



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:

Janet Le Moignan 01935 389662 lemoignanj@yahoo.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

29th October 2020

Those who receive the Newsletter by email will recall that I have been running a countdown to Christmas, inspired by a former colleague who every year emailed the office in mid-September that there just 100 sleeps to Christmas and then gave us a daily update. If you are reading this on Wednesday there are just 32 sleeps to Advent Sunday and 58 to Christmas.

This week's Newsletter has another letter, do keep sending them in, another contribution from the Community & Wider World Team and a final reminder about Christmas shoeboxes for Romania. **George Faris**

Barbara Porter's Thought for the Day - Josephine

You will have read in a recent Newsletter that Dennis and I now have a great granddaughter, Josephine Jane. Her parents were married in the Abbey two years ago. We appreciated that so many of our Cheap Street friends were at the wedding to support the Porters whose family is small. The bride's family, by contrast, is huge.

I sent the new parents a card – you may know it -which gives wise words, advice on bringing up a child. The parents have framed the card, intending to hang it on a wall.

Stuck by a magnet on my fridge is a card which has been there for years. I read it frequently. It makes me smile and often I say, 'Amen Lord. 'It is 'The Nun's Prayer' and is attributed to a nun in 1700. I identify with all of it. I hope that you will too.

Lord you know better than myself that I am growing older.

Keep me from the habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to straighten everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all but you know Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep me free from the recital of endless details, give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains, they are increasing and love of rehearsing them becomes sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for grace to enjoy the tales of others pains but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory but for humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a saint, some of them are so hard to live with, but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talent in unexpected people and give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen.

I wonder which lines particularly strike you. Perhaps the line 'I want a few friends at the end'. Our friends have become especially important to us since the beginning of the year. We have one friend who is always with us, our Lord and Saviour. Has He become more important? We have the knowledge and the assurance that our Lord will be our friend. With us now and right to the end, whenever that may be. He listens to our grumbles and moans. He is with us through our pains and our sadness. With us when we are lonely. A friend indeed!

Reading: Psalm 121:

I lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip – he who watches over you will not slumber.

Prayer: Lord we thank you for your presence with us. The assurance that you are ever with us, right until the end. We pray that we may see the good things which sometimes come from unexpected places. Help us to see the positive things which have come, and will continue to come, from recent months to our church. Amen.

Hymn: *Songs of Fellowship 593* ([click for a Songs of Praise version](#))

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Pastoral News

Sadly, Yve Ackroyd received the news of the death of her brother, Ray Humphries, on Saturday 24th October. Ray was a very well-known and respected person in Shaftesbury and he and his wife, Chris, had served twice as Mayor and Mayoress. Ray was also honoured by the Queen with the MBE for service to the community. We send our love and prayers to Yve, Ken and all the family. **Eirwen Cox**

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

Lectionary Readings for All Saints' Day 1st November

Psalm 34, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 12:18-24, Matthew 5:1-12.

Paul in the opening greeting of his letters, often in his opening greetings sends his greeting to the saints of the church he is writing to. Some translations substitute 'God's Holy people' for the word Saints. At the time when Paul is writing there is no special category of people called Saints; it is all the members of the church including leading members of the church that are mentioned individually. On this day it is good to remember and give thanks for all the saints that are special for us. It might be a person you have never met, but whose life, example, or writings have helped you in your life of faith as a saint; or it might be a person who you know and who has been important to you and your life of faith.

Being a saint is not just a matter of knowing what you should do; it is about wanting to live our lives in the right way, which is echoed in the words of the prophet Jeremiah with God saying "I will put my law within them and write it on their hearts." In the teaching of Jesus recorded in our reading in Matthew, it is far more than a framework to live our lives by, it is also about having the right attitude of mind and heart. It is not that we will always get everything right and there is God's grace and forgiveness that helps to change when we do get things wrong.

The saints I will give thanks for were not always perfect and did make mistakes but they, like all God's saints, lived with the love of God in their hearts.

Hymn *Singing the Faith 745* For all the saints who from their labours rest ([click for a Songs of Praise version](#)).

Prayers for the persecuted church

Jordan

Conversion from Islam is not officially recognised, and Christians from a Muslim background face considerable persecution. Jordan is a strongly Islamic society, Christians being only 1.8% of the population, and leaving Islam is seen as a source of shame to your family and community. If discovered, they may face pressure from their families and communities to abandon their new faith and they may be physically attacked, arrested or lose custody of their children. Let us praise God that the number of Christians from a Muslim background is growing; for courage and strength for the underground church, that they may worship Jesus with joy, and that believers will share the good news of Jesus despite the risks. Amen.

Sunday 1st November – All Saints' Day

During Sunday's All Saints' Day service we shall hear the names of those who have died during the last year, who were part of our Church family, or linked to it, and we shall specially remember them. Then too, there will be time for each of us to remember others whom we loved and still do love, but see no longer.

As we think of them, may we, as part of the saints today, go marching on. **Janet Le Moignan**

A Shoebox for Christmas

Next Sunday is also the time when we dedicate the shoeboxes we have prepared for adults and children, living in great poverty in Romania. We shall have one box in Church, representing them all, together with a label showing how many have been given. Then they will all be going to a pick-up point at Milborne Port early next week, where Blythwood Care representatives will collect them, starting them on their journey so they can arrive ready to be distributed by Christmas time.

If you are able to deliver your box to our house, 29 Hound Street, anytime on Friday 30th Oct. between 9.30am and 6.00pm or on Saturday 31st anytime between 9.30am and 4.00pm, that would be very helpful. If you would like your box collected, please phone me on 01935 389662 to arrange a suitable time. Thank you so much to everyone who has been involved in providing these Christmas presents. **Janet Le Moignan**

Letter

When we had the Methodist Church forum on homosexuality, I was delighted that, although many of us were there, people were able to express differing views and the rest listened and acted with dignity. This enabled freedom of speech without acrimony. I hope that if the forum suggested by Geoff takes place, we will do the same and not bring criticism to bear on those who have differing views from our own. Duncan in the newsletter and on Sunday reminded us that we are to love one another. This was also brought to our attention in last week's *Thought for the Day* from 1st Thessalonians 5: 14 – 18. **Colleen Farquharson**

Update from the Community & Wider World Team

You may recall that in September I wrote that we were looking into the idea of becoming linked in to **Acts 435**, a national charity founded in 2010 by The Right Reverend Dr John Sentamu, who retired from his role as the Archbishop of York this July, but continues to be an active patron of the charity. We have continued to explore the idea and looked into the workings of the charity, and after further discussion and careful thought and prayer, have concluded that we would like to put our proposal to the Church Council for their consideration.

We are keen to emphasize that our main objective is to provide for the needy, as in Acts ch4 v35, where the apostles distributed their wealth amongst the poor. That does NOT mean that we are expecting you to donate, but that you allow Cheap Street Church to submit requests for assistance from Acts 435 donors, of whom there are many who like to provide financial help to those in particular need. We anticipate getting requests, initially, from the Rendezvous, and have other sources in mind for the future. The plan is to start small and build it up as we go along, dependent upon the need. The current pandemic is obviously causing a great deal of hardship throughout the country, but we feel it would be wonderful if, through this scheme, we were able to help in some small way those in our community who are in dire straits.

The following are from one of their leaflets:- "Acts 435 is donor-led, and if donors do not think the request is acceptable, they simply won't donate to it! The current cap is £150 and a family can apply up to three times. Applicant details are kept confidential - just town, age and a description of the need are displayed on the website.

What can anyone ask for? You can ask for help for anyone in poverty and struggling financially. They can be known personally to your church or referred to you by supporting organisations such as Children's Centres, CAP and the CAB.

Will it take up a lot of time? NO. 'Acts 435 is designed to be quick and easy - a resource to help you meet people's needs, not an administrative burden. If you are organised, you can fit Acts 435 requests neatly into your other church activities. Each request only requires a one-page form, to be signed by the applicant. How much you promote Acts 435 in your community is up to you.'

Do feel free to speak to me about it if you have any questions or concerns, and don't forget - you can look them up on the internet – click [Acts 435](#). We do hope you like this idea, and we would ask for your prayers as we try to move forward by serving the Lord in this way. **Jackie Bullen** (01935 813112)

Preaching Plan for November

Sunday 1 st	All Saints' Day	The Revd Duncan Goldie
Sunday 8 th	Remembrance Sunday	The Revd Duncan Goldie
Sunday 15 th		Mr Don Farquharson
Sunday 22 nd		Mrs Christine Rogers
Sunday 29 th	Advent Sunday	The Revd Duncan Goldie

Reminder

There will be a **Church Meeting** by Zoom on **Thursday November 12th at 7.00 pm**. Watch out for the agenda and details of how to join the meeting.

Other ways of worshipping on Sunday

Radio 4: 8.10 am – the Rev Dr Alex Wimberly, leader of the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland, leads a service for All Saints' Day.



Corrymeela, County Antrim

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

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

Contributions to future newsletters

Please send contributions by midday Wednesday to:
Penny Gardner pennygardner@gmail.com 01935 389153 and
George Faris gfaris48@gmail.com 01935 420258.