



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
lemoignanjanet@yahoo.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

31st December 2020



Can you believe it? Here we are on the 42nd issue of The Cheap Street Newsletter and the end of an extraordinary year. I wonder how many of us kept a diary, or can remember what we have done in the last nine months. I have trouble remembering stuff so Geoff and I decided to write all our activities in our diaries so that we can reassure ourselves that we did not just sit and stare at the four walls. It is surprising what we got done – doing nothing.

This year has seen a lot of praying. We have witnessed turmoil around us and friends suffering from loss, ill health and loneliness. In most cases the most practical help we could give was to get on our knees and pray.

Many churches have Watchnight Services giving a chance to see the old year out by reflecting and confessing and welcoming the New Year in with prayer and praise. Maybe this is something we might do on our own or even when we are wishing friends well in the coming year.

I would like to end this year's endeavours on a high note. We have very good news about Barbara Porter. (See Pastoral and Letters) We also have an exciting new project in The POD. (See Outreach) And something we have all been praying for - we have the arrival of COVID vaccines!

May God continue to Bless you in 2021!
Penny

From the Secretary

At the time of writing, we are still able to keep our churches open for worship, although with more directives from the Government to come today, we don't really know what is to follow. So providing we can still come to worship next Sunday, we shall celebrate our annual Covenant Service then. This reminds us of God's promises to his people, and God does not fail us. It also challenges us to make our promises to God, a Christian New year resolution, both individual and joint, as we say the words together. And then we shall share Communion with one another. If you are able please come, and if you are not, we shall be thinking about you during that service.

I must apologise to those of you who normally use the church offertory envelopes for your financial giving. These are on order but are not yet with us. Until they arrive please will you use your own envelope and put your number on it. Thank you.

Of course if we find that churches are closed down again, this will all have to wait and the Covenant Service will be held when we reopen.

Christmas and the Covenant Service both tell us that God is with us. So may we go into the New Year with God, with love and hope for the world. A Happy New Year to everyone.
Janet

PASTORAL

We have just received the good news that Barbara Porter is being sent home from hospital today or tomorrow! It is such good news to come at the end of this very difficult year. A care package will be put in, eventually, but in the meantime Dennis will be getting help from a care agency.

New Year's day Ruth Armstrong will be celebrating her birthday. We wish you all the best.

Eirwen

OUTREACH IN 2021

Outreach is a word that has been banded about at church meetings for decades and it is exciting when we step out in faith to spread God's word and show His love in ways apart from formal church services. In more recent years we have launched Senior Service and Sticky Church as well as Thought for the Day and Open the Book all of which have proved popular with targeted age groups and attracted people from beyond the immediate church family.

In 2021, as a church, we are embarking on a new project involving the shop we own at the Cheap Street entrance to our premises and currently stands vacant. We believe there are opportunities here to reach a wider community in practical ways and we hope other churches in the town will come on board.

The shop will be called The Pod which is a vessel containing seeds. In it there is hope for growth, health and nourishment. We pray that church and community will work together. There is great potential here of planted seeds bringing a fresh expression of Church.

Our Christian calling is to increase awareness of God's presence and celebrate God's love. To this end our vision is to use seasonal window displays and promote our activities which will make a more accessible way into faith for some, providing a more accessible threshold to cross than the church and open more hours.

Our calling is also to help people grow in faith and learn as Christians through mutual support and care. To do this we will help and encourage faith exploration through a

Christian book library for all ages and give out leaflets on faith and local churches to take away. There will be opportunity for discussion and prayer in the shop and the opportunity for interaction with all Sherborne churches.

We are called to be a good neighbour to those in need and to challenge injustice. With this in mind we will be a link with organisations which meet local needs and other Christian agencies like Community Aid Network, Christians Against Poverty, Sherborne Food Bank, The Rendezvous and Choose Love (items for refugees) and Acts 345, details of which can be found in the welcome area.

God wants us to make more followers of Jesus Christ and through the shop we want to connect with people in the street, a very visible Christian presence in Cheap Street. We would organise colouring competitions for the young and talk to local schools about how they can contribute to the community. We want to build relationships with people and work alongside them.

By welcoming other churches on board we would create a central focus for God's work right in the heart of our town. There will be costs but it is felt that gains in non financial ways will make it more than worthwhile. It will be a new way of seeing the church in action. One enthusiastic supporter has given £5,000 anonymously to meet initial costs

This report contains excerpts from a project plan written by Lynn Heaton and her team - a report which is fully endorsed by your church council and the church meeting. Copies of the full report, which enthused councillors, is available on line and in written form.

We invite you to get behind this vision in whatever way you feel led but it is hoped the whole church will pray for its success. God's will be done. Telephone Lynn on 01963 251747 for more information. Exciting times!

Martin Heal

FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

The Prayer Ring is available for an urgent need or situation. Call any of these numbers and the circle of prayer will begin:
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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

And new councillors –

Jackie Bullen,

Pat Heal

Janet English

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

Oman is an absolute monarchy and the government expects obedience from its citizens. That includes following the state religion, Islam. Citizens are under strict surveillance. Legislation is based mainly on Sharia (Islamic law) and leaving Islam is seen as a betrayal of your tribe and family.

Converts from Islam are pressured to recant their faith, and can be expelled from the family home and from their jobs. In this highly conservative society, it is especially difficult for Muslim women to choose to follow Christ.

Let us pray. Loving God, please bless our brothers and sisters in Oman. Give them strength and courage as they endure abandonment and prejudice. We pray that many Omani people will discover the truth of your gospel and realise the joy of following Christ, despite the cost. Also that believers in Oman will understand how deeply they are known and loved by God, and that they will have opportunities to share the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

Letters

I'm writing to let you know that Chris Edgecombe has made a short video of all the Sheborne Advent windows and he has put them on facebook and YouTube so everybody can enjoy them. I am very grateful for his expertise and generosity and I thought you might like to publish the link in your newsletter, for those who were unable to see the actual windows.

Thank you again for your kind help and support with our new venture of a Sherborne Community Advent calendar!

Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year and God Bless.

[Advent Calendar](#)

Ruth Rogerson

Kathleen Crew would like to thank Cheap Street Church for all the cards and letters that were sent when her husband died recently

Hello Friends,

Christmas greeting to you all. We had a text from Barbara this morning to say she was taken off oxygen yesterday evening & this morning had two oxygen reading taken.. Both readings gave her level as 96. She needs to be at 94 or above to be discharged. We hope she will be discharged next week once they are able to put her care package in place.

Regards,
Dennis

THE MINISTER'S THOUGHTS FOR THIS COMING WEEK

Lectionary Readings for Sunday 3rd January
2021 Christmas and Epiphany.

Psalms 72:1-14, Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12.

Christmas travel, it would seem, has never been straight forward and as I write this letter Christmas travel has just got more difficult for us with only essential travel being permitted in certain Tier four parts of the country. The Christmas travel for the Magi who observed a light in the night sky that spoke to them of the birth of God's saviour would not have been easy. It is very unlikely that they were three lone individuals. It was more likely that they were a well defended group that sought permission to travel across various countries until they reached and found where the infant Jesus was, and to worship him and offer their gifts to him. The need to go to Herod's palace may not be just because it was where they expected Jesus to be born but also because they needed to pay their respects to Herod to gain his permission to travel on to where Jesus was in Bethlehem. No doubt Herod would have been made aware of their group. To not seek out Herod would have created problems for them. When they left Herod's palace with the permission to carry on, Herod would have tried to have them watched, as Herod rarely let any potential rival to him live. The Magi's return travel arrangements get altered in a dream as a result of Herod's true reaction to news of Jesus' birth and they leave Judah by a different way.

The birth of Jesus into our lives has a habit of changing our life travel plans. However and wherever we travel, we travel with God and Jesus in our lives.

Hymn Singing The Faith 224. As With Gladness Men of Old [click here](#)

Duncan

Services at Cheap Street Church in the first two weeks of January 2021

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

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 – Through Change and Chance [Sunday Worship](#) Canon Angela Tilby and Canon Stephen Shipley look to the start of the New Year and the Epiphany with a reflection on the changes and chances in their individual lives. [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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