



## 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

**Church Secretary:**

Janet Le Moignan 01935 389662 [lemoignanj@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lemoignanj@yahoo.co.uk)

## NEWSLETTER

7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Cheap Street Worship



This week's newsletter comes out a day later than usual so that it can report on the Church Council meeting held on Wednesday evening by Zoom. The meeting noted that while worship is permitted in the current lockdown, both the Methodist and United Reformed Churches are clear that each local church should consider whether it is sensible at present. The URC Synod Moderators advise: *because something is allowed does not necessarily make it wise; it is better to do the right thing*. The age profile of those worshipping at Cheap Street is a particular concern.

Church Council decisions:

- **There will be no services at Cheap Street Church for the time being.**
- **We will have a service on Zoom every Sunday at 3 pm starting this Sunday.**

These decisions will be reviewed in mid-February or earlier as necessary. The joining instructions for this Sunday's service will be included in this week's email. Please contact George Faris (details at the end of the newsletter) to be added to the email distribution list and for help accessing Zoom.

### Anne Dearle BEM

Many congratulations to Anne Dearle on her award of the British Empire Medal, published in the New Year's Honours list. This is for her fundraising work for Save the Children. Those of us who have attended Save the Children concerts and events at Bryanston School, organised by Anne, may not realise that she has worked for the organisation for almost fifty years and helped to raise many hundreds of thousand pounds.

### New Superintendent Minister

Now that all the essential paperwork has been completed, we are able to let everyone know that the Circuit Invitations Committee offered the post of Superintendent Minister from September to the Revd Linda (Lin) Francis, and she was delighted to accept.



Lin is at present the Superintendent of Banbury Circuit and was previously Superintendent of the Brighton and Hove Circuit.

All interviews in December were of course online, but it was very interesting to meet Lin. Two coincidences came to light during our conversations. Firstly, Lin grew up in Swindon, where her parents still live, and she was welcomed as a member at St Andrew's Methodist Church there by the Revd John Stanfield. Secondly, when Lin trained for the ministry at Wesley College, Bristol, a fellow student was Ruth Farrant. We pray for Lin and her retired husband as they prepare to move to Gillingham and for Paul as he prepares to move on. Lin's arrival will leave Duncan as the only male member of our Circuit team. **Christine Rogers**

## Duncan's Message

Lectionary Readings for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January First Sunday of Epiphany  
Psalm 29, Genesis 1:1-3, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11.

The message and the messenger are important and it is important that both are trustworthy. Genesis begins with an important message that the universe which we know and explore has been created by God and exists because it is God's wish that it continues to exist. In Acts 19 we have Paul meeting with a group of people who have heard and accepted the message of John the Baptist, a good message to have heard and taken to heart, but Paul has a message about Jesus for them that John's message prepared them to hear which was far more important and life changing than John's and they gladly accept it.

This year we have the good news of Jesus being with us and the good news that there are now vaccines that should enable us to defeat the Covid 19 virus. Various people from scientists to politicians are keen to bring us this good news. Inevitably there are those who, for various reasons, bring a different message concerning the vaccines and the effect of Covid 19 virus, and it is possible to make a living out of conspiracy theories regardless of what the truth really is. It is important that we test the truth behind the message and the messenger.

In our reading from Mark, Jesus during his Baptism from John in the river Jordan receives a message from his Father in Heaven that he needed to hear and accept "You are my own dear Son I am pleased with you." It is a message that gives hope in our current situations.

Hymn: *Singing the Faith* 233. When Jesus came to Jordan (click for [You Tube version](#)).

## Pastoral News

Happy New Year everyone and the wonderful news that **Barbara Porter** is safely home. We give thanks to God for her recovery along with the expertise and loving care of the doctors, nurses and all the support staff at Yeovil Hospital.

Barbara wishes to thank our Cheap Street Church Family for all our prayers which sustained her and carried her through a very difficult time when she was so ill. If you would like to contact Barbara, emails or text messages would be preferable to a telephone call.

We send Barbara, Dennis and the family our love and prayers as she continues her recovery at home.

## New Year Birthdays

Happy Birthday on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January to **George Faris** who has been counting the number of sleeps to his birthday since mid-December. Only one more!

Happy Birthday to **Sheila Green** on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

Love and best wishes to you both from all at Cheap Street Church. **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 hold in prayer Barbara and Dennis Porter; Eileen Higgins's son Robert and his wife Dawn; Clive and Jill Turner and Ellie and Sophie; Yve and Ken Ackroyd and all the family; Janet Baker; Martin Heal; Phyllis Batchelor; Duncan's mother; Eileen Higgins; Alex Palmer; Peter and Marjorie Kett.

We continue to remember the families of those who have died recently: Derek Hayward, Ron Dolling, Charles Pennington, Gill Hunt, John Hooper, Hilda Clarke, John Green, Graham Pennington and Brian Crew.

*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.*

## Thought for the Day from Janet Le Moignan

Tuesday was Twelfth Night, the last day of the Christmas period when we traditionally remove the special Christmas things we have had on display – the nativity set, the candles, the cards, and for us the Christmas tree loses its decorations and goes back in its pot in the garden. I always feel it looks a bit bleak after that. But seasons come and seasons go. Now we are in a new year, but although we have hope for the future with vaccines beginning to be made available, at present life is full of uncertainty and it is not easy to move forward with confidence.

Yet as we look back at the celebration of Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ on earth, God coming among humanity as a baby who grew up to be a man who would save the world, we have to take that with us into the future. I found a hymn, *Singing the Faith* 226, by Marjorie Dobson, born in 1940, who writes in very straightforward language. It starts: *Birth brings a promise of new life awaking...* and speaks of the future of a baby and of the changes for people involved with the child growing up. Then in verses 3 & 4 we have this idea in relation to Jesus:

Jesus the new born crossed time's moving stages  
changing their course by the act of his birth,  
translating God from the mystery of ages,  
rooting our faith by his presence on earth.

Wonder and worship were waiting to greet him,  
love and devotion were his to command,  
life was transformed for the ones sent to meet him,  
touching their God in a child's outstretched hand.

Verse 3 is profound. These four lines tell us what Christmas is all about. It's about Jesus, about his Father God and about a relationship between human beings and God, as he came among them in a totally new way. When Jesus was born, he became like one of us, and yet (verse 4) the people who first saw him, knew he was special, and they worshipped him. That was for them an experience they would never forget.

Christmas is very special but it is just the beginning of the life of Jesus Christ on earth and there is so much more to follow. The well-known carol, *O little town of Bethlehem*, has for us and all people, in the final verse a prayer -

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in;  
be born in us today!

If we say that prayer, then God will come to us, as he has to countless people over time, and enable us to change, to grow in his ways in this new year and on into the future.

Reading: Luke 1:68-79 words of Zechariah on the naming of his son, John the Baptist, foretelling God's plan through Jesus.

## The Year's Midnight by Gillian Clarke

*This poem was submitted by Margaret Field to mark the end of 2020. It also seems appropriate for the start of 2021.*

The flown, the fallen,  
the golden ones,  
the deciduous dead, all gone  
to ground, to dust, to sand,  
borne on the shoulders of the wind.

Listen! They are whispering  
now while the world talks,  
and the ice melts,  
and the seas rise,  
Look at the trees!

Every leaf-scar is a bud  
expecting a future  
The earth speaks in parables.  
The burning bush. The rainbow.  
Promises. Promises.

## Prayers for the persecuted church

Kuwait

Conversion from Islam to another faith is not officially recognised in Kuwait. Kuwaiti believers from Muslim backgrounds face pressure from their families and communities to deny their faith. As Christian conversion is not officially recognised, believers are unlikely to be permitted a Christian marriage or funeral. They also risk discrimination, harassment, police monitoring and intimidation by vigilante groups. Christian evangelism is strictly forbidden and Christian education and religious literature are considered offensive to Islam.

Let us praise God that there are very few reports of Christians being attacked or imprisoned in Kuwait and pray that believers will have opportunities to share the good news of Jesus despite intense restrictions. Also, for courage and strength for believers from Muslim backgrounds. Amen.

### Request for help – Christian Books

In preparation for opening “The Pod” in our Church shop premises at 54 Cheap Street we are looking for good quality Christian faith-based books to put in our 2<sup>nd</sup> hand book library. If you have any you would like to donate, please could you put them to one side, ready for when we are able to collect them from you. They will need to be in good clean condition with no yellowing of pages. Maybe you would like to write a short review to recommend a book. That would be great!

Many thanks! **Lynn Heaton** 01963 251747

### Request for help – NHS Staff Treats

I've been in touch with a lady I met at Cheap Street over a year ago. She is a Senior Registrar in A and E at Yeovil Hospital and she has been telling me how stretched and stressed the staff are. I thought it might be nice if we could collect some special treats to give to them, eg special toiletries, chocolates etc. I was going to ask people to drop them in the shop, but with lockdown that can't happen. Instead I would be happy to pick up from people's doorsteps.

Many thanks, **Cath Adam** 01935 432945 [cathadam1@talktalk.net](mailto:cathadam1@talktalk.net).

### Worship Resources

Radio 4: Sunday Worship at 8.10 am: Martin Palmer explores how faith can partner with conservation movements in protecting what Pope Francis calls *Our Common Home*.

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](mailto:pennygardner@gmail.com) 01935 389153 and

George Faris [gfaris48@gmail.com](mailto:gfaris48@gmail.com) 01935 420258.