



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

9th April 2020



Hello!

How are you? How are you finding isolation? Have you got plenty to keep you occupied? Or are you feeling abandoned and at loose ends?

One of the advantages of our church is that when we become members we are assigned a Pastoral Visitor. This person tries to make sure you are not left floundering – especially at a time like we are experiencing. If you have not been contacted during the last few weeks do give your pastoral visitor or one us (listed above) a ring. We would love to catch up on how you are doing.

We are fortunate this week to have two contributions to accompany us through the next few and important days in our Christian calendar. Christina is presenting us with her thoughts for Maundy Thursday first. Then we will finish our news with an Easter message from Duncan.

I wish you all a Happy Easter.

With love,

Penny

Easter Day 2019



Easter Flowers..

It feels very strange not making preparations for decorating the church for Easter.

A small group of us will miss the fellowship and fun of meeting on Easter Saturday when we usually get together, deciding what to do, and which flowers to put where, and having great pleasure in making our church look beautiful.

We will all miss the wonderful transformation of The Cross, bringing

it back to life again with beautiful Spring flowers.

Perhaps if we remember the happy times shared, we can look forward to happier times ahead in the not too distant future. Eirwen

Thought for Maundy Thursday Day **From Christina Le Moignan**

Well, no wonder people are finding self-isolating hard. One of the first things God says in the Bible is, "It is not good for man to be alone"; and almost all that follows is about people in relationship with

one another. And we are realising at the moment that, while we must self-isolate physically, it is really important to find other ways of keeping in touch. I guess British Telecom is doing very well out of this situation, and I don't really begrudge it to them, because they are providing what at the moment is a particularly valuable service.

Jesus, from his own experience, knows a great deal more about self-isolation than we do – and he didn't find it easy either. One of the most moving parts of the passion story for me is when Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane longs for his friends to watch with him as he confronts what is to happen the next day – and they go to sleep. He is on his own, isolated, and without support, as he is even more profoundly and devastatingly on the cross the next day: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' Yet Jesus has accepted his isolation with his eyes open: only so can he do what his Father wants him to do.

Of course we might quite rightly say that Jesus was not in fact alone on the cross, however much he felt he was: his God was there with him, however much his face was hidden. Nor are we alone in our much smaller isolation. God's care for us is being made real in the support of other people – the support of family and friends, the provisions that the government is making for supplying food and medical services, the expertise and devotion of doctors and nurses that we know will be there for us if we need it. Our isolation is not in the same league as the isolation Jesus knew. But that does not stop him sympathising with us. As one of the Victorian hymns put it, 'Thou who hast trod the thorny road Wilt share each small distress; The love which bore the greater load Will not refuse the less.'

So, a prayer for all those affected by the corona virus:

Loving God, there for us in good times and in bad, please give your guidance and your strength to everyone who today is affected by the corona virus:

for those suffering from the virus, and separated from family and friends;

for those anxious about those they love, who have the virus, or perhaps may get it;

for often overstretched doctors and nurses and support staff in hospitals and elsewhere, caring

for people with the virus, and for GP's balancing the needs of those with the virus with those of their other patients;

for all those trying to find and transport needed equipment, or creating entire new facilities ;

for those responsible for political decision-making in these uncertain times;

for all those seeking ways of providing neighbourhood care.

And please, Lord, show us what is required of us, give us patience to bear restrictions, and give us fresh supplies of love to support our neighbours. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

On this Maundy Thursday, we remember Jesus the night before he died. Here is Luke's account of what happened at the supper, from Luke 22:14-20:

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.'

Ever since that first Maundy Thursday we have been taking bread and wine to remember Jesus giving his body and blood for us; and even though we cannot do those actions together today, we take a moment of silence to remember what Jesus did, and to ponder what it means....

An Upper Room did our Lord prepare

1. An Upper Room did our Lord prepare
For those he loved until the end;
And his disciples still gather there
To celebrate our Risen Friend

2. A lasting gift Jesus gave his own –
To share his bread, his loving cup;
Whatever burdens may bow us down,
He by his cross shall lift us up.

3. And after supper he washed their feet,
For service, too, is sacrament;
In him our joy shall be made complete-
Sent out to serve, as he was sent

4. No end there is! We depart in peace
He loves beyond the uttermost;
In every room in our Father's house
He will be there, as Lord and Host.

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

Prayer - Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults
thou hast borne for me. O most merciful redeemer, friend and
brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and
follow thee more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

The Grace.

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.

Pastoral update from Eirwen as of Tuesday.

Colleen, who is in Yeovil hospital with the Covid19 Virus, is still constantly on Oxygen and other medication, but Don is hoping to speak to her soon via the mobile phone when she is able to remove the oxygen mask for a few minutes. Don says "She is under the cover of His wings and surrounded by your prayers." Thankfully Don is feeling much better.

Martin had an encouraging report from his G.P. and will have more test results early next week.

Clive Turner is now at The Knoll, Preston Road, Yeovil. He is more settled and much happier.

John Green has spoken to his consultant and unfortunately, because of the present situation John will not receive treatment for at least 3 months.

Shirley Taylor's husband Douglas was taken to hospital last week but thankfully he was not admitted and is back home and is well.

Gill Hunt is now back in Yeovil hospital. Both she and her husband and the rest of the family are desperately in need of our prayers.

We send our love and prayers to all members of our church family who are in hospital or undergoing treatment at home and ask God's blessing on them and their families. Thank you pastoral visitors for keeping in touch with everyone.

**What would we do without the telephone, it is a lifeline!!
With love and prayers to everyone. Eirwen**

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: @AliBunkallSKY.

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

Prayers for the persecuted church: Yemen - There is no room for either public church activities or private worship. While the number of believers in Yemen is growing, most have to keep their faith a complete secret. Let us pray for provision for Christians, who are often denied access to emergency aid and that Yemeni believers will have the courage to share their faith despite opposition. For peace in Yemen and a future when believers can freely worship God. Amen

**From Christine Rogers -
"the connexion"**

Geoff has already mentioned the inspirational articles found in this free Methodist magazine in a previous newsletter. The latest Spring edition has just arrived. Its theme is "Letting go" and there is an interesting and challenging contribution from Deacon R J (Rebekah-Joy Spinks), who led our morning worship the last time we were able to gather on a Sunday before the lockdown. (That seems so long ago now!) The magazine also comes with a separate journal "Jesus Loves All", with a reading, reflection, prayer and a suggestion for action for each day from Ascension to Pentecost. This has been produced by "Thy Kingdom Come", a worldwide prayer movement which encourages Christians from all denominations to use these 11 days to pray for others to come to know the love of Jesus. Christine, Janet and Christina have spare copies. These are usually placed in the Welcome Area, but we will post/deliver a copy to anyone who would like one.

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Janet Le Moignan: lemoignanjan@yahoo.co.uk Tel: as above

Paul Arnold's Pastoral Letter

Those on email should have received a copy of Paul's letter. Please could those who distribute hard copies of the Newsletter in their area of Sherborne include a copy of Paul's letter. It will be posted out with the Newsletter to those who normally receive it in this way. Please let Christine know if there is a problem.

LOCKDOWN

Yes, there is fear,
Yes, there is isolation,
Yes, there is sickness,
Yes, there is even death,
 BUT..... People are singing to each other
 Across empty squares,
 Keeping their windows open
 So that those who are alone
 May hear the sound of family around.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
Is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighbourhood.
 All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting,
 All over the world people are seeing their neighbours in a new
light,
 All over the world people are waking up to a new reality.
To how big we are,
To how little control we really have,
To what really matters,
To LOVE
So we pray and remember that
 Yes, there is fear
 But there does not have to be hate.
 Yes, there is isolation
 But there does not have to be loneliness.
 Yes, there is panic buying
 But there does not have to be meanness.
 Yes, there is disease
 But there does not have to be disease of the soul.
 Yes, there is even death
 But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how you live now.
Open the windows of your soul.
And let love encompass you

'Lockdown' a poem by Brother Hendrick, a Franciscan living in Ireland, has been abridged and slightly amended. The full text is available on the internet.

EASTER THOUGHTS FROM DUNCAN

Readings for Maundy Thursday 9th April 2020.

Matthew 26:1-75, John 13:1-20, Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 116, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

Readings for Good Friday 10th April 2020.

Matthew 27:1-66, John 19:1-42, Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25.

Readings for week beginning 12th April 2020, Easter Sunday.

Matthew 28:1-20, John 20:1-18, Jeremiah 31:1-6, Psalm 118, Colossians 3:1-4.

This Easter is different from our normal experience, with social distancing and isolation. We cannot meet and participate in acts of worship or witness, and share in Communion as we would normally do. But we can enter again into the narrative of Jesus' death and resurrection by reading one or more of the gospel accounts and reflecting on what happened in the light of the current Covid-19 situation. A situation in which we are constantly looking for signs of recovery or resurrection in the midst of all the bad news. Closeness and touch are very much a part of the events that surround Jesus' death and resurrection; after Mary has recognised the risen Jesus, Jesus has to ask Mary to let go of him, and when Thomas is told of his fellow disciples meeting with Jesus, he asks to see and touch the scars on Jesus' body from Jesus' crucifixion, before he can believe, something he will eventually do. There is closeness in the meeting in the upper room, where Jesus shares his final meal with his disciples before his arrest and death, and initiates what we now call Holy Communion. But there is also distance in that story as Judas separates himself from Jesus and his friends, and departs to betray Jesus to his enemies, a distance that is still present when he identifies to the arresting party Jesus, with the most close and intimate of touches a kiss. There is distancing for Jesus' remaining disciples when Jesus is arrested, and their courage fails them, and they flee the scene. The Chief Priest and the Sanhedrin maintain in their questioning of Jesus a separation and distance, and will watch Jesus' death at a distance. Pilate in the washing of his hands is trying to distance himself from the sentencing and execution of Jesus. And in Jesus' burial in the tomb, there is an unsuccessful attempt to separate Jesus from us. On the day of Jesus' resurrection, the disciples are practicing a separation from non-followers of Jesus, to protect their lives, from anyone who might inform the religious authorities about their whereabouts. It is the presence of the risen Jesus, and the entry of the Holy Spirit into them that will take away their need to be separate from everyone else. The current separation, is necessary to save lives, and so that our NHS Staff and equipment can continue to meet the need this Coronavirus pandemic has created. It will pass, but will change how we live and look at life, and what we truly value. In a similar way Jesus' death and resurrection changes us, the lives we lead, and what we truly value. And even as we keep our distance for now from each other, Jesus continues to draw close to us, and we can continue to draw close to Jesus.

Celebrate Easter

Hymn: Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia !!!!

Duncan

NEWS

- **Jackie Bullen suggests - There are some wonderful helpful prayers relating to the Coronavirus pandemic to be found on the Christian Aid website. Just type in Christian Aid coronavirus prayers. I had been struggling to know where to start, as the needs are so great, and have found these so helpful. I hope you might too. Wishing you the joy of Easter, Jackie.**
- **News of John Stansfield on his birthday - He was able to have a cake with 100 flowers with his sister and brother in law in the garden all duly separated. He says he cannot mingle with them as he is in isolation until his 14 days quarantine are over due to his move week last Friday from Sherborne to Abingdon. He got lots of cards and says thank you. Lonely way to spend your 100th don't you think?**
- Mike & Molly would like to give thanks for the safe return of their grandson Steven Hooper from Australia reunited with his partner and son Theo born on Dec.28th 2019, a second great-grandchild for us.
- **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**
- **From Raymond - Sherborne Food Bank** At my request, the members of the Masonic Lodge in Sherborne have agreed to make a donation of £1,000 to the Sherborne Food Bank, which is struggling to meet unprecedented demand on their services. The money has been taken from funds built up over the past two or three years through the generosity of Lodge members. Could Cheap Street Church also consider making a donation? *Raymond*

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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*.

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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