



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

13TH AUGUST 2020

Geoff and I attended an Iona meeting. (through zoom of course) It was lead by the younger members of the community and was challenging and exciting. I thought that we might like to apply and consider a quote from their service -

“Do people want Iona (Cheapstreet Church) as a memory of the past or as an inspiration for days of difficulty ahead?”

I have tried to copy George’s format but my computer is not accepting change today. (Perhaps it is the heat!) So my apologies. I have kept the large print, however, and withheld my urge to put in coloured pictures because of the difficulty and expense of printing off copies.

I hope you are all keeping cool.
Many blessings to you,
Penny

Thought for the Day –

From Christina Le Moignan

‘Grace’ is a word often used in church worship. We use it every time we say what we sometimes call ‘the grace’, when we ask the blessing of our three-in-one God at the end of a service: ‘May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...’ But outside church we more usually use the words ‘graceful’ - perhaps of a ballet dancer - or gracious – when a snooker player who has just lost a match says something generous about his opponent. We might feel put on the spot if we were suddenly asked to define what ‘grace’ means.

There’s a cluster of ideas in ‘grace’ and its associated words, but one very central idea is of something good you wouldn’t necessarily expect. The beauty of the dancer’s movement takes us by surprise; the snooker player need not have been so

complimentary about the person who has just beaten him. And supremely the grace of God is *love we couldn’t expect*, love we don’t deserve given what we have done wrong, or love we can’t believe is lavished on someone as ordinary as ourselves. Or perhaps God’s grace is love we can’t believe is offered to other people (after all, look at what they’ve done wrong!). Why ever does God think that either we, or other people, are worth giving his Son to die for? All of this means that if I had only two words to explain ‘grace’ they would be ‘undeserved love’. And God’s *undeserved love* is why the prime characteristic of all Christian worship is thanksgiving: the only thing we can say is ‘thank you’.

Of course God wants us to live our ‘thank you’, not just say it; and he wants us to do that by learning to copy his own graciousness. So Christian life is a matter of *learning to be gracious* – learning to forgive people who have done us wrong, learning to be generous, learning, in the words of Mother Teresa, to do ‘something beautiful for God’. This is not necessarily an easy learn. We watch the ballet dancer moving with beauty and grace; we do not see the hours upon hours of exercise and practice that produces that performance. We know that we are to forgive other people if we ask God to forgive us (the Lord’s Prayer tells us that every time we pray it) – but it’s easier said than done. We need practice if we’re to be gracious, and we need help. So we need to know that our gracious God will always be there to help, and that his help in the end can make us gracious (even us). Praise God for that!

Bible reading – Luke 18:9-14 - God’s grace to the sinner (and the need to see that we *are* sinners)

Hymn – Hymns and Psalms 48 - Charles

Wesley's 'Thy ceaseless, unexhausted love' (with last two lines 'and while the truth of God remains, the goodness must endure').

Prayers - Please pray for our young people, who will need so much grace if they are to bear the burdens of caring for our Covid-affected world, now and in the future.

FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

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.

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 particularly for John Hunt and his family, for Carol Hooper and her family 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; Alex Palmer; Peter and Marjorie Kett; Christina Le Moignan (continuing eye problems).

PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Central African Republic - Conflict in the country continues to impact Christians who are caught between various warring militia groups. Thousands of Christians have been displaced, and many are forced to live in camps after losing their homes and livelihoods. Let us pray for a peaceful end to the conflict; that Christian leaders who oppose the violence will be strengthened and protected, and that the work of Open Doors will bring strength, courage and hope to persecuted believers. Amen.

Duncan's Thoughts for this Coming Week

Lectionary Readings for week beginning 16th August 2020.

Psalm 133, Genesis 45:1-15, Romans 11:1-2a & 29-32, Matthew 15:10-28.

What you eat can certainly have an effect on you; too much of those little treats we enjoy can have its effect on your good health. And having a healthy balance in the food we eat will leave us feeling well with a lot more energy, and have positive effect on our immune system, something that is especially to be welcomed in the middle of a Covid 19 pandemic. I think Jesus would have endorsed having a healthy diet, but when Jesus talks about food not defiling us, he is not talking about its physical effects on us, but a detrimental spiritual effect certain foods were believed have on you when you eat them; foods that were called unclean, foods that meant you could not attend worship until the negative spiritual effect had worn off. The point that Jesus makes is that it is the words that we speak that have the potential to defile us, as they reflect what is in our hearts. In our world of today, hate or racist speech is something that Jesus says defiles or makes a person unclean in God's sight; and requires a cleansing of our hearts. In the exchange between Jesus and a Canaanite woman who is seeking Jesus to heal her daughter, Jesus sees that in her heart she has placed her faith in him as her saviour, even though she came from a different religious and cultural background. As a result, Jesus grants her the healing for her daughter which she is seeking.

It is this teaching that shows us that it is not past cultural, religious or racial differences that determine our future with God but whether we place our trust in God through the death and resurrection of God's Son that counts, which Paul expands on in our reading from Romans.

In our reading from Genesis, the brothers of Joseph think they are dealing with a powerful Egyptian ruler who they have upset and has had them arrested. It is at this point that Joseph reveals who he really is and also that in his heart he loves them and is not seeking revenge for their selling him into slavery many years before. The true greatness of Joseph is seen in his

forgiveness of his brothers, when he had the power and the means to do whatever he liked to them.

With our words and actions, we reveal what is in our hearts and whether or not they are clean, and whether we have truly placed our faith in Jesus.

Hymn Singing The Faith 508. Purify my heart,

QUIET DAY

Zoom Quiet Day. I joined the lovely Quiet Day last week with slight apprehension as to how it would work out on Zoom. However, I need not have feared, as it was very well led by Sue Way, and those of us who took part were able to chip in and share our thoughts as and when we wanted to, without any difficulty. It was so good to have the opportunity to worship together and to really study The Word on our own, with the aid of some useful resources. At the end, when we came to the time to share, we found that we had all gained different insights from our studies and time spent in prayer and meditation. Thank you, Sue, for taking so much time and trouble to arrange this event, and I hope to be able to enjoy more such events in the future. Jackie.

CAP

Hi

CAP is always trying to be relevant and bring hope into whatever situations we find ourselves in.

With that in mind, whilst some of you may have already received this - over 400 churches across the UK have already signed up to 'KICK START' - please see Paula's Introducing Kick Start email below.

Thank you

Steve Hart

Introducing Kick Start

I'm sure it's breaking your heart right now to see the devastation that your community and even loved ones are experiencing as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

However, you'll also have seen passionate

Christians tirelessly serving their communities to provide whatever support they need. The Church really is the hope of the world, and it's been wonderful to see how, just months after buildings were closed, God's Church is shining more brightly than ever.

Because of your support, we've been able to create a brand new, free resource to equip churches to help their communities begin to move forward, and we wanted to share it with you!

Kick Start is a series of nine bitesize sessions that can be delivered as a series or just as they are, via video conferencing platforms like Zoom or Google Hangouts. Each video acts as a conversation starter and is packed full of practical tips to help people get back on track.

Kick Start is now live, so your church can get started straight away.

Access Kick Start today [CAP](#)

There are people in your community and beyond who need to know the peace and love of Jesus in this time, and as the body of Christ, we are perfectly placed to equip and support them as they take the necessary steps to rebuild their lives.

Thank you for putting God's love into action right where you are. Your response to the significant challenges people are facing in your community is absolutely critical, and the impact will far outlast any pandemic.

Paula Stringer

UK Chief Executive

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SHERBORNE ABBEY

The Abbey has parish worship at 9.30 am on Sunday and is open for private prayer on Thursday between 11 am and 1 pm.

Radio 4: 8.10 am –A service led by Rev Dr Stephen Wigley, chair of the Wales synod of the Methodist church, reflecting on what happens when our plans change and on the 75th anniversary of VJ Day. [BBC Radio 4](#)

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 \(click here to subscribe\)](#).

Sojourners Voice of the day

Our anger is moral. Our rage is sacred. Our anxiety contains wisdom. Our hearts are telling us the truth. If the truth makes others uncomfortable—good. Show me an alarm clock that makes a sweet sound and I'll show you an alarm clock I can sleep through.

- Ralph De La Rosa

Prayer

God, may you bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within our hearts.

Adapted from a Franciscan Prayer

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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