



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

Acting Church Secretary:

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NEWSLETTER

1st October 2020

Church Council Report

Church Council met on Tuesday evening by Zoom for the third time in September.

- Janet Le Moignan's offer to be acting church secretary was accepted with thanks for taking on this important role. A church meeting will be held by Zoom to formally appoint Janet.
- The meeting approved the risk assessment for worship in the church so Sunday's harvest service will be the first Sunday service in the church since we met on 15th March. The seating arrangements will be finalised by a subcommittee of councillors on Thursday to ensure they meet the legal requirements. It is anticipated there is space for at least 45 people on the ground floor. Use of the gallery will be considered later.

Janet Le Moignan's Thought for the Day

Next Sunday we shall be celebrating our harvest festival. We shall be thanking God for the world he has created, for its beauty and for his plentiful provision to meet the needs of all creatures, great and small, and the needs of humanity. We have had some lovely sunny days recently and things have grown well in our garden. We have been able to harvest ripe fruit and vegetables and flowers are still blooming. We have been well blessed. But why is it, when God gives so much, that many people in Britain, including some in our local area, need help from food banks to survive? Why is it that in some parts of the world, people are dying of hunger?

I remember as a child, when I heard about the 7 deadly sins, I was surprised to find greed listed there. Greed didn't really seem too bad because I thought of it then as eating a bit too much. Now I know that greed is a much larger-scale wrong. When some people take more and more of what they want, without considering the needs of others, then some of those others will not have enough to live adequately and parts of the world may be damaged or destroyed.

Recently, David Attenborough was on TV talking about animals in danger of extinction. We saw two white rhinos, mother and daughter. These are the only white rhinos left in the world and when they die, we shall see no more of the species. And why? Because rhinos have been poached so their horns can be sold for a lot of money. It is now too late for us to do anything to stop that. Thankfully, there are some conservation projects that have resulted in increasing numbers of threatened species, and we saw an example of mountain gorillas now thriving again. However, many creatures are at risk because they are losing their natural habitat when it is cleared to be used to make rich people richer. In some areas this affects not only animals but human beings who are losing their forest homes. You may say that you would never do that and I'm sure you wouldn't, but there are other ways in which we damage the natural world.

What about climate change? Are we not all, to some degree, responsible for the changes in our weather, through our over-large carbon footprint, taking too many resources for ourselves and perhaps wasting them. We have experienced more flooding, more erosion into the sea and more intense heat in recent years. Yet what we have experienced is minor compared with Pacific Islands which have been submerged by rising sea levels causing people to lose their homes for ever, or huge forest fires in several parts of the world causing destruction of habitat, homes and sometimes peoples' lives, or people obliged to migrate because their once fertile land has turned into desert. Is it not time for us to be more concerned for the world as a whole and to think less about our own wants? God has made the world and it is wonderful and precious but we have spoilt and altered it and now we need to look on it with love and cherish it, for those who are at present living on the margins and for future generations.

David Attenborough was asked what we could all do and was quite basic in his response. He said to reuse and recycle and not to waste. Also, I think we need to avoid harmful materials and make more use of renewable energy – God given sun, wind and water.

Some words to think about from a speech by Chief Seattle, an Indian American in 1854 -
Every part of this earth is sacred. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth.
The air is precious; for all of us share the same breath.
This we know, the earth does not belong to us: we belong to the earth.
Our God is the same God, whose compassion is equal for all.
For we did not weave the web of life: we are merely a strand in it.
Whatever we do to the web we do to ourselves.

So, as we thank God for his goodness at harvest time, let us remember that we are stewards of all his good gifts and seek his guidance to tread lightly on the earth.

Bible reading – Genesis 2: 4-8 & 15

Hymn: *Singing the Faith* 727 God in his love for us lent us this planet ([click for YouTube version](#))

Farewell to John Wesley Green

Sheila Green and her family write: 'We would like to offer their heartfelt thanks, to everyone who has supported us at this very difficult time of John's passing. The support that has been shown by way of cards, messages, phone calls, donations and sharing services with us has been very touching, and for this we are extremely grateful.'

John's funeral service took place last Friday at Yeovil Crematorium. A recording is available until 22nd October at: <https://www.obitus.com/>, enter **Juxo3702** in the Username box (top of screen) and **878429** in the Password box, then click **Log in**.

Later on Friday there was a thanksgiving service in the church conducted by the Reverend Duncan Goldie and the Reverend Kate Konrad with hymns sung by Daniel England. It was sad that numbers attending were limited.

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 Sheila Green and her family; John Hunt and his family; Carol Hooper and her 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.

*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.*

Duncan's Message

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Readings for Harvest Festival 2020
Psalm 145, Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Revelation 14:14-18, Matthew 13:24-33

Harvest is something we normally celebrate at the end of summer or the beginning of autumn, when the majority of the crops grown in this country would be harvested and gathered in. Before the advent of modern agricultural machinery, it would have been an activity that involved everyone in rural towns and villages. And the welfare of those towns and village would be dependent on how good a harvest was gathered in. A good harvest has always been a cause of celebration and a reason to give thanks to God. In Jesus' time, the times for sowing, growing and harvesting were clearly defined; the grain would be harvested first followed by the grapes and pressing them before they go on to become wine. Both Jesus and the writer of Revelations use this imagery in their descriptions of the harvest that God is seeking.

As of today, it would have been a familiar sight to see weeds growing amongst the crop. A certain amount would have been expected but was not unknown for people to try to spoil another person's crop by sowing weeds. The reality is that it would be very hard to separate the two without spoiling the harvest until the crop was harvested. In Revelations and Jesus' parable the same is true of the harvest that God is looking for from our lives.

The harvest that God is looking for is seen in our sharing of the harvest of the earth that God has given us, so that everyone gets to share in it.

Hymn *Singing The Faith* 123: Come, you thankful people, come ([click for You Tube version](#))

Prayers for the Persecuted Church

Sri Lanka

Hundreds were killed and many more injured when Islamic extremists bombed churches and hotels last year on Easter Sunday. They are not the only ones threatening Christians in Sri Lanka. As a majority Buddhist nation, believers from a Buddhist background are treated as second-class citizens, as are those who convert from Hinduism to Christianity. Increasing pressure on these believers, and the terrible Easter attacks, have created a culture of fear among Sri Lanka's Christians. Let us pray for courage and healing for Sri Lanka's grieving church, and protection from future attacks; for Open Doors workers supporting families of the victims with trauma care and practical support, and for strength for believers from Hindu and Buddhist backgrounds. Amen.

Celebrations

Congratulations and very best wishes to Margaret and Brian Walker, who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 8th October. With love from all at Cheap Street Church.

Happy Birthday to Kathy Crew on 1st October and to Robert Hooper on the 5th. Love and best wishes to you both from all at Cheap Street Church. **Eirwen Cox**

Arrangements for the Harvest Service on Sunday 4th October

- Pastoral visitors are asked to email their lists of those attending to Janet Le Moignan by 5 pm on Thursday. This will help in meeting the requirement to list all present. The list will be destroyed after 3 weeks.
- Non-perishable gifts will be collected for Sherborne Food Bank.
- *Commitment for Life* envelopes will be available. *Commitment for Life* is the URC's global justice programme supporting *Christian Aid* and *Global Justice Now*.
- Donations can be made sending a cheque (payable to Cheap Street Church Sherborne) to John Stinchcombe or Jackie Bullen. Please make it clear that you wish to support *Commitment for Life*. You do not need a special envelope.
- Those who use internet banking can do so. Please identify your transfer with your name and CFL.

Update on Christmas Shoeboxes

I have been in touch with the person in Milborne Port who receives the shoeboxes we send to Romania every year and she is expecting that the collection will take place much as usual. However, because of Covid I feel the fewer people who handle everything going into the boxes the better. Therefore, I shall be happy to take boxes from individuals or households, but I shall not be collecting items to go into joint church boxes this time or getting people together to cover or fill them.

The need is great. I have now ordered leaflets with the check list for items, many of them very basic things that we so easily take for granted, but we can also add little surprises that will be a real treat at Christmas. I will put the leaflets in church as soon as I can. Please let me know if you need one delivered to you. The boxes will need to be ready for 1st November. **Janet Le Moignan**

Other ways of worshipping on Sunday

Radio 4: 8.10 am – *Song of the Prophets* – marking *Black History Month* through the lens of climate injustice, poverty and inequality around the world, with Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, CEO of *Christian Aid*.

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

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

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:
Penny Gardner pennylgardner@gmail.com 01935 389153 and
George Faris gfaris48@gmail.com 01935 420258.