



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

Janet Le Moignan 01935 389662
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NEWSLETTER

17th December 2020



On our final few days before Christmas we find ourselves in a most peculiar time. It is not the cosy festive period usually spent with friends or family but this year comes laced with anxiety. So little is familiar to us. Should we or should we not see those we love?

Usually we can at least enjoy the wealth of carols written about the wonderment of Christ's birth. Now even that is severely restricted. But read on! There are various ways suggested here that will enable the whole family to enjoy Christmas Carols and the spirit of Christmas.

I have again printed out the location of Advent windows in Sherborne. They are well worth a visit. (See letters)

Finally a reminder that George will need your contributions for Christmas week's newsletter a bit earlier than usual.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas. Stay Safe.
Stay healthy.
Penny

THURSDAY THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

By Duncan Goldie

Luke 2:1-7.

THE THINGS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

There are many small things that can make a big difference to our lives, as the current Covid 19 pandemic has demonstrated. A virus that we cannot hope to see with our unaided eyes has brought death and illness that has resulted in our normals being totally turned upside down. Back earlier this year a vaccine to combat the disease was a distant hope but the efforts of a relatively small number of scientists working for various companies has resulted in a number of vaccines. It is hoped these will bring the pandemic to an end and again change our lives.

The birth of any baby is a wondrous event. It might seem small and not a world changing event, but each birth has the potential to bring into the world an individual who could go on to change and reshape the world we live in. The birth of God's son to Mary and Joseph, was a small beginning missed by most but was an event through which God has chosen to change and constantly reshape the world. This is something that is reflected in Mary's song even before Jesus is born (Luke 1:46-55), where Kings are brought down and the lowly lifted up; the hungry fed and the rich go away empty. And even though Mary is singing about future events the tenses used in the words of the song speak as if what God will do has already happened.

Our Christmas celebrations this year will no doubt be a lot smaller than usual. We may not visit everyone we would like to but they are just as important and life changing if we meet

with Jesus who was born in a stable in Bethlehem and who is welcome into our lives once more.

Carol STF.176. Like a Candle flame.

From the Secretary

Our apologies to anyone who was expecting to see a choir of 6 at our Christmas service of readings and carols next Sunday.

Unfortunately we found that only people in Tier 1 could do this inside and we, as you know, are in Tier 2.

However, the fact that we are able to have a singing group outside seemed too good to miss. We have organised 6 people to sing carols on the church steps on Thursday 17th at 10.30am, to be followed by a second group at 11.00am and Geoff Gardner has kindly offered to provide musical backing from inside the church. If possible, I would very much like to carol sing again the Thursday afterwards, which will be Christmas Eve, but for that we shall need some more volunteers. Please let me know, as soon as you can, if you might be able to join in then. Thank you.

And next Sunday we shall still be able to hear the story of Christmas from our Bible readings and Janet English will be playing carols on the organ. We may not be able to sing out loud but we can still make our response to God as we worship together and remember his amazing gift to us and all people, in the coming of Jesus Christ to earth.

Janet Le Moignan

PASTORAL

The latest update on Barbara is that she is making progress and is gradually being weaned off the reliance on Oxygen which is very good news. Next Tuesday Barbara has an appointment at the Trauma and Spinal Injury Unit Taunton Hospital. Let us hope that her homecoming is not too far away. We send Love and prayers from all at Cheap Street Church to Barbara, Dennis and the family.

Michael Hooper's Sister-in-law, Julie, died on the 9th of December after a battle with cancer. Our prayers go out to her husband Brian and the Hooper families.

Birthday Greetings.

Brian Walker celebrates his birthday on Saturday 19th December followed by William Slogrove Sunday

20th December and Christine Rogers who is celebrating 80 years young on Monday 21st December! Her special birthday plans have had to be put on hold because of Covid 19

We send our love and best wishes to you from all at Cheap Street Church. Have a great Day.

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 hold in special prayer Barbara Porter; Eileen's son Robert and his wife Dawn who remains seriously ill; Clive and Jill Turner and the girls Ellie and Sophie who are experiencing very difficult times; and the Hooper family.

We continue to pray for Sheila Green and her family; Yve and Ken Ackroyd and all the family; John Hunt and his family; Carol Hooper and her family; Janet Baker; Martin Heal; Phyllis Batchelor; Duncan's mother; Kathy Crew; 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

George Faris

Martin Heal

Christine Rogers

Norma Hamill

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.

PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Malaysia - There are 32.5 million people living in Malaysia, where Christians make up nine per cent of the population, numbering almost three million. Christians from a Muslim background face the most severe persecution, as they are viewed as bringing disgrace on their family and community. They also face discrimination when it comes to housing, schooling and tax benefits. Believers can be sent to 're-education camps' and they're at risk of abduction, sometimes on the orders of the government. Let us pray for the safe return of abducted Christians and for comfort for their families as they wait; for courage and protection for believers from a Muslim background who meet in secret, and for changes in the law to allow greater freedom of belief in Malaysia. **Amen.**

Letters

There was an interesting programme on John Wesley and Methodism on Radio 4 last week in the *In Our Time* series. It's available here: <http://ow.ly/TBfE50CHR1s>.
George Faris

Advent Windows: I was delighted when my daughter took me for a drive around the town the other evening to see the lovely Advent Window displays, which Ruth Rogerson had instigated, one appearing each day right up to Christmas. It is a delightful thing to have done, and Ruth is to be thanked and congratulated for having put this scheme together. I feel sure it has brought a lot of pleasure to many people, not only the children but also the young at heart! Jackie

THE MINISTER'S THOUGHTS FOR THIS COMING WEEK

Lectionary Readings for Sunday 20th
December 2020 Advent 4.

Psalm 89:1-4 & 19-26, 2 Samuel 7:1-11 & 16,
Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:46b-55.

Christmas and the birth of Jesus takes place not in midst of a safe sacred place but in the middle of the everyday world. The world of those who are struggling to get by and the world of power politics with rulers that are determined to hold onto power, regardless of what it takes. In our reading from Samuel, King David thinks that one of the last things he should do is to build a sacred space or temple for God to be in. God is not too keen on this idea and reminds us via the prophet Nathan that God has no need of it, but will eventually allow it to be built but not by David.

The song that Mary sings in Luke is about what we call the real world being changed. She sings about the rulers and the powerful being brought down; the poor and the powerless being lifted up; the rich going away empty and the poor being fed. It is a world in which injustices are put right and those who oppose the change are swept away. In the world that Mary lived in, like in ours, this was not the normal way that things happened. But it is what God promises with the birth of Jesus into our world.

We live in a world in which we are looking for greater social justice with campaigns like 'Black Lives Matter'. A world where Covid 19 no longer means that we have to wear a mask and stand two metres apart from each other, a world where people are not afraid or punished for telling the truth by the powerful. It is a new world which the birth of God's Son has made both possible and inevitable.

Hymn Singing The Faith 222. Who would think that what was needed

Duncan

Services at Cheap Street Church in December 2020 and first two weeks of January 2021

20 December, Fourth Sunday of Advent, 10.30
am, Carol Service: Revd Duncan Goldie

24 December, 6.00 pm, Christmas Eve Service

with Holy Communion: Revd Duncan Goldie

25 December, Christmas Day Service, 10.30 am: Revd Duncan Goldie

27 December – no Sunday worship

3 January 2021, Covenant Service with Holy Communion, 10.30 am: Revd Duncan Goldie

10 January 2021, 10.30 am: Sunday Worship: Revd Duncan Goldie

Sherborne Community Advent Calendar in home windows

Every day in December a new Advent window will appear at the following addresses:

Date Address

- 1 54 Cheap Street, DT9 3BJ
- 2 101 Coldharbour, DT9 4JL
- 3 Jacaranda, The Avenue, DT9 3AJ
- 4 Bristol Road, DT9 4HG
- 5 8 Acreman Street, DT9 3NU
- 6 Studholme, Coldharbour, DT9 4AB
- 7 11 Acreman Street, DT9 3NU
- 8 Abbey View, Fairfield, DT9 4HG
- 9 33 Coldharbour, DT9 4HD
- 10 The Knowle, Bristol Road, DT9 4HS
- 11 Wallaby House, Bristol Road, DT9 4HS
- 12 Birchwood, Bristol Road, DT9 4HS
- 13 34 St. Mary's Road, DT9 6DQ
- 14 Glenbrittle, Lenthay Road, DT9 6AQ
- 15 Quinns, Marston Road, DT9 4BL
- 16 Craigness, Bristol Road, DT9 4HS
- 17 29 Granville Way, DT9 4AS
- 18 73 Granville Way, DT9 4AT
- 19 2 Acreman Street, DT9 3NU
- 20 10 Terrace View, Coldharbour, DT9 4AF
- 21 Manor Court, DT9 3JX
- 22 Hillcote, Bristol Road, DT9 4HS
- 23 9 Acreman Street, DT9 3NU
- 24 Cheap Street Church, DT9 3BJ

Online Nativity and Carol Services

Pandemic forces Churches in Yeovil to think outside the box and together!

Social distancing makes it very difficult to do what churches love to do at Christmas time and the community appreciates, namely to fling open the doors and welcome everyone for nativity and carols. So this year many of the Yeovil Churches are coming together at 4pm on Sunday 20th December to present a mercifully short nativity & carol service

featuring Penn Mill School. The great thing about a streamed service is you can participate from the comfort of your own home and if you miss the time, afterwards the service remains available for you to enjoy as part of your Christmas celebrations in 2020.

Many of us are feeling we are so close to having a vaccine that to come out and mix together this Christmas might be a mistake, so the Church which exists for the benefit of its non members, comes to you this year. And rather than all do the same sort of thing and look like we are competing, the churches in Yeovil have decided to work together.

Carols and nativity is one Christmas tradition you don't have to miss out on, in fact it might just become a new tradition as the church seeks to find new ways to communicate the good news of Jesus' birth.

You can find all the fun at <https://www.yeovil.church>

AND One from Gillingham

Dear Friends and Supporters,

You are warmly invited to our **Virtual Carol Service** which will go-live on YouTube and Facebook at **7pm on Thursday 17th December.**

The idea for a virtual service came about following the cancellation of our usual Carol Service due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This service has always been a lovely occasion and one of the highlights of the year for me, so I have done my best to recreate it as an on-line event. It will take our usual format with a mixture of carols, lessons and prayers, along with some beautiful music from GMC/GCC members and guest performers. At the end of the service there will be a Christmas greetings section, with contributions from many previous *Music at GMC* performers. For this, I have been very honoured to have received more than a dozen contributions from international musicians, including David Briggs (NYC, USA), Martin Setchell (New Zealand) and Hans Hielscher (Wiesbaden, Germany). For the non-organists amongst you, I can tell you that the contributions are not just confined to organ music, so I'm hoping that there will be something to please everyone. I

will also be posting these Christmas greetings as a separate video for those who are not interested in the Carol service, but be warned, you may miss out on some hidden gems!

You can find a preview here: [click here](#)

Happy Christmas and all best wishes,

Gordon Amery

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 – [click here](#)

Cities of Promise – A Place For The Saviour . A service for the fourth Sunday of Advent, from the UK's smallest city: St Davids. Led by Canon Leigh Richardson, with an address by the Very Reverend Dr Sarah Rowland Jones.

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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