



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
01 935 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

Christine Rogers
01935 815216

NEWSLETTER

20TH MARCH 2020

Hello!

Who would have imagined less than 10 days ago, that our churches would be closed and that seeing our friends and neighbours would become so difficult (and life threatening?!) The world has changed overnight. While we adjust to the next several weeks a group of us from the church thought that it might be helpful to keep in touch with those on the internet. If it is possible, perhaps the pastoral leaders could run off copies for those that don't have email. In the meantime – don't hesitate to contact your pastoral leader if you would like some help or to just talk. Also the people that you are not seeing would like some news from you. So please let us know how you are doing and send us anything that you think is thought provoking, interesting or news worthy.

There are a so many good things happening in our communities. You might already be involved. That would be of interest and bring hope to others. Do take care of yourselves. And Keep in Touch.

God Bless you,
Penny

Did you know –

- There is a website and Facebook site called *Sherborne Viral Kindness*. This offers people the ability to volunteer as well as get help. It is my understanding that there is some coordination with the Doctor's surgeries in town – so medicines can be delivered. Visit the site. They are very pleased to answer any questions
- The Methodist Church is communicating within the Circuit to how they can best help. Also how they are going to be affected by the financial shortfall
- All the Syrian men who have come to the Sherborne Area have offered to help in whatever way they can. They are especially available for the elderly that are isolating. They would like the chance to show their appreciation for the support that you have given them

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: Colleen Farquharson; Clive Turner and Jill, Ellie and Sophie; Muriel Martin; Myra Heard; Janet Dolling and her family; Judith Hayward and family; Denise and Peter Gould; Eileen Higgins; John Hicks family; Janet Baker; Duncan's mother, Margaret; Robin Legg and Alex; and Rosemary McCleery

We have news from Don that Colleen's ailment has been diagnosed and can be treated. She will hopefully be home in the next few days as they are emptying beds in the hospital for treatment of the COVID 19.

Thoughts from Duncan

Hope & Triumph in Adversity!

Sometimes there are pieces of music that provide a backing soundtrack to life and events. For contesting brass bands between the beginning of the year and now, it is the annual Area Test piece that is set for this year for Sherborne Town Band, it was a piece called Legacy by Tom Davoren. It is a piece that was written to celebrating Aneurin Bevan and the creation of the National Health Service on the 5th of July 1948. The notes said it was about portraying the triumph and hope in adversity

In the midst of this Coronavirus Pandemic, it seems to me that, as Christians, we might have something positive to contribute in the form of the hope and triumph Jesus gives in the face of adversity

READING Mark 10:46-52. Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus

The story of Jesus' entry into blind Bartimaeus's life is a story of triumph and hope over adversity. Bartimaeus knew what it was to see and have sight, and knows the difference between the darkness his eyes now transmit to him. It is clear that he has not given up the hope of seeing again, and when Jesus passes by, where he is begging from pilgrims, he will not be silent. His hope of seeing again is fulfilled and adversity of his blindness is banished. Bartimaeus will go on to see another even greater triumph of God and hope over the adversity of death and human sinfulness, in Jesus' death on the cross, and Jesus' resurrection after three days. As Christians what we have is hope, not immunity to adversity. Hope for today and for eternity

READING Psalm 23:1-6.

In recent days we have seen some of the best and the worst of humanity. There have been people stealing dispensers of antiseptic hand wash from hospitals where it is most needed. Stockpiling and panic buying. In Wincanton, the Roman Catholic Church had its toilet rolls stolen. But we have also seen others that risked contracting the virus, in order to care and look after those who are ill with the virus.

Yes we may have to self isolate at times, and speak on the phone or via the computer, but with God with us, it will not drag us down into fear and selfishness, for hope of the Cross will triumph in this Coronavirus adversity

The presidents of Churches Together in England (CTE) have issued a call to prayer and action in the light of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. On Mothering Sunday (22 March) the presidents are asking churches and people of prayer to light a candle in the windows of their homes at 7.00pm as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished." Mothering Sunday has always been both a day of celebration for many and a sensitive and emotional day for some. Wherever you are this Sunday please do join in this day of prayer and action and remember especially those who are sick or anxious, and all involved in our Health Service"

You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope.
Thomas Merton