



## 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

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### 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

23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2020

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I think this is the 19<sup>th</sup> newsletter since the start of lockdown. Penny and I are grateful for all the contributions you have made and for your thanks. This week we're trying a different format. This should work better on mobile phones. The font size has been increased to help those whose eyesight is no longer 20/20. We welcome your views. Our contact details are at the end of the newsletter. I'm wondering when I can go for a much-needed haircut.

George Faris

### DUNCAN'S MESSAGE

#### Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 105, Genesis 29:15-28, Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-33 & 44-52.

Can anything separate us from the love of God? The answer to that we know is that because of what Jesus has done through his death on the cross and his resurrection that there is nothing that God will permit to come between us and God's love. It is not that certain things or people will not try and separate us from God's love but if we seek to remain in God's love nothing can succeed in separating us from God's love.

In Psalm 105 the psalmist is reminding his readers the way that God has worked in the past to look after his people, beginning with Joseph's misfortune of being sold into slavery in Egypt and his imprisonment, before God used and changed Joseph's situation to save the people of Israel and other nations including Egypt from famine. And then how God brought his people out of slavery in Egypt to be an independent nation. The Psalmist sees in the past actions of God that they cannot be separated from God's love and is encouraging the people of Israel to remain faithful in the midst of the current situation with its uncertainties and challenges.

In our face of the current challenges of the Covid 19 pandemic and the need to address the challenges of social injustice and racism in our society, it is important to remember we cannot be separated from God's love. We too can look back at the past and see how God has acted to change things in what seemed too very difficult or unpromising circumstances. When William Wilberforce set out to end slavery in what were then the British Colonies, it was seen by many as a hopeless cause but on the 26th July 1833 'The Abolition of Slavery Act was passed in the house of commons and became law a month later. Something William Wilberforce did not live to see as he died on the 29th July 1833.

The future is hard to predict, and it remains to be seen if we will reach some kind of new normal by Christmas, but in whatever happens we will remain connected to God through God's love for us.

Hymn: *Singing The Faith* 363 My Jesus, my Saviour ([click for YouTube version](#))

## MRS GILL HUNT

Colleen Farquharson writes:

Our dear friend and neighbour, Gill Hunt, died on Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup> after a long illness. Not many people will know Gill, but she was a long-standing member of Cheap Street and very involved when we arrived 28 years ago. She was such a fun-loving person with a gorgeous sense of humour, and it has been a privilege to live next door to Gill and John. Both have not had good health, but they have been such an inspiration.

## 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 pray for John Hunt and his family at this sad time and 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; 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.

## SUE WAY'S THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – A QUIET PLACE

I was hoping to be at Lee Abbey Retreat Centre this week but obviously that is not possible.

I went on my first Quiet Day in September 1996 at Compton Durville. I was invited by a friend and wasn't sure what to expect. I was quite hesitant but in fact it was a lovely experience.

This led me to go on Retreats there and subsequently to lead Quiet Days and Retreats myself.

It is easier to be quiet in Retreat houses where there is space and silence than to find space for quiet prayer and reflection in our daily lives.

One way which I find helpful is belonging to the Northumbria Community which has the book *Celtic Daily Prayer* as the basis for worship and reflection.

I am using parts of morning prayer for Thursday July 23<sup>rd</sup> for our thoughts today.

The first reading is Psalm 131 entitled: *Childlike Trust*.

It sounds so simple but in fact we sometimes look for complicated explanations.

The second reading is Mark 6: 30 & 31 entitled: *A quiet place*.

Jesus says: *Come with me. We will find a quiet place to be alone.*

Whether we think of this as a physical space or the peacefulness of silent prayer, I find it important to have this space with God.

*Canticle:*

Christ, as a light  
illumine and guide me.

Christ, as a shield  
overshadow me.

Christ under me;

Christ over me;

Christ beside me

on my left and my right.

This day be within and without me,  
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;  
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.

This day be within and without me,  
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.  
Christ as a light;  
Christ as a shield;  
Christ beside me  
on my left and my right.

The sentence: *Christ as a shield overshadow me* made me think of the Graham Kendrick song *Holy Overshadowing* - [YouTube](#) - which I first sang at Lee Abbey in January.

Below you will find our prayer this morning which begins *Speak to me, Lord* and the also the Celtic Blessing: *May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you.*

Speak to me, Lord, give me Your peace.  
Show me the way to go.  
I need Your love, I need Your strength,  
all of my needs You know.

Be by my side, be in my heart.  
Be in my every prayer.  
Filling my life, filling my soul,  
all of the time be there.  
Give me Your love  
- Give me Your peace.

Amen.

*Blessing* - [YouTube](#):

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,  
wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
once again into our doors.

Every blessing,  
Sue

## PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

### CHINA

The Communist Party of China aims to tightly control all religions in the name of national unity, and persecution has increased over the past year. Christians are targeted because they are the largest social force in China that isn't controlled by the state. Children under 18 are forbidden to attend church. Let us ask God to comfort and protect believers from Muslim or Buddhist backgrounds; for protection for those sharing the gospel with children, and that the love of Christ will transform leaders of the Communist Party. Amen.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

Radio 4: 8.10 am – *Great is Thy Faithfulness*, a service preparing for this year's *Virtually Keswick Convention*.

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 has written announcing the first online organ recital at Gillingham. It will go live at 3 pm on Sunday 2 August and will be *A Celebration of JS Bach*. For more information click here: [www.Facebook.com/MusicatGMC](http://www.Facebook.com/MusicatGMC).

### UNITED REFORMED CHURCH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This year's URC General Assembly took place on 11 July as a single act of worship. It's available here: [GA 2020](#).

### 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:

Penny Gardner  
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