



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

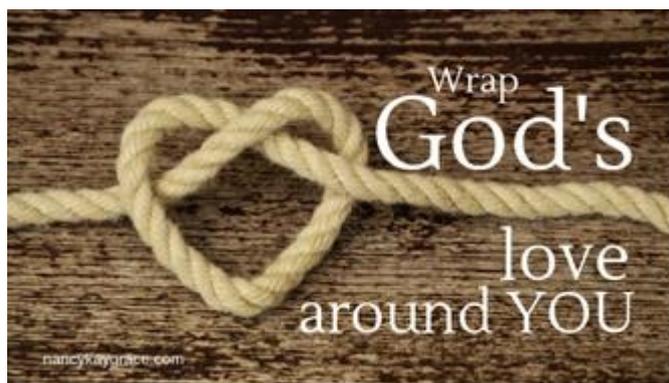
is available for an urgent need or situation. Call any of these numbers and the circle of prayer will begin
Eirwen Cox 01935 815960
Penny Gardner 01935 389153
Janet Le Moignan 01935 389662

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NEWSLETTER

8th October 2020



What a beautiful day! The sun is out and warming our backs. I know the rain is coming later but I can hear the birds and am enjoying the brightness of the turning leaves.

As the Church slowly tries to wake up (very slowly) and adjust to new ways there is a tendency for me to be pulled down by all the missed opportunities. Again I am reminded to shift my focus and look at the 'goodness at the heart of humanity.'

Last Sunday was Harvest. Many were unable to attend. So what a joyous surprise it was to Jan and Phil Wallace who were given the job of taking the gifts collected to the Sherborne Food Bank. They managed to deliver 19 BAGS of food to Food Bank!

The week before last Cath Adam made an appeal on behalf of Choose Love who were collecting for the Moira Camp in Greece following the devastating fire. Very specific items were needed. Cath and Geoff drove a fully packed car and a half full van to the warehouse in

Taunton. There was much clapping and exclaiming from the helpers at RAFT as they unloaded the gifts.

Isn't it great to be part of this outpouring of love?!!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Christine Rogers: Thought for the Day

Did you ever think that there would be a time when singing hymns in churches would be banned? Well, many things about these strange times would have been unimaginable a year ago. This absence of hymn singing has led me to think about why singing hymns is so much part of our worship. Why do we want to do it? Why should it bother us if it's removed?

Looking up "sing" in my concordance (an index of words found in the Bible), I wasn't surprised to discover that the majority of references were to the Psalms. After all, the Book of Psalms is the song book of the Jewish faith. Very often in the Psalms singing is connected with joy - joy experienced because of God's goodness and love, and the response to thank and praise him. One lovely example of this comes in the first three verses of Psalm 33:

"Sing joyfully to the Lord

Praise the Lord with the harp, make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre, Sing to him a new song. Play skilfully, and shout for joy."

I suppose that if the psalmist had ever visited Cheap Street Church he might

have added: "Blow your cornet joyfully".
Alas, no blowing at the moment.

New Testament records indicate that the earliest Christians sang psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, The word hymn, from the Greek "humnos", means a song of praise. During following generations new words and tunes were composed to express the new way in which we praise God as Christians, above all giving thanks for the gift of his Son. Hymn writing and congregational singing were very much to the fore at times of Christian revival and reformation, and singing has been at the heart of Methodism from its origins. Charles Wesley wrote his first hymns in 1738 when he and his brother, John, were "filled with the Spirit", and Charles then went on to write some 6,000 hymns.

When I tried to answer for myself the questions posed in the first paragraph, I came up with the following.

We find it important to sing hymns when we meet for worship because:

- It draws us together as a community of believers and helps us to grow closer to each other.
- It enables us to meet with our Lord in a personal way and to strengthen our faith.
- The combination of poetry and music helps us to experience the deep emotions of our faith – e.g. joy, gratitude, brokenness, remorse.

I then read the Preface to "Singing the Faith", where I found the following answer:

"Our history and experience bear witness to the power of music in worship. It speaks to the heart, mind, soul and will, allowing us to respond to God's grace and the glory of God's creating and redeeming love in Jesus Christ. Singing hymns in worship assists us in meeting with the living God and helps us to grow in faith, discipleship and fellowship."

We are indeed fortunate to live in an age when technology can to some extent compensate for our lock-down loss of real experiences. On Sunday afternoons we can still enjoy a vigorous bout of congregational singing on "Songs of

Praise" from earlier recordings. We are now finding the hymn playing machine, acquired via Marian Carmichael, very useful. It is, however, only partial compensation. One day - one fine day - when we are able to stand together and once more sing lustily our much-loved hymns and songs, what a wonderful moment, what thanksgiving!
Meanwhile, we shall just have to continue to mumble the words into our masks – and sing all the more loudly in our hearts.

One of my favourite hymns about singing is a modern one by Brian Hoare, no. 21 in "Singing the Faith".

Here is the first verse:

Born in Song!
God's people have always been singing.
Born in song!
Hearts and voices raised.
So today we worship together;
God alone is worthy to be praised.

The rest of it tells the story of our faith. When we sing it, we are indeed singing the faith.

Pastoral

We received the sad news that John Green had died peacefully on 7th September at Yeovil Hospital.

The Reverend Duncan Goldie officiated at the funeral of our dear friend John on Friday 25th September at The Crematorium, Yeovil, followed by a Thanksgiving Service at Cheap Street Church conducted by Duncan, along with The Rev Kate Konrad, minister of Yeovil Methodist Church. We send our love and prayers to Sheila, her daughters Pauline and Christine and their family.

A few of you will remember Hilda Clarke of Glanvilles Wooton who was for many years a regular attender at Thought for the Day along with her sister Mary. Hilda suffered ill health for some time and for the last few years Hilda has been a resident at The Old Vicarage Nursing Home, Leigh. We received the news that Hilda died peacefully on September 14th. The Rev. Cristina Le Moignan officiated at Hilda's graveside funeral

Friday, 1st October at Glanvilles Wooton Church. We send our love and prayers to Hilda's brother Charlie and to her grand nephew Richard and his wife Sally, and their family.

Clive Turner is still in The Knoll, Yeovil and the family are working very hard with the authorities to get him home. Jill is however able to visit Clive twice a week, outside, and having to wear full PPE protection!

Sophie and Ellie are back in school, Sophie is now in the Sixth Form College at the Gryphon School. We wish them both well at the start of the new school year along with all our young people who are having to study during such difficult times.

Alma Anthony's health has deteriorated rapidly and she is no longer able to live on her own. She has moved to Groveland's Residential Home in Yeovil. We send her our love and best wishes.

Janet Baker recently attended Yeovil Hospital for a procedure to shock her irregular heart rhythm back to normal. Hopefully this treatment will have corrected the problem.

Anne Dearle continues to have eye problems and recently received more treatment.

We send our love and prayers to all who are undergoing hospital tests or receiving treatment. We wish them all the best for their recovery.

It is good to see Martin and Colleen back in our midst and now able to come to church. We give thanks to God for their recovery.

We send special love and prayers to Church Family members who are no longer able to live alone and are now in Residential care. They are - Renee Bennett, Phyllis Batchelor, Alma Anthony, Moira Heard and Pamela Oates.

Thank you Pastoral Visitors for keeping in touch with all on your lists. A telephone call is very welcome. A friendly chat of just a few minutes is welcomed very much by those of us who

live alone.

Thank you to all who have made it possible for us to worship together again. It is very different, but at least we are together as a family.

With love and prayers
Eirwen

FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

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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 Sheila Green and her family. We continue to pray for 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. (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
Peter Kett

Also those helping with Property matters related to Covid 19 secure areas,
Geoff Gardner

John Stinchcombe

And of course our minister Duncan. We also have a new Safeguarding Officer, George Faris. Please pray for George and bless his work in our

Church. Thank you.

JILL HUNT

It is with heartfelt thanks that John writes to say that in excess of £1,100 was sent to the Weldmar Hospice in Dorchester after the thanksgiving service for the life of his dear wife, Gill Hunt.

Many will not know Gill but she, John and their daughters were very much part of the life of the Church in their early years. Gill was very involved in the Women's' Fellowship and was its secretary and also Church Secretary for some years. In the latter years her health deteriorated so that she was unable to get to Church but her love for the place, its people and her God remained in spite of her many difficulties.

Colleen

SECRETARY'S COMMENTS

It was good to have our first Sunday service back in the church last weekend and to be able to join together in celebrating harvest, even if there were some limitations on what we could do. We were still able to thank God for all his goodness to us. Thank you for all the gifts we have received to pass on to Sherborne Food Bank and also for Commitment for Life gifts. I am sorry the envelopes were not available earlier, but we shall be happy to receive them through the offertory when you next come.

Alternatively, you can send a contribution to either John Stinchcombe or Jackie Bullen if you would like to do so.

Thank you also to the people who have been there to provide the back up for services. As well as a councillor on duty, we shall now need door stewards, someone on sound and some music. Last Sunday the music was recorded and this worked well and made a change but I hope that we can sometimes have a pianist. Just now none of our four regular organists / pianists is able to play for a variety of reasons and I am wondering whether there is someone in our number who has a hidden gift in this direction. Please let me know if so. I shall be doing the rota for people to cover the rest of this month and then do November and December later. I know that some who helped in the past will not be able to do so at present and any new offers for sound, music

or stewarding would be very much appreciated.

As from next Sunday there is no need to book a place for services via your pastoral visitor, although we shall still have to sign in in case it is ever needed for Covid Track & Trace. We shall not require a phone number if you are in the church directory.

Thank you,
Janet Le Moignan

PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Tajikistan - Suni Islam is the official religion, and Protestant churches are seen as foreign sects that aim to undermine the country's political system. All Christian activity is monitored by the government, and sermons must be approved by the authorities. The small number of believers from a Muslim background often hide their faith for fear of punishment or rejection by their families, who see their conversion as a betrayal and a disgrace. Let us pray: That believers will have strength to stand firm in their faith; for boldness and wisdom for churches that are being monitored, and that Christians will no longer be seen as extremists for practising religion outside of state-sanctioned structures. Amen

The Minister's Thoughts for this Coming Week

Lectionary Readings for week beginning 11th October 2020.

Psalm 106:1- 6 & 19-23, Exodus 32:1-14, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14.

It is not always easy to do the right thing; there are always pressures or temptations not to follow the correct course of action. In Psalm 106 we get an account of the times that during the exodus when the people of Israel failed to do so, but also a record of God's patience and forgiveness.

In our reading from Exodus there is the incidence of the people of Israel seeking to make their own god and

Aaron failing to stand up to them when Moses is away up a mountain talking with God and receiving the commandments for the first time. There is hurt and anger from God in response to what has happened, but in response to Moses plea's there is also grace and forgiveness for the people of Israel. In our life of faith we need to try to keep on acting in the right way, something Paul is encouraging the members of the Church at Philippi to do including Euodia and Syntyche two of the leading members of that church, that have fallen out over an unrecorded issue. For Paul it was not the rights or wrongs of whatever the issue was that was most important but that they behaved in the right way towards each other, regardless of any differences between them.

In our current time and the current restrictions that the Covid 19 pandemic has brought about, it is easy to be impatient with one another but we do need to continue to treat each other with love.

In the story which Jesus tells in our reading from Matthew, the invite to the wedding is one where the normal expectation is that you would attend, and would want to cancel everything just to be there. It is a reminder that, as important as various activities can be, it is vital that we make our highest priority to be faithful to God.

Hymn Singing The Faith 477. Teach me to dance to the beat of you heart,

Duncan

FROM SOJOURNERS

VERSE

In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. - Isaiah 42:4 (NIV)

VOICE

There is not some separation between Jesus and justice; to be Christian is to be

concerned with what's going on in the world. - Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II

PRAYER

Righteous God, may our faith always motivate and inform our pursuit of justice.

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 – [BBC Radio 4](#) Canon Edwin Counsell and the Rt Rev June Osborne with a service from Ewenny Priory and Ewenny Pottery.

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](#)).

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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