



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

9TH JULY 2020

PREFACE

On Sunday I worshipped online in a Zoom service led from Yeovil with other people from Chard to Gillingham. On Monday I joined others from across the world joining online for a gallery view of the requiem mass in Dublin for Kathleen, the wife of a schoolfriend. I hope we can learn from our lockdown experiences as we return to a new normal.

George Faris

DUNCAN'S MESSAGE

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalms 119:105-112, Genesis 25:19-34, Romans 8:1-11,
Matthew 13:1-9 & 18-23.

This week has seen the allowed reopening of pubs, hairdressers and churches. You may have been tempted to get up early and queue up for a haircut. It is good that life is starting to return to a new normal but whether this progress continues will depend a lot on how we behave and whether or not we act from selfish motives or from seeking the good of others. The laws and the guidance given is a help but how we keep them depends on what is in our hearts. In Romans, Paul talks about this in terms of life lived empowered by the Holy Spirit and living life according to our natural nature.

The parable of the sower is a picture drawn from the agricultural practice of the time, with the seed being scattered on the ground then the field ploughed. Even today when you look at a field over a period of time, there are areas of a field where the seed does not grow or grow very well, and footpaths are soon remade. The problem is not with the seed that is planted, it is with the condition of the ground that receives it. For Jesus' teaching, its success depended on the hearts and minds of the people who received it. The good news is that, just as agricultural ground, or the soil in our gardens can be changed and improved, so can our hearts and minds. The Black Lives Matters movement and protests have highlighted that there are areas that we need to improve, not just for those on the wrong side of prejudice and injustice, but for the ultimate benefit of the whole of our society.

We will not always get everything right; but when we realise something is wrong, then we need to work to change it. At the moment, whilst we are looking at how we try and safely reopen our church buildings, your prayers for those making those decisions, are important. Inevitably as the situation with Covid 19 changes, as we learn from our experiences, and as we are guided by the Holy Spirit, what we do will change.

Hymn: *Singing The Faith 255*: The kingdom of God is justice and joy ([click for YouTube version](#)).

PASTORAL NEWS FROM EIRWEN COX

John Green met with his consultant this week and as a result he will start chemotherapy treatment within the next three weeks. Initially this will be 1 treatment every three weeks for 9 weeks, which will then be reviewed and a

decision made whether it needs to be continued. Unfortunately, John's immunity will be affected during this time and he will not be able to meet up with others. We send our love and prayers to both John and Sheila at this anxious time.

On a happier note **Geoffrey and Muriel Martin** have recently welcomed into their family the birth of a great granddaughter, Hazel. We send all the family our love and best wishes.

I had a lovely conversation with **Martin Heal** yesterday, he sounded like 'the old Martin' again! He is feeling much better but is still continuing with his treatment until 17 July. A week later he goes to the Yeatman Hospital for an ultrasound scan, We send our best wishes to Martin for his continuing recovery and also send our love and prayers to him and Pat.

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 pray for all those who are in special need: John Green; Janet Baker; Paul Wilkins; Martin Heal; Helen Winkworth and her family; Phyllis Batchelor; Duncan's mother; Gill Hunt; Kathy Crew; Clive and Jill Turner, Ellie and Sophie; Janet Dolling and her family; Judith Hayward and her family; Eileen Higgins; Janet Baker; Alex Palmer.

PENNY GARDNER'S THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I wonder how many of us thought we would set a task for ourselves during lockdown. Maybe it was to learn a language or some new skill. Geoff decided to find out more about trees. It has been really fascinating.

Though I have only been on the side-lines – I have learned too. Shortly after we were asked to isolate I was out for my daily walk-about when I noticed that there was a gnarled old tree that had fallen by the train station. It rather saddened me. You probably know which tree I am thinking of. But I had no idea what kind of tree it was. I asked Geoff and we discovered it was a yew. I wondered about how much life this tree had witnessed.

Geoff has spotted so many trees that he has been unable to identify. Magnificent trees. And small, perhaps insignificant trees. He has been known to knock on the door of the house where a tree lives to ask the owner what type of tree they have in their garden. More often than not they do not know.

But one day he found someone who knows all about trees. In Dorset they have employed a 'tree man' who keeps track of all the trees in the county. I guess he is there to settle any query about chopping a tree down or cutting it back. . . He is a font of knowledge of the trees in Dorset. He even has a book giving the name and location of trees recorded by the council.

Geoff wanted to go around Sherborne labelling trees so that

others might know their name.

This made me think of God calling us by name. . our God knows us. Inside and out. Where we are. Where we came from and when

Isaiah 43:1 *Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.*

Isn't that amazing?! Here we are sitting – often by ourselves – in isolation, in our homes. Possibly thinking we are forgotten.

Recently, as the country slowly comes out of isolation I have felt so side-lined. Being in here while the rest of the world seems to get on with life. A bit cautious about going out. And yet we can be reassured that the God we worship knows who we are, where we are and what we need. And these needs will be met.

Psalm 52:8 *But as for me, I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the loving kindness of God forever and ever*

So thinking again about the trees – These are like a gift from God. And by caring for these trees we will benefit and so will the future generations. Is there a tree near you that you would like to know more about?

A project – see how many times trees are mentioned in the Bible.

I thought the following hymn was relevant in more ways than one.

WE SHALL GO OUT WITH JOY

You shall go out with joy
And be let forth with peace,
And the mountains and the hills
Will break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy
And the trees of the fields
Will clap, will clap their hands.

And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
While you go out with joy.

[click for a YouTube version](#)

PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH VIETNAM

Believers from ethnic minority groups face the greatest persecution which includes harassment, violent attacks and social exclusion. Villagers often collude with local Communist authorities, beating believers, kicking them out of their villages and stoning places of worship. Let us pray for safety for those distributing Bibles and training believers, and that oppressive Communist authorities will be frustrated in their attempts to destroy the church. Amen.

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Last September a group of 22 people representing the URC travelled to the Holy Land to learn more about the situation in Israel and Palestine. There will be follow-up webinars on July 14 and 21. Click here for more information: [webinars](#).

THESE ARE THE HANDS

Raymond Wood offers this poem written by Michael Rosen

These are the hands
That touch us first
Feel your head
Find the pulse
And make your bed

These are the hands
That tap your back

Test the skin
Hold your arm
Wheel the bin
Change the bulb
Fix the drip
Pour the jug
Replace your hip

These are the hands
That fill the bath
Mop the floor
Flick the switch
Soothe the sore
Burn the swabs
Give us a jab
Throw out sharps
Design the lab

And these are the hands
That stop the leaks
Empty the pan
Wipe the pipes
Carry the can
Clamp the veins
Make the cast
Log the dose
And touch us last

Michael Rosen said doctors warned him he "might not wake up" shortly before putting him into an induced coma during Covid-19 treatment. He spent 47 days on a ventilator after being admitted to hospital in March. He said doctors "handed me a piece of paper and said you've got a 50/50 chance", to which he asked "are you telling me I might not wake up?". The ex-Children's Laureate, 74, said he was told "Yes", then I signed something." He recalled: "I think I was a bit light-headed but I remember thinking 'oh well a 50/50 chance'. I was quite sort of flippant to myself about it really."

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Radio 4: 8.10 am – *Sowing in a time of uncertainty* from the South Wales Baptist College.

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](#)).

MUSIC AT GILLINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Gordon Amery writes:

'I can't see us holding our traditional summer organ concerts this year, 5 of which had been planned. However, I have been exploring the possibility of GMC staging virtual concerts. I don't think we'd be able to live-stream events at present, but I see no reason why we couldn't record concerts (audio & video) and post them on the internet via Facebook, YouTube or on a cloud drive. Details have not been finalised yet, but I envisage releasing concerts for viewing on a weekly or fortnightly basis.

Like most other churches, GMC's finances have been hit by the pandemic and the income of many musicians has also been affected. We are therefore proposing to open a PayPal account or similar where people could make donations towards the concert if they felt so inclined. Any proceeds would be shared between the performers and GMC.'

Please let Gordon know (organ1234@btinternet.com, if you would be interested in logging on and supporting these virtual concerts.

Gordon's full email can be found at
[www.Facebook.com/MusicatGMC](https://www.facebook.com/MusicatGMC)

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This year's URC General Assembly was planned to be held in Birmingham this weekend. Instead on Saturday at 10.30 am there will be an act of worship to induct the new Moderators of the General Assembly, the Revd Clare Downing and Mr Peter Pay, and the new General Secretary, the Revd Dr John Bradbury. It will be live streamed – click on [URC on Facebook](#) or [URC website](#) from 10.15 am.

Clare was with us a year ago and Peter will be with us next March.

METHODIST CONFERENCE

This year's Methodist Conference met online recently rather than in Telford. Click here during July: [live-streams of public sessions](#)

SHERBORNE ABBEY

The Abbey is open for private prayer on Mondays and Thursday between 11 am and 1 pm.

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 01935 420258