



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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NEWSLETTER

20th August 2020

This week's Newsletter includes a welcome account of the re-opening of Cheap Street for private prayer, gives details of the prayer garden and looks forward to restarting Sunday worship. First steps, we hope, in a return to normality.

I read this morning that a recent study tells us that honey is more effective than over-the-counter medicines at combatting coughs and sore throats. Be prepared – contact Don Farquharson and support the Vine Youth Ministry at the same time. *George Faris*

Duncan Goldie's Thought for the Day

What is it to be content? Paul in Philippians 4:1 & 12-13 writes:

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

On first reading it might seem that we should just be resigned to things as they are; and not work to change things. Paul was not one just to sit back and wait for things to happen; he was someone who constantly sought to introduce people to the person of God's Son Jesus Christ, and the saving grace that Jesus gave up his life on a cross to win for us. Paul is not going to spend time worrying about his own personal situation but will seek to fulfil the tasks God has given him to do.

At the moment with Covid 19 Pandemic there are restrictions on what we can do. It was good last Saturday to open up the church again for private prayer, and we hope soon to be open for a thirty-minute reflective service on a Sunday morning in the hall. While this is not how we ideally like to use our premises in serving people in the name of Jesus, it is good to be able to take these steps forward. It has also been good to see the uptake of people writing prayers to be placed in our garden.

The American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr wrote the *Serenity Prayer*:

*God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can,
and wisdom to know the difference.*

It is a prayer that is good to pray at this current time.

Hymn *Singing The Faith* 707: Make me a channel of your peace. ([click for YouTube version](#))

Thanks

Carol Hooper would like to express her sincerest appreciation for all the beautiful cards and kind, heartfelt words of condolence following the sad death of her husband John. Carol and family are deeply touched by the love and support they have received from so many dear friends at Cheap Street Church. Sadly, due to the current restrictions, there could only be a small gathering at John's funeral but it was a beautiful service, led by Rev. Duncan Goldie and the tribute to John was so kindly given by Rev. Dr Christina Le Moignan.

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 Hunt and his family; Carol Hooper and her family; 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.

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.

Cheap Street Open for Prayer

Last Saturday we opened the church for private prayer and it was a pleasure to be there. Apart from Duncan and Norma Hamill and myself stewarding, nine people came in, about half from the community and half from our church. Several made it clear they were very pleased it was now open, and it was particularly good to have Janet Dolling there after a long-enforced absence.

It took us quite a long time to prepare the church in an acceptable way for current Covid restrictions with many people involved in the work one way or another. So many thanks to them for getting the church going again. We shall open every Saturday from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon until further notice and maybe you would like to come along for a quiet time then.

Already a lot of prayers have been planted in the garden. Prayers can be written in the church porch any day of the week, normally between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm as well as on Saturday mornings. There have been a number of positive comments about the Prayer Garden from people sitting there, or passing by, and we are so grateful to Lynn Heaton for setting it up and keeping it going. Thank you, Lynn. *Janet Le Moignan*

Prayers for the Persecuted Church

Ethiopia

Christians in the Muslim-dominated east of Ethiopia suffer intense persecution – which Pastor Adane, who leads a church in the region, has experienced for himself. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic has only added to their troubles – believers are not receiving government aid. Pastor Adane says, “We asked our church members, both in the rural and urban areas, but they have not received any of the support given by the government.”

Despite feeling overwhelmed by these challenges, Adane's faith is strong. “God's words are inside my heart,” he says. “When I pass through all these troubles, they encourage me. In whatever situation, He has a solution and He is my protection.” Let us praise God for Pastor Adane's ministry and his resilience in the face of such difficult and desperate circumstances.

Let us pray for God's provision for believers in Ethiopia who do not receive support from their local government, and that God will protect Open Doors' partners across Sub-Saharan Africa who are working hard to provide food and aid. Amen.

VJ Day 75 - John Stanfield

John Stanfield contributed to the BBC's programme last Saturday to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the second World War. The programme is available on iPlayer – click here: [VJ Day 75 The Nation Remembers](#). John's contribution is 49 minutes from the start. John also spoke to the Army Facebook page about the Japanese surrender in Peking on 10th October 1945 - [click here](#). Last year John spoke to the Macular Support group about his wartime service. It's good to have these recordings.

The Cheapstreeter

For a number of reasons, I have decided to retire as Editor of The Cheapstreeter. I have very much enjoyed being Editor for almost 10 years and I should like to express my grateful thanks to those who have made contributions, which added colour and diversity to the magazine. *Raymond Wood*

Book Review - *Where is God in a Coronavirus World?*"

This is a wonderfully well-written little book by John C. Lennox, a prolific Christian writer and defender of the Christian faith which will appeal to Christians and non-Christians alike. In the author's introduction he writes "I would invite you, the reader, to view the book like this: I am sitting with you in a coffee shop (if only we could!), and you have asked me the question on the book cover. I put down my coffee cup and attempt to give you an honest answer. What follows is what I would try to say to convey some comfort, support and hope."

I have placed an order for a large quantity, which results in copies being available for £1.00 each, (under half price) as I feel sure that many of you will not only enjoy reading it yourselves, but that you might like to pass it on, or buy a copy for friends or family who might benefit from reading it. I'm hoping that they will arrive within a week or so, and once I receive them I will put some on the table inside the church so that you can help yourselves. (Don't worry about the money). If you're unable to get to the church do give me a ring (01935 813112) and I'll let you have a copy. I am also hoping that some visitors will help themselves to a copy, by way of a bit of outreach into the community. *Jackie Bullen*

Duncan's Message

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 124, Exodus 1:8-2:10, Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20.

Life can sometimes take unexpected twists. This past week we have remembered the day (15th August 1945) when Japan surrendered to bring an end to the Second World War; a war that been expected to go on a lot longer, if it was not for the after effect of dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima on the 6th August and Nagasaki on the 9th August. For most people in the world it was an unexpected bolt from the blue and it changed the world we know for ever.

In our reading from Exodus, after very many years of the Israelites living peacefully and happily in Egypt, a Pharaoh comes to power who has no memory of why this community is a part of Egypt and sees, or at least portrays the Israelites as a threat and a potential 5th column that could chose to side with Egypt's enemies in the event of a conflict. In the way that most of the people continue to treat the Israelites it is not the view that is held by most Egyptians initially, including the Pharaoh's own daughter, who on finding the baby she will call Moses, adopts him as her own child, rather than carry out her Father's order to kill any baby boy Israelite found. It is this unexpected twist that will eventually lead to Moses being God's chosen person to bring the Israelites out of Egypt and back to the land of Israel.

In our reading from Matthew, Jesus asks his disciples who people say Jesus is, and the expected flattering if predictable answers come back. Then comes the twist when Jesus asks his disciples who they think Jesus is, and Peter jumps straight in and says 'The Messiah, the Son of the living God.' It is a declaration that changes Peter's life, as it has for all of us who have made that discovery and declaration about Jesus.

We have the unexpected Covid 19 pandemic currently shaping our world; but a far bigger life changing event is the grace of God at work in us through our faith and trust in God's Son.

Hymn *Singing The Faith* 345: And can it be that I should gain ([click for YouTube version](#))

Sunday Worship

Radio 4: 8.10 am – *The inspiration of listening* with writer Anna Magnusson and poet Pádraig Ó Tuama.

Methodist resources: [click here](#). URC resources: [click here](#).

URC: [daily devotions and a Sunday service \(click here to subscribe\)](#).

Music at Gillingham Methodist Church

The second online organ recital go live at 3 pm on Sunday: [**click here**](#). Tobias Rihm will be playing works by Mendelssohn, Liszt, Diener, Clara Schumann, Machella and Whitlock.

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.

Contributions to Future Newsletters

Please send contributions by midday Wednesday to:
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