkins, who was in hospital briefly last week, and we continue to pray for 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.

LYNN HEATON'S THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Last year my husband, Richard, decided to leave parts of our garden lawn unmown to create a meadowlike area. When the area of mown lawn became dry and brown in the hot weather, the central unmown patch still flourished. A great number of different types of grasses sprung up, and colourful flowers blossomed! Bright yellow buttercups and birds-foot trefoil, white flowered pignut, which I had never heard of. Then one day we spotted a pinkish purple flower – a pyramidal orchid! I had certainly never seen one of those before! This year, in the patch of unmown lawn, the pyramidal orchid is flowering again, and I feel joyful seeing this rare and special wildflower. A flower we didn't plant. If we had carried on in our usual way of mowing the whole lawn, keeping things neat and tidy, conforming to what may be usual and acceptable, we'd have missed out! A little girl, who visited our garden, just loved running through the wild patch. It was an attraction to her!

When everything stays the same it may feel secure and comfortable. Maybe that's how we've been with Church? But if we are really followers of Jesus, we are always on a journey with changing scenery. Sometimes it's scenery we would rather not see, but we can hold on to Him and get through it into a new place. As we go forward, Jesus wants us to make way for His ways. We will only see His ways if we continue to connect and grow in Him, whether we are able to go to church or not. Sometimes His ways are radical and non-conforming as we know! But we are in the best place we could possibly be if we allow ourselves to be led by His Holy Spirit. That place is an amazing, nourishing place and Jesus wants nothing less for us! He wants us to be attracted to it, like the little girl who ran into the wild patch of our garden. He doesn't want us to just look at it, but to experience it. He wants to show us so much more than we could ever expect or imagine. This is the place the world needs to see - the joy of being in Him, and He in us! Let's go there!

Bible Reading: John 15: 4-17

Hymn: *Singing the Faith* 673 – Will you come and follow me [click for a recent YouTube lockdown version](#).

Prayer:

Loving Father God, thank you, that through Jesus, a Way was made for us to have an amazing relationship with you! May we focus each day, more on who you are to us and who we are in your eyes, rather than just on what you can do for us. Thank you for your Word that helps us to learn and grow and know you more. May we be open to your ways Lord, with all that limits us removed. Help us to stay connected to you – filled with the wonderful gift of your Holy Spirit, and in that place lead us to be encouragers to others. In Jesus name. Amen.

Church on hold?

Are we church on hold?
Waiting the return of the church of old?
Are we church on hold?
Embers fallen from the fire, growing cold?
OR
Are we church on fire?

Not waiting, but welcoming God's desire?
Let's be church on fire!
God, fan the sparks so the flames grow higher!

PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

There is an increasing emphasis on Buddhism in Myanmar, to the exclusion of all other faiths. More than 100,000 Christians have been forced to leave their homes because of the ongoing war in Kachin, Shan and Karen States. They are living in camps where they are denied access to food and healthcare.

Let us pray that displaced Christians living in camps will have protection, health and hope for the future, and for the government to be empowered in opposing radical Buddhist monks. Amen.

THIS IS THE DAY

A poem by Sue Bradshaw, Jackie Bullen's daughter

Suspended animation, that's where we find ourselves,
Caught between our past and our tomorrows.
We wonder how much time we should dwell on yesterdays
As we seek to put away all of our sorrows.

An unreflected day is a wasted one they say,
But dwelling on the past can be destructive.
So somewhere in-between is middle ground that can be found,
And we can turn our lives around and be constructive.

It's important that we learn from all our errors on the way
Self berating's not a good idea at all.
As we walk along the tightrope of reflection and progression,
Keep our balance, walking straight, walking tall.

So as we go through life it's important to remember,
Our past will always have its part to play.
But our future isn't written, it is there for us to make,
So with voices loud let's say "This is the Day".

This is the third of a series of 7 poems Sue has put on YouTube: [click for Sue's poems](#).

SUNDAY

A poem by Margaret Field

Sundays sometimes seem sad,
So slow, so solitary
Surrounding silences.

Sometime soon sadness
Slips sideways
Sunshine shimmering.

Supportive steps
Smaller spacing succeeding
Searching, seeking.

Singing songs
Searching sermons
Supplications soaring.

Sometime soon
Sabbath serenity
Soothes spiritually.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Radio 4: 8.10 am – Looking to the future hopefully, with John Bell of the Iona Community.

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

SHERBORNE ABBEY

Our friends in the Abbey are considering how to open their church for private prayer. There is more information on their website: [click for the Abbey](#). You can also see their pewsheets and click on to their recorded weekly eucharist.

DAME VERA LYNN



Raymond Wood offers us this tribute from Brian Draper on Radio 4's Thought for the Day on 20 June:

I loved what Sir Cliff Richard said this week of the time he guided Dame Vera Lynn to the stage, through crowds of veterans, for the 50th celebrations of VE Day in 1995. "They were reaching out to touch and get a smile from Vera," he said. "I heard the words: "God bless you... thank you... we love you.""

Of course, many of those first hearts to be captured by the Forces Sweetheart have long since gone ahead of her. But the fact that her most iconic song, *We'll Meet Again*, is cherished not just by the class of '39, but by their children's children, shows the power of a song to move us. How revolutionary, in a way, that it gave a nation of buttoned-up Brits the words to say. As Dame Vera said, [It was] a very basic human message of the sort that people want to say to each other but find embarrassing to put into words. And how fascinating, the song was almost banned for sentimentality. "As I saw it," she said, it "was reminding the boys of what they were really fighting for, the precious, personal things." A more feminine, spiritual complement, perhaps, within the context of conflict. And a reminder for us, beyond any present jingoism, to ask, What are we fighting for? For the song does reach to us. Offering hope and resilience, as referenced by the Queen, within the isolation of lockdown; and being carried on the air of the VE Day celebrations this May. I remember, that night, stepping outside to hear a distant trumpeter play its tune; people sang, and cheers arose, along with goose bumps on my arm.

It's not just that it connects us evocatively back to the war, but that it resonates with our universal longing for homecoming and reunion. And for me, in a sense, it begs an immortal question: "Will we meet again?"

When the journalist Cole Moreton dared to ask Dame Vera, in her final interview, whether she thought we would, beyond death, she replied, "I think there has to be something. What it is, I don't know. I wasn't brought up to pray. It's a difficult subject." That's where her music does the talking, like a psalm. But, as someone who was brought up to pray myself, I think of Jesus' promise to the thief on the cross, that they will be reunited that very same day. And I hope Dame Vera wouldn't mind me saying that her song enriches my faith in such a promise for us all. In the words of the veterans, God bless you, Dame Vera. Thank you. We love you. Until that sunny day.....

[Click for audio version](#)

THE GATHERING

This weekend *Christian Vision for Men* planned to hold a gathering for men in a field near Swindon. That's not possible so they're going online – see: [Bunker Edition 26 & 27 June](#)

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 01935 389153
and to George Faris gfaris48@gmail.com 01935 420258