



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

30TH JULY 2020



Many of us are wondering what the church is going to 'look like' when the doors finally open again. Will we be able to enjoy the fellowship as we have in the past? If we can't sing what will the service hold for us? Lots and lots of questions which still remain unanswered. But for a taste of worship - Please take note that the Abbey is now open a few times during the week and holding services on Sunday. (See the notice of Church Services). Lockdown has given many the opportunity to develop ideas for our New Church with a difference. Lynn Heaton has described her Prayer Garden (below) which will start today. Raymond Wood also laid out an idea for Granny's Friendship Benches in last week's Cheapstreeter. It could be an exciting time full of new possibilities. Do you have a vision that you would like to see happen in our church?

With love,

Penny

PRAYER GARDEN

As some of you now know, we are encouraging those outside the church to write prayers that could be placed in the Prayer Garden over the summer. To do this, we will need to have the church main door open (with the glass door locked), and will have a small table in the porch area. This means, whichever days we open the

main door, we need someone who holds a key to open up and close up each day. I am thinking 10am opening and 5pm close. I am prepared to do this a lot myself, and Geoff will too, but it would be great if any of you who are key holders could open or close up sometime. You would not need to be on duty at all. If you feel you could help sometimes please get in touch. Thank you!
Lynn Heaton 01963 251747



Last week Pat and Martin Heal's grandson Iggy, aged nine, received a letter from his Mum's boss. His mum is Caroline who works for the NHS as an occupational therapist.

The letter read:

"My name is Paul and I work with your Mum. I am the Chief Executive for the local Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust.

I am sending you this letter because I want you to know that your Mum is a true hero. She has worked really hard in our fight against Coronavirus.

You may have heard about Coronavirus on the news and you may have been worried about your Mum coming to work. I want to let you know we have worked really hard to make sure everyone that works for us is protected from the virus.

I know things have been strange and different and you may not realise this but you are also a really important part of our team. Your love, support and understanding is helping your Mum get through a really difficult and challenging time at work.

We've got lots more busy times ahead of us but we know that we will get through these when we have brilliant team members like you and your Mum.

Thank you so much for being part of the GHC team in our fight against Coronavirus and keep up the good work!

With best wishes.

Paul"

Pat and Martin thought this was a brilliant piece of public relations and thought they might share it. Paul's second name has been omitted as has the name of the trust for obvious reasons. Carrie was surprised when the letter arrived and Iggy was thrilled and proud. It shows a really thoughtful side to someone in authority who, we suspect, is more used to criticism than praise.

Thursday Thought For The Day.
by Margaret Field.

It is twenty weeks since I last took a Thought for the Day at Cheap Street. That was on 12th March and there was a Church Meeting at 7 p.m. and on Friday 13th March we were In Lockdown.

During this lapse of time when life was on hold, what have I learnt?

Well I now know many of my neighbours better and now count them as friends. Someone I barely knew often walks with me up the Coombe, keeping our distance. She has lived in Coombe all her life, with family nearby.

No one came into my home until June 15th when some family visited twice in the week. I have kept in touch with my family by email, phone and Skype.

I know I have come to value the simpler things in life because they surround me in my Garden and home. I value the radio, Radio 3, t.v. and my laptop. Books and poetry . I share with you from my battered Albatross of Living Verse from my schooldays

Part of Rupert Brooke in The Great Lover :

"These I have loved: White plates
and cups, clean-gleaming,
Ringed with blue lines; and feathery,
faery dust:

Wet roofs, beneath the lamp-light; the
strong crust

Of friendly bread; and many-tasting
food;

Rainbows; and the blue bitter smoke
of wood;

And radiant raindrops couching in
cool flowers;

And flowers themselves, that sway
through sunny hours,

Dreaming of moths that drink them
under the moon;

Then, the cool kindness of sheets,
that soon

Smooth away trouble; and the rough
male kiss

Of blankets; grainy wood; live hair
that is

Shining and free; blue massing
clouds; the keen

Umpassioned beauty of a great
machine;

The benison of hot water; furs to
touch;

The good smell of old clothes; and
other such -

The comfortable smell of friendly
fingers,

Hair's fragrance, and the musty reek
that lingers

About dead leaves and last year's
ferns.....

Just an extract, find it and read it all.

Yesterday I went to The Abbey at 9.30 a.m.
for a shortened service. There was no
singing but a homily and prayers, and a poem
to take home "A Bright Field" by R.S.Thomas.
I met Barbara and Dennis there and I hope to
go again next Sunday. I was so grateful that a
way had been found to be in God's house and
join in a service of Worship with other church
goers.

Reading Psalm 24, Metrical Psalm 806

Prayers - Lord, you came to give us life, and
life that was more abundant. Help me not to
run away from life but to follow your spirit,
To accept the thorn as well as the flower,
And to be grateful for the gift of life.

Lord, teach me to rest in you

teach me to see the sky and to think of nothing else but the joy of it.

Teach me to look at field and flower and be soothed by colours and seasons.

Teach me to close my eyes and to rest in the Love that has supported me
All my days.

Teach me, Lord, to rest in you.
Morning and evening prayers by Frank Topping.

From Martin Heal

My dear friends,
Just to share the good news that my scan this morning was very encouraging but it is subject to confirmation by my consultant of course.

The radiographer said there were no obvious signs of cancer, my stomach has healed well but there were other abnormalities which would probably heal naturally or with medication.

I was so delighted with his opinion that I bought an all-day full English breakfast and ate the lot - the first "proper" meal I have consumed enthusiastically since early March! Pat was amazed and almost cried with relief.

I had already put on a little weight but there is a long way to go on that front. I am feeling really well, although my legs are a little wobbly after walking any distance.

I thank my Father God for his comfort and strength over the past months and for giving me such amazing friends whose prayers have surrounded and upheld me.

Thank you for all your cards, texts, emails, verses of Scripture, phone calls, flowers, cakes and even sausages*. Most of all thanks for your steadfast friendship.

With love and appreciation, God bless you all,

Martin

* Who gave me the sausages you might ask. I am not saying who but I thought it more likely she would have sent a leek or a daffodil!

PS

On Wednesday Martin received a phone call from the hospital confirming all the above and saying he would be called for a checkup later in the year.

PASTORAL

I'm sure many of you will remember Evelyn Reeves who was a faithful member of our

church family for many years. Her daughter Carol often accompanied her mother to Thought for the Day and we got to know her very well. The whole family supported the Christmas Tree Festival for many years while Carol and her mother, over the years made many decorations, initially for the Meeting Point Tree and when Meeting Point ceased The Church Christmas Tree.

Carol's husband John had been ill for some time and sadly died in Intensive Care at Southmead Hospital Bristol on Thursday 24th July.

We send our love and prayers to Carol, her daughters Christin, Kerri and Ros and their young families and ask God's blessing on them all.

Eirwen

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

SUDAN has more that 30 years of Islamist rule, and is No. 7 on the World Watch List, but now plans to scrap the apostasy law, under which those leaving Islam are sentenced to death, as well as banning flogging and more. PRAISE GOD!

"This in an answer to years of fervent prayer around the world", says an Open Doors spokesperson.

LET US PRAY for the successful introduction of these measures, and they will usher in new freedoms of belief in Sudan; that hardline Islamists would not be able to prevent the changes taking place, and that there will be no backlash against Christians and other minorities. Amen.

Duncan's Thoughts for this Coming Week



Lectionary Readings for week beginning 2nd August 2020.

Psalm 17, Genesis 32:22-31, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21.

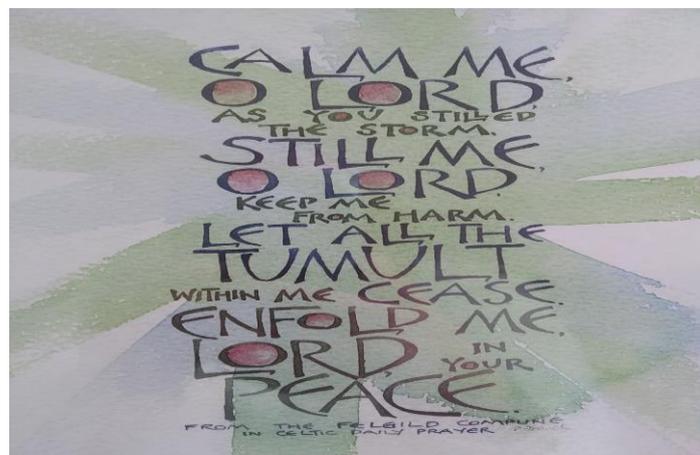
Jacob may have been hoping for a good night's sleep before his first meeting with his brother Esau for many years. Jacob is not sure what Esau's attitude towards him will be; will he seek a reconciliation, or revenge for the wrongs of the past? Before Jacob can meet with Esau, he needs, like the Psalmist in Psalm 17, to meet with and struggle with God, bringing to God all the challenges he faces. This is depicted as an intense all night wrestling match between Jacob and an unknown and unnamed opponent. Later Jacob, or Israel as he is renamed, realises that his unknown opponent is God. It is a night that leaves its mark on Jacob. The wrestling match is one where God chooses not to overpower Jacob and allows Jacob all the time he needs to wrestle before he meets with Esau.

At times we all need to take time out to wrestle with God in prayer, in advance of some event, or even in the light of something that has happened. It is one of the features of Jesus' ministry that He would take the time out to pray with his Father in Heaven. When Jesus hears the news of John the Baptist's

execution by Herod, Jesus seeks to find a place to be alone with his heavenly Father as he seeks how John's death will affect his mission. The crowd that seeks out Jesus and brings about the miraculous feeding just delays the time that Jesus must spend in prayer with his heavenly Father.

We have, with the lockdown, all had more time available to spend with God than normal but as the restrictions ease we still need to spend time wrestling with God in prayer.

Hymn Singing The Faith 518. Father, hear the prayer we offer:



QUIET DAY

Hello everyone,

I have talked before about the fact that I have lead Retreats and Quiet Days in the past.

I am going to try doing a Quiet Day via Zoom with a couple of friends from Cheap Street on Wednesday August 5th.

I am wondering if there are others who would like to join us in this experiment.

If you think you might be interested and would like to know more, please either send me an email or phone me.

Every blessing,

Sue Way

Poem for August

The Bright Field

I have seen the sun break through to

illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the pearl
of great price, the one field that had
treasure in it. I realise now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it.
Life is not hurrying
on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.

R. S. Thomas

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sherborne Abbey – 9.30 Service. Best to arrive by 9.15 You will be met, greeted and shown to a seat. Every alternate row is kept empty and marked so. Couples can obviously sit together. In your seat you will find pen and a form to fill in for phone, address etc – as is normal these days! Service book etc is in the seat. Many wear masks. There is Communion with wafers. The celebrants wear visors. It is all explained so that even non Abbey goers are not left not knowing what to do. No singing. Organ. No offertory. At the end of the service one is ushered out row by row. Outside the Abbey people congregated in groups to chat – social distancing. Well organized. Service lasts 35 – 40 minutes

Radio 4: 8.10 am – *he Rev Dr Isabelle Hamley, chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, charts her walk with God and with Covid-19.*
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000ldl3>

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 Two days a week.

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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