



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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NEWSLETTER

16TH JULY 2020



I don't know about you – but I have learned and continue to learn so much from my children. My daughter is a meditator and teaches mindfulness. She sends out a regular newsletter to people she teaches. I thought the quote that she sent last week was particularly pertinent to us at this time.

SMALL KINDNESSES

"I've been thinking about the way, when you walk down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs to let you by. Or how strangers still say "bless you" when someone sneezes, a leftover from the Bubonic plague. "Don't die," we are saying. And sometimes, when you spill lemons from your grocery bag, someone else will help you pick them up. Mostly, we don't want to harm each other. We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot, and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder, and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass. We have so little of each other, now. So far from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange.

What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these fleeting temples we make together when we say, "Here, have my seat," "Go ahead — you first," "I like your hat.""

Danusha Laméris
Penny

Thursday Thought For The Day.

By Duncan

Who would have thought that the wearing of face masks would become a divisive political issue during this time of Corona virus pandemic? Listening to the recent lunch time Radio 4 'Any Questions' there was a sharp divide on the issue,

based on ideas of personal freedom. It is an issue that we will face when we meet together in our church buildings, rather than on Zoom or other media social conferencing platforms. Any service where we sit down together, even without hymns, will require us all to wear masks. Whether or not we like wearing them, or we believe they do any good.

Galatians 5:1 & 13-14.

The freedom we have in Christ, and how we exercise it is a theme that Paul often explores in his letters, including in chapter 5 of Galatians. The freedom we have in Christ, through Jesus' death and resurrection, is not a licence to do just what we like or what suits us regardless of the impact it has on others. For Paul, not to act out of love towards others was not true freedom in Christ, but in reality a slavery to sin, and our lower human nature.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13.

In the Church in the city of Corinth that Paul first wrote this letter to, there is the issue of whether or not you could eat meat that had been offered in various temple services to the gods that many in that society believed in. For some in the Church, they were not real gods therefore it did not matter as it had no real effect on the meat or those who ate the meat. For others that left behind their belief in those gods when they came to faith in Jesus, it was a problem. Paul's answer is that because of the impact it will have on others and the freedom you have in Christ, you will in that situation not eat the meat offered to idols.

In Christ we have the freedom to act out of love in a way that helps others, and in our current time that involves the wearing of masks, whether or not it is our personal wish to do so, or it becomes illegal not to do so.

Hymn - Singing the Faith 503. Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.

Church Building Opening News

On the 13th July the councillors that could, met on

Zoom for an informal meeting. The main point of discussion was how do we initially seek to reopen our church buildings. It was decided that we would try to reopen for private prayer. Initially we would open on a Saturday for a couple of hours. We will open once we have completed the legally required risk assessment and have all the cleaning procedures and necessary stewarding and safeguarding in place. Along with this we are going to be placing prayers in the grounds of the church and inviting people to write their own prayers which will be placed in the church gardens. It is hoped to be able to reopen the Church for private prayer by mid August. Depending on how the situation with Covid-19 develops we hope to gradually expand the use of our premises.
Duncan

CHEAPSTREETER

Dear Friends
I am beginning to compile the next Cheapstreeter, which I hope to have ready for distribution by the end of next week. If you have a contribution, please would you let me have it by Wednesday
Many thanks
Raymond

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.

PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Turkmenistan –

Persecution in this strongly Islamic culture comes both from the state and from society. Any churches beyond state-controlled and state-run institutions are seen as a threat to the government, so the authorities want to control or eradicate them. The printing or importing of Christian material is restricted and Protestant churches are repeatedly raided, threatened and fined. Let us pray that Christians will be free to meet and worship and that believers will have courage to share their faith. Also that isolated believers from Muslim backgrounds will find ways to meet safely with other Christians. 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](#).

Duncan's Thoughts for this Coming Week

Lectionary Readings for week beginning 19th July 2020.

Psalm 139; Genesis 28: 10-19; Romans 8: 12-25; Matthew 13: 24-30 & 36-43.

The last two verses of Psalm 139, are a prayer that we all should pray:

“Examine me O God, and know my mind, test me and discover my thoughts. Find out if there is any evil in me and guide me in the everlasting way.”

It is a prayer that comes at the end of a Psalm where we acknowledge that God knows us better than we know ourselves and that God sees better than us not only our words and actions but also the true motives behind those actions. The visual imagery of the parable that Jesus tells in our reading from Matthew invites God to do some weeding.

In Genesis we meet Jacob, as he is fleeing from his brother Esau, after he had, by deceit, received a blessing from his father Isaac, which was meant for Esau. The name Jacob reflects this as it means, 'to follow, or to be behind,' and 'to supplant, circumvent, assail, overreach'; all derived from the word in Hebrew for heel. The Jacob, who God appears to in a dream, is probably best described as a work in progress; he has his good points, but there are definite flaws in his character. It is this Jacob that God will guide, and over time change. Like Jacob, God does not wait for us to be perfected, before God starts guiding us and being at work in our lives.

In the current situation of lock down and its easing, a situation that is far from ideal, God is still at work, which gives us hope for today and for a future that is very hard to predict. With the competing voices or seed planters, we need more than ever to study our bibles and pray so that we can enable the good seeds to grow in us whilst carefully discarding the weeds that some are trying to plant in us.

Hymn - Singing The Faith 440. Amazing Grace - How Sweet the Sound

From Sojourners

Verse

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

- Hebrews 11:1 (NRSV)

Voice

Hope is subversive precisely because it dares to admit that all is not as it should be. And so we are holding out for, working for, creating, prophesying, and living into something better — for the kingdom to come, for oaks of righteousness to tower, for leaves to blossom for the healing of the nations, for swords to be beaten into ploughshares, for joy to come in the morning, and for redemption and justice.

Sarah Bessey

Prayer

God, challenge our apathy, our limited imaginations, our aversion to the impossible. Keep us attuned to the ways you are moving and working within us and within this world, that we may rise with you each day to live into what could be

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Radio 4: 8.10 am – *A Word For All Seasons* with Fr Michael Hall from Yorkshire. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0001w9>

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 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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