



## 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

Christine Rogers  
01935 815216

## NEWSLETTER

2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2020

# Happy Birthday John!

The Reverend John Stanfield is 100 on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April.

### A LETTER FROM JOHN STANFIELD

Dear Friends

Thank you all for intending to come to my 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations, in spite of virus threats, which have now forced a cancellation. There is a curious link, because I was born 100 years ago in what is now WuHan in Central China. This is where this virus originated! Fortunately, our great Mission 'Hospital of Universal Love' was there, and one of the first Lady Missionary doctors in China, Sally Wolf, ensured that I arrived safely and remained alive, in spite of her just having treated a smallpox patient when summoned.

83 years later I finally arrived in Sherborne to my second retirement home, and have spent 17 years here, longer than anywhere else since I became a Methodist minister 72 years ago.

I was immediately 'at home' in the Methodist family. It is the same wherever I went worldwide. . . Gambia, West Africa for 7 years. . . South Africa, India, China and in the UK – Durham, Taunton, Essex, Swindon, Cambridge. ALL very similar. The Methodist family Connexion linked all over the country. Never isolated individual churches. Linked first in the circuit family, then in Districts and Conference.

Here in Sherborne many will remember Bob and Joyce Boggis. He was my Senior Church Steward when I left West Wickham. Here, who should come in my first year but Christina and Janet Le Moignan. Christina, Chair of the enormous Birmingham District, and a President of the Methodist Church.

This world church is due to the missionary emphasis originated by John Wesley, who said "consider the World to be my parish". And more recently a great Anglican Archbishop, William Temple said "The Church only exists for those outside." Mission is the Purpose of the church.

Every church member is part of the Mission of the church.

The church always seems to be stronger through difficulty. The recent example of the Chinese Church which emerged from extreme persecution and banning over 20 years – about four times larger, and now is approaching 200 million!

Even when unable to meet, Charles Wesley has the perfect word. "Altho' to separate climes repaired, (and virus separated) inseparably joined in heart the friends of Jesus are."

With love to all,

John

*John is staying with his sister in Oxfordshire to be nearer his family. Janet Le Moignan (01935 389662) has his address.*

### THOUGHTS FROM DUNCAN

Lectionary Readings for week beginning 5th April 2020:  
Psalm 118:1-2, & 19-29, Matthew 21:1-11.

1. All glory, laud, and honour  
To thee, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring.  
Thou art the King of Israel,  
Thou David's royal Son,  
Who in the Lord's name comest,  
The King and Blessed One.

2. The company of angels  
Are praising thee on high,  
And mortal men and all things  
Created make reply.  
The people of the Hebrews  
With palms before thee went;  
Our praise and love and anthems  
Before thee we present.

3. To thee, before thy passion,  
They sang their hymns of praise;  
To thee, now high exalted,  
Our melody we raise.  
Thou didst accept their praises;  
Accept the love we bring,  
Who in all good delightest,  
Thou good and gracious King.

4. All glory, laud, and honour  
To thee, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, ca 760–821

How do you celebrate Palm Sunday and Jesus' ride into Jerusalem on a donkey at the start of Holy Week, when we are not allowed to meet together because it could be a danger to our health and aid the spread of Covid-19? We could all stand and clap for a minute at 10:30 am or light a candle. Most Palm Sundays are a celebration of the joy that is present in Jesus triumphant ride into Jerusalem. But it was a ride that for Jesus, was also a part of the journey he was taking that was leading to his sacrificial death on the Cross, in all of our places. Something that is reflected in the hymn, 'Ride on, ride on in majesty!'

Psalm 118, with imagery that is mirrored in Jesus' ride into Jerusalem, is a Psalm of thanks for having returned from a military campaign or war, having faced death and defeat and come through, is expressing the need to give thanks to God. This year it is good to read the whole of the Psalm, including the verses that we normally leave out, as they seem to reflect

where we currently are with battle/war with the Coronavirus. When the victory is eventually won we will have many people to thank and give thanks for, including God, and in various ways, including church services we will need to give our thanks, and express our joy when the pandemic is over. While the impending death of Jesus is a part of Palm Sunday, so is the victory of the resurrection, and triumph of life over death.

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY FROM KEVIN FISHER**

I had presumed that this would be my last TtD at Cheap Street given my upcoming move back to the Midlands. The current upheaval and crisis, however, just lend weight to the fact that "it never does to plan too far in advance"!

I've been using my time at home to go through some old scrapbooks & memorabilia (Kate will tell you I'm a hoarder of Files). In one, recording our daughter's Baptism in March 1980, I came across a truly wonderful reflection from the Minister who Christened her, the Rev Don Allan. Now those of you who've been patient enough to listen to me over the years may remember that I often look up to the balcony in Church and see all those Faith-Full souls who've shown me the Light during my life. Don is one of them - a truly inspiring Minister who was loving, kind, fun and a great Witness to the Truth. He and his wife retired to Droitwich where we are hoping to live. Barbara still worships at the Methodist church there so we may be renewing our friendship — God willing.

I thought that I'd simply repeat his reflections to you. They say so much about Easter and our Faith in challenging times. Here goes:

*Dear Friends. Over lunch the other day my family started a most involved discussion on the subject of creation. Which is correct; the Genesis account or the scientific theory of evolution? Inevitably the discussion led us to the question "Well, who made God?". Unanswerable, until one accepts it all began with God whether you favour Genesis or science.*

*From there we got onto the mind-boggling questions of Time and Space and infinity. Our son, Jonathan, who is 13, started telling us about the stars and galaxies being many, many light years away so when we look at them we are seeing light from how they were millions of years ago not how they are now. So, out there in infinite space, the future has already happened - it just hasn't reached us yet! If something cataclysmic had occurred which would affect our planet then it has already happened and there is nothing we can do about it. Deep thoughts indeed!*

*It all had the effect of making me think again in a new way about the events which took place in Jerusalem nearly 2,000 years ago. The Passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus were of such eternal and infinite significance that when and where they occurred is of little importance because in a sense they are still happening. The effects of this wonderful sacrifice are still coming into human lives now just as they did then and they will continue to do so as long as humanity exists. The great struggle between evil and good, between life and death, was won, is won, will be won.*

*But enough of metaphysical complexity. What does it all mean for us here and now? It means simply that the crucifixion of Jesus on the Cross of Calvary is for me, now just as it was for Peter, John, James and all the rest then. It means that He takes my sins as truly as He took theirs and redeemed them by His deep suffering. Forgiveness is given to me and everyone who desires it today.*

*It means that as He conquered death and rose to life then so are we brought from death (estrangement from God) to life (reconciliation with God) here and now - and what that means for the future has still to catch up with us from out there!*

*All-in-all it makes Easter a time to be excited about for it speaks of the immeasurable love of God - for me - and for you. It speaks of death's power broken for all time.*

*I hope that this Easter joy will be with you and make the living Jesus very real for you and your loved ones this Easter time.*

It was a real joy to me to re-read those words from Don, as true now as when they were written 40 years ago.

Aren't we so lucky to share in fellowship with each other at Cheap Street? This written word is fine but I am already missing the conversations, smiles & hugs from so many of you. Let us hope and pray that these can soon be resumed. Thought for the Day is much richer than just a spoken word.

My reading would have been John 12: 23-24: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

The hymn would have been *Singing the Faith* No 306: "Now the green blade rises from the buried grain."

My prayers are with you all. Know that God surrounds and protects us and put your trust in Him.

This prayer is from a book I use often written by David Clowes. It feels particularly apt in these trying times:

Lord we live in a world of change.  
Every day is filled with uncertainty.  
We are surrounded by the twists and turns of life  
and we often feel that we have little or no control  
over things that happen to us.  
Lord we come to stand in your eternal presence.  
We come to find ourselves, to find our way, to find hope.  
We come to you because in Christ  
you came first to us. Amen".

The Peace of the Lord be with you all.

#### **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 have been asked to join with others in Sherborne at 8 pm every night to pray for NHS staff and carers in and around Sherborne.

Ken Bonney requests prayer for the safe return of his grandson, Alistair Bucknall, who is reporting for Sky News from New York, the most infected city in America. He and his cameraman cannot leave for the foreseeable future. A worrying time for Ken and his family. Alistair is on Twitter: @AliBunkalISKY.

We continue to hold in prayer all those who are in special need: Kathy Crew; Colleen Farquharson; Clive Turner and Jill, Ellie and Sophie; Myra Heard; Janet Dolling and her family; Judith Hayward and family; Eileen Higgins; John Hicks's family; Janet Baker; Martin Heal and Alex Palmer

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

This week Sudan, where Islam is illegal, and believers from a Muslim background can be sentenced to death. Most believers have to keep their faith completely secret, and can be put under house arrest by their families if their new faith is discovered.

The country is currently in a period of great unrest following the ousting of President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, whose authoritarian rule lasted 30 years.

Let us pray for encouragement and strength for Christians facing extreme opposition; that God will use this time of political change to increase His kingdom, and that Open Doors partners will be equipped to strengthen the Church. Amen.

## DEATHS

27<sup>th</sup> February – Anne Wales, wife of the Revd Derek Wales (URC Wessex Synod Moderator 1995-2002) in a car accident in West Sussex.

17<sup>th</sup> March – Peter Fowler, formerly of St John's House.

Memorial services will be arranged later.

## NEWS

- Martin Heal is having further tests next week as he recovers at home from the food poisoning he had last week.
- Ruth Rogerson wants to get you exercising: [click here](#) and [click here](#) for YouTube videos.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

BBC1: 11 am (times vary) - this week from Hereford Cathedral.

Radio 4: 8.10 am – this week: *Walking in the company of Jesus*.

Methodist resources: [click here](#).

URC resources: [click here](#).

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

## A FINAL THOUGHT FROM RAYMOND WOOD

*Cheap Street Church* is not a building and it is *not closed*. Our church is alive and well! I have exchanged more emails and had more telephone conversations, not only with those I am in touch with on a regular basis, but also with some I have had little contact with in the past. I feel we are even closer together as a church family than we were before this Coronavirus crisis. We are no longer able to meet, sadly, but we know we have each other for love and support. And God is with us, *our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble*.

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## 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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