



## 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 473513  
sue@wayweb.co.uk

## NEWSLETTER

10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

Welcome to the 26<sup>th</sup> Newsletter. This is Unbelievable. . . It is half a year! So now, at last, we have reached a point where services will resume, but in a very restricted form. The first service will be this Sunday. All the details about attending are included here. So please read on.

Many people have been deeply affected during the last few months. I hope we can all keep them in our prayers. Can we also remember those who are working hard to keep our church and faith from grinding to a halt when chaotic regulations leave us confused about what we can and cannot do.

Much love,

Penny

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

By Sue Way

Thank you to all the people who respond to my weekly thoughts when I am sending out the Newsletter.

Two weeks ago I said about the chorus "Light a little candle" and had a reply from someone who said it had made her think about the chorus " Jesus bids us shine"

### [YOUTUBE Jesus bids us Shine](#)

I remember singing this as a child and I expect many of you do too.

It asks us to shine first of all for Jesus and says that "well he sees and knows it if our light grows dim"

The next verse asks us to shine for all around "for many kinds of darkness in the world abound"

The words were written by Susan Bogert Warner in 1868 but seem to me very relevant now.

I have been thinking a lot about John Wesley Green this week and his many years as a lay preacher.

I was privileged to take part in his last service at Cheap Street when he asked me to do the Children's address. I chose hymns to fit his theme of invitation. Those of you who

were present will remember that we sang several choruses with great gusto.

John had a tremendous faith and trust in God.

A more modern hymn with an inspiring chorus is a favourite of mine.

It is "The Lord's my Shepherd" by Stuart Townend and was written in 1996The last verse says

"And though I walk the darkest path  
I will not fear the evil one

For you are with me and your rod and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know"

Followed by the chorus:

"I will trust in you alone  
Your endless mercy follows me  
Your goodness will lead me home."

### [You Tube - The Lord's My Shepherd](#)

Prayer:

Dear God we thank you for John and his ministry among us. We ask for your blessing on Sheila, Christine and Pauline and all the family.

We pray that we will be inspired to shine in our small corner and to trust in God's endless mercy and goodness.

In Jesus' name we pray

Amen

### **Pastoral.**

On Monday morning we received the sad news that John Green had died peacefully on Sunday Evening 6th September at Yeovil Hospital where he was being treated for Pneumonia. John had not been well for some time and had been receiving Chemotherapy treatment for the last few months. We send our love, sympathy and prayers to Sheila, and her daughters Christine, Pauline and their families.

On Sunday we received the sad news that Denise Gould's brother Peter had died suddenly on Saturday 5th September. We send our sympathy, love and prayers to Denise and Peter, Denise's sister Christine and the rest of their family.

Birthday.

There is some brightness in the midst of sadness.

Belated Birthday Greetings from all of us to Sue Way who celebrated her Birthday Monday 7th September.

Eirwen

### **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: Sheila Green and family; Janet Baker; Martin Heal; 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).

In this strange time, when lots of time is being spent considering important decisions for all of us at Cheap Street Church, please pray for ....

all on our Church Council at the moment, Janet Le Moignan  
Jan Wallace  
Rob Hooper  
Martin Heal  
Christine Rogers  
Norma Hamill  
Eileen Higgins  
Peter Kett  
Also those helping with Property matters related to Covid 19 secure areas, Geoff Gardner  
John Stinchcombe  
And of course our secretary Sue Way and minister Duncan.

We also have a new Safeguarding Officer, George Faris. Please pray for George and bless his work in our Church. Thank you.

### **PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH**

**Burkina Faso** has been struck by a wave of violence. Christians say they are in a fight for survival. Dozens of church leaders have been killed or kidnapped by violent Islamic militants. Villagers wearing Christian symbols are singled out and killed on the spot. Churches have been burned down. Thousands of Christians have fled to camps for the displaced or have taken refuge with friends in safer areas. This has given rise to an environment of fear, and many are scared to attend church services or send their children to school. Let us pray that our family in Burkina Faso will know God's presence and love; that God will change the hearts of those who support extremist Islamic ideology, and for protection for Christian children attending school as well as Christian families going to church. Amen.

### **Christmas Shoeboxes**

As many of you will know, for several years we have sent Christmas Shoeboxes to Blythswood Care, who have links with people in parts of Eastern Europe experiencing poverty at a level we may find hard to understand. Boxes are distributed to children and to adults, filled with gifts, often quite basic, like a hat, gloves and scarf, soap, shampoo, crayons, pencils and other items for school, together with little treats.

I was not sure what would happen this year with the Covid virus, but Blythswood are expecting to go ahead with it and say the

need is really greater than ever in the circumstances. The CWW team met recently and felt it would be good to provide boxes if we could. I think it may not be possible to do joint church boxes involving several different people, but hopefully we could provide boxes filled by a household or by individuals. I need to check out how we might organise this Christmas giving.

At the moment plans are tentative. I will write again at the start of October to say whether we can manage to do this or not. If we go ahead, boxes will need to be collected by 1<sup>st</sup> November. If we can't, maybe we can support Blythswood Care in some other way this year.

Janet Le Moignan

### **Duncan's Thoughts for this Coming Week**

Lectionary Readings for week beginning 13th September 2020.

Psalm 114, Exodus 14:19-31, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35.

How forgiving can we be? It is question that Peter asks of Jesus in our reading from Matthew. Peter is not the last person to ask that question as it is one that we all ask from time to time. In the past with our criminal justice system we have had those who have advocated three strikes and you are out. And we often question the wisdom of early paroling of a person convicted of a serious crime, especially if they go on to repeat the crimes when released from prison.

What Peter has suggested is that far more than forgiving a person three times. He has gone for a generous seven, in Jewish religious thought a perfect number. Jesus comes back with 'not seven times but seventy times seven.' Which means we have to keep on forgiving without limit. It is the same level of forgiveness that God has for us. It is something that Jesus backs up with the story of the unforgiving servant. The debt that is initially forgiven is mind boggling massive - the size of a county's national debt, with no chance of ever being able to repay it. You would think that being forgiven something like that would inspire the same

spirit of forgiveness and generosity in the servant. But instead, when he meets a person who owes him a few pounds, the debt that most people would forget about, he extracts the maximum punishment he can on the one that owes him a debt. It is a lack of forgiveness and love that means he brings about the forfeiting of his own forgiveness.

Paul in Romans indirectly touches on grace and forgiveness; there was good reason why in Rome a person might choose not to eat meat, as you could never be sure it had not been offered to one of the Roman gods. For some it did not matter because the gods were not real, for others there was a sense of defilement. It was easy for both sides to look down and condemn the other, and divide the church. Paul requires both sides to act in a graceful way, and forgive what either side considers wrong.

In the aftermath of the current Covid 19 pandemic there will need to be forgiveness, as the world seeks to honestly learn from mistakes made, so that we can seek to avoid mistakes being repeated with another virus.

Hymn Singing The Faith 424. God forgave my sin in Jesus' name;

### **Ideas for the future.**

I would like to share with you some of the ideas we discussed at our recent Community & Wider World team meeting, held in Pageant Gardens. We recognised that the pandemic will be causing a great amount of hardship, so by way of reaching out into the community we're exploring the possibility of promoting the work of CAP (Christians Against Poverty) by publicising the valuable work that they do in helping people to get out of debt.

We are also looking into the possibility of becoming involved with Acts 435 which is an online giving charity, directly connecting those who want to give with those who are in genuine need of their financial help. They do this through a network of churches and charities around the UK, who are working with those in need. This would involve our appointing an "Advocate", or possibly 2 or 3, who then post requests for help on their website on behalf of those in need, up to a maximum of £150, and their donors then give to those requests as they feel able. Acts 435

is a free resource, and 100% of every donation goes straight to its intended recipient. Acts435 are based on Acts 4: 35 - "and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need".

We would like to invite you to have a look at their websites, capuk.org and acts435.org.uk, to learn more about these charities. Do have a word with me or any of the CWW members if you would like to discuss anything or have any suggestions. We would appreciate your prayers for guidance, as we seek to do the Lord's will. It is sad that we are unable to carry out our normal activities, but these are two projects that could be carried out, whatever restrictions the Government might impose!  
Jackie Bullen

**Dear all,**

Thank you to all those who have already let me know the people from their list who wish to attend worship this coming Sunday.

For future weeks, please would you give me that information by 5pm on Thursdays.

Thank you very much

Best wishes,

Sue

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHEAP STREET**

We last worshipped in the church on 15th March, when the service was led by Deacon Rebekah-Joy Spinks. Services will restart on Sunday (13th September) at 10.30 am for a service in the hall lasting around 30 minutes. The worship plan for September is:

13th Duncan Goldie  
20th Duncan Goldie  
27th Janet Le Moignan

### **Guidance to those planning to attend**

- Beforehand - because we are limited to 34 people attending and a record must be kept of their names pastoral visitors are asked to check who in their group wishes to attend worship and advice Sue Way (details

at top of newsletter) by 5 pm each Thursday. Anyone not approached by their pastoral visitor can email or phone George Faris (details at bottom of newsletter). Those not on the list will be welcome but only if there is space

- Masks must be worn at all times.
- Singing is not permitted.
- Time in the hall should be minimized so please arrive just before 10.30 am.
- Please follow the guidance of the stewards and observe social distancing, particularly after the service.

### **Offering**

There will be an offertory box to be available on entry. It will be helpful if cheques and banknotes are used. Contact John Stinchcombe, our treasurer, if you wish to give by standing order.

Request for help

We need:

- 1 councillor and 1 or 2 stewards each Sunday
- Pianists

Please contact Sue Way if you can help.

### **Rehearsal**

Those volunteering as councillors and stewards are asked to attend a rehearsal on Thursday 10th at 10.30 am.

### **Entry to Hall**

Please do not enter the hall during the week to reduce the risk of infection. Geoff Gardner should be consulted if you feel you have an essential need.

### **Guidance on who should not attend**

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you have ANY of the above symptoms you **MUST NOT** attend worship. Stay at home and arrange to be tested.

Those over the age of 70 or with underlying health conditions are particularly at risk from

COVID-19. Everyone must weigh up the risks for them and their family when deciding to return to worship.

You may find some URC guidance helpful, or Contact George Faris for a printed copy.

### **Forbearance**

The church officers and councillors are having to consider a considerable quantity of instructions and guidance from the Government and the Methodist Church to enable the mission of the church in unprecedented times.

George Faris

### **ALTERNATIVE 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 – With the Right Reverend Nick McKinnel, Bishop of Plymouth.

[BBC4](#)

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

#### **Poem for the Month**

The people who were old when we were young,

Then this is where they were, who made no song

Of trials or sorrows, having still our nation's

Historic phlegm, having their generation's

Reserve, or call it civility,

They would not hurt or embarrass needlessly:

The people who grew weak as we grew strong,

The old when we were young.

From 'A Past Generation'  
E.V Scovell 1907-1999

### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE NEWSLETTERS**

The newsletter is compiled by Penny Gardner or George Faris so please send contributions by midday Wednesday to:

Penny Gardner [pennylgardner@gmail.com](mailto:pennylgardner@gmail.com)  
01935 389153 and to  
George Faris [gfaris48@gmail.com](mailto:gfaris48@gmail.com)  
01935 420258

