



## 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

**12<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

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This week's newsletter has contributions from 10 people and ranges from Sherborne to America via Turkey. 2 people bring us their visions and there's a further thought on grace.

I started following Ken Bonney's grandson on Twitter when lockdown kept Alistair Bunkall in America earlier this year. My phone has been pinging frequently as Alistair reported on the American election. My knowledge of the geography of America and how they elect their president has increased greatly. See *Thought for the Day* for Penny Gardner's insights.

If you are reading this on Wednesday there are just 18 sleeps to Advent Sunday and 44 to Christmas.  
**George Faris**

### Duncan's Message

Lectionary Readings for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November

Psalm 123, Judges 4:1-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30.

Often we may wish that we have different gifts or talents from the ones that we have, or that we were more gifted with the talents we have than we are. But what is important is that we make the most of the talents or gifts that we have been given by God, and that usually takes time and effort. In the reading from Matthew, the master is well aware of the gifts of the individual servants to whom he entrusts five thousand, two thousand and one thousand coins. The first two servants make the most of their gift and opportunity and double the amount given to them, the third just hides it away and does not use it. The third may not have had the abilities of the first two but he has not tried with what he has been given by God; and if he had tried the servant could well have been surprised by what he achieved.

With the current lockdown, there are limits on what we can do, but it is important that keep ourselves ready to make the most of our gifts when the opportunity arises.

Paul, in our reading from 1 Thessalonians, is urging those to whom he is writing to be ready to meet with the returning Jesus at any time. The time of our meeting with Jesus could be a surprise to us but, if we are seeking to use the gifts and opportunities God has given us, we will not be caught out.

In our reading from Judges, Barak is given the task of defeating the Canaanite king Jabin via the prophet Deborah. It is a daunting task given the military power of Jabin but is one that he has been equipped by God to do. Like Barak and Deborah, we can be sure that God has both equipped us and is with us in what God asks us to do.

Hymn: *Singing The Faith* 370 Breathe on me, Breath of God ([click for a Songs of Praise recording from Gosforth](#))

### From the Acting Church Secretary

As I write, the main church doors are open for people to look through the glass doors and see a display of poppies for Armistice Day in the welcome area, arranged by Eirwen and Jenn, who have also put some poppies in the church. Thank you both, very much.

While we are at present unable to hold services in the church on Sundays, we have arranged to open again on Saturdays, between 10.30 am and 12.30 pm, for private prayer, which is something we can do. This is available for anyone who may want to come and pray in these difficult times.

I am very sorry that not everyone can come to the Church Meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>, but Zoom is the best way we can manage in these circumstances. I will report on the meeting in some detail in next week's newsletter.

In the meantime, we remember God is with us, whatever we are, or are not able to do. **Janet Le Moignan**

**Martin Heal** offers this acrostic he has known since his youth fellowship days:

**G**od's  
**R**iches  
**A**t  
**C**hrist's  
**E**xpense

Further to Christina and Colleen's thoughts about Grace in past newsletters (Christina wrote of undeserved love and Colleen undeserved mercy) I would like to add the undeserved power which comes from the Holy Spirit and enables us to be the people and do the things we could not be or do without His help.

I grew up thinking that Grace was what you said before meals at home and at school and at the end of services. When I committed myself to Christ in my late teens I came to know the amazing Grace of an amazing God.

### Pastoral News

Eileen Higgins daughter-in-law Dawn is seriously ill in hospital. Dawn was taken to hospital at the weekend suffering from pneumonia and was later put into an induced coma. We send love and prayers from all our Cheap Street Church family to Dawn, Robert and Eileen.

Happy Birthday to Margaret Walker on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and to Hilary Brown on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> with love and best wishes from all at Cheap Street. Apologies to Hilary for getting the date wrong last week. **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 Yve and Ken Ackroyd and all the family, 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.*

### Penny Gardner's Thought for the Day - Unity

I have waited for the election in the US to be over before I wrote my thoughts. I was sure that there would be lots of inspiration to be got from the whole process and the end result. But I was not sure whether it would be from the aspect of winning or losing. I listened to Joe Biden this morning and cried. I had got it wrong.

It was not a matter of looking at one side or the other but a matter of bringing people together. Helping them to unite. I had been so strongly opposed to those who were not voting the same way that I was going to vote that I did not think that in fact I (we) should be looking at how we are going to work together with people who are not exactly the same as us. People who do not think the same as us.

*Ephesians 4: 1-3. I urge you, then. . .live a life that measures up to the standard God set when he called you. Be always humble, gentle, and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another. Do your best to preserve the unity which the Spirit gives by means of the peace that binds you together.*

This may all seem puzzling to you. Why should I worry about how I will work with people in the USA that are opposed politically to me? Especially since I live here in the UK.

The reason is that I feel at this present time there is almost a parallel situation developing in our church community. It could be a time and opportunity for change. For doing things differently. There are many ideas that have been put forward to achieve this. At the same time there are many who are opposed to the new ideas. Perhaps wishing to leave things as they are or feel their way is the better way.

This is very simplified but I feel that without tolerance, gentleness and patience in the face of different opinions, the Holy Spirit may be frustrated in bringing us peace and unity.

I was reminded recently in my daily reading that Paul had to confront the Galatians and even Peter. Eventually they all got it right. Can you imagine the discussions that took place! In Galatians 2: 11-21 Paul is obviously upset by the legalistic behaviour of those who have previously been given the gift of life in Christ. I believe that he worked hard to bring them back into the fold with love and respect.

Just as Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are offering the citizens of the USA a way to work together to make a better country – so too should we. I think we can do this by prayerfully considering how the Holy Spirit might be working through us as a church and listening carefully and respectfully to those who might see things differently.

## Prayers for the persecuted church

### Turkey

Many people in Turkey believe that a true Turk must be a Sunni Muslim, and leaving Islam is seen as a betrayal of Turkish identity. Christians there are nervous as the country moves in an Islamic and nationalistic direction. While converts from Islam can legally change their religious affiliation on ID cards, it is a difficult process and believers face extreme pressure from their families if they do so. Let us pray for protection for Turkish Christians who are facing persecution; for God's comfort and peace for believers from a Muslim background who can't openly confess their faith, and that Jesus will show President Erdogan that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

### Vision 1 - using the shop at 54 Cheap Street for outreach

John Wesley urged us to do ALL WE CAN! I believe the use of the Church shop on Cheap Street to reach out to our community with God's message and practical help, is something we CAN do and urgently should do. In a time like no other, our community needs help. Also, we should be doing as much as we can to show the true picture of God and his message to those outside the church, who have no idea, or the wrong idea of Him.

Our mission statement at Cheap Street Church is "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". Jesus' example was to be out there, among the people, concerned with their lives. Using the shop for outreach gives us a great opportunity for showing and sharing.

Welcoming other churches in Sherborne on board too, gives God a central focus in Sherborne with Christians working together from this place in the heart of our town. Also, involving the community, inviting them to be part of it, bringing and sharing, as well as benefitting, makes the project belong to everyone, encouraging unity and relationship.

I know there are many practicalities to consider carefully, but if the Holy Spirit is leading us, and this is God's way forward in Sherborne, through us, what a privilege that would be!

Within my role as Circuit Children and Families Worker I am currently unable to run my usual face to face groups. This is an opportunity to use my skills and time to continue to reach out to families and the wider community in a different way. I could be based at the shop rather than at home, preparing activities for children and carrying out some aspects of my Circuit Safeguarding Officer role, for approximately 20 hours per week. At the same time, I could be engaging with the community and helping to enable the outreach ideas you will see in the proposal.

During the summer, I didn't set about asking others to join me with this idea, as you might suppose. What actually happened was that others, in conversation, started expressing their passion for outreach at this time and use of the shop was in many of their minds too. Without me even asking for volunteers, they were there. A burning desire was laid on many hearts, and that's just the ones I know about!

I currently have 9 volunteers committed to filling the initial shifts. These are Jackie Bullen, Penny Gardner, Geoff Gardner, Cath Adam, Jan Wallace, Ruth Rogerson, Jane Billington, Alison Berry (during school holidays), Jane Drew (from St Pauls). I am sure others will want to join the team and this will possibly enable us to be open 6 hours a day, from 10 am to 4 pm. **Lynn Heaton**

*Lynn's vision will be discussed at the church meeting on Zoom on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 7 pm.*

### Vision 2 – Advent windows in the community



As we are not able to hold most of our usual Christmas events this year, this is an opportunity to explore new ways of preparing for Christmas: church and community together. The idea is to have a whole town Advent calendar! Every day, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December, a new Christmas window will appear. 24 households would kindly offer to decorate a window of their home in the spirit of Christmas, and it would be lit and accessible for members of the public to come and see. Advent is a time of waiting for Christmas, of following the star to find the king, and in that spirit people could follow the windows in the time leading up to Christmas.

It would be wonderful if the Sherborne churches could find 24 people who are happy to take part in this outreach project and who are willing to decorate a downstairs window of their home.

Obviously, the project of a 'whole town Advent calendar' can only go ahead if there are 24 volunteers who are prepared to decorate a window. Participants should know by Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November whether it will take place and which day they have been allocated for their window.

If you feel you would like to be involved in this exciting new Christmas project for church and community together, or if you have questions or comments, please get in touch as soon as possible.

**Ruth Rogerson** ([rogersonruth@gmail.com](mailto:rogersonruth@gmail.com), 01935 813498)

### A plea

Dear Friends, having been in Yeovil Hospital this year I became aware of the Breast Cancer Unit Appeal. The committee are trying to raise funds during lockdown and perhaps you saw the appeal in the *Conduit*? I did. It said something like this. "Do you have any unwanted items of jewellery taking up space in your jewel box? Help us raise funds by donating them to the Yeovil Hospital Charity. Broken watches, broken jewellery as well as good pieces can be used for the cause."

I contacted Maggie Hague (01963 250108) and she came and collected. More information is available from Sarah Cherry, the Community and Events Fundraiser on 01935 383020.

Is there anyone reading this who can rifle their jewel box? I hope so. **Collen Farquharson**

### Thank you to nursing and care homes.

I would like to say how grateful we should be to those who manage and work in the local nursing and care homes. This really struck home to me after speaking with our dear friends Alma Anthony in The Grove in Yeovil and Myra Heard in Eastbury House, on hearing how happy and well cared for they are. They both said how they're kept well entertained, and that the food as well the care they receive are excellent. I dare say many of you have friends or family in other such establishments, and it is good to be able to pay tribute to those who dedicate their time and talents to caring for the residents, sharing their love and empathy, especially during this difficult time when so often family and friends are prevented from visiting their loved ones. May God bless them in the valuable work they do. **Jackie Bullen**

### *The Cheapstreeter*

If you have anything for the church magazine, I would be grateful, if you could let me have it by SUNDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER. **Raymond Wood**

### URC Prayer Handbook

The 2021 URC prayer handbook is available for £4.49 inclusive of post and packing. Please contact me by Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>. Note: those who received the Methodist one will also receive the URC one. **George Faris** (01935 420258 [gfaris48@gmail.com](mailto:gfaris48@gmail.com)).

### Other ways of worshipping on Sunday

Radio 4: 8.10 am – *It's complicated* - the Revd Dr Doug Gay, Principal of Trinity College, Glasgow, and the Revd Dr Carolyn Kelly, Chaplain to Glasgow University, explore the mixed feelings experienced when faith has to reckon with the complexities of life.

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:

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