



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

25th February 2021



Here's the question

Which member of the Cheap Street congregation was so good at school that he/she was given the responsibility of being the ink monitor? This vital information was revealed at last Thursday's Zoom coffee morning. Why not come along and join in the banter and conversation this Thursday at 10.30am?

Martin and Pat Heal

And another Question!

Will you join us?

Do you have time to join us on a day of prayer?

As the time approaches to reopen the churches it becomes important to think about what our church will be like when we reopen the doors.

Will it be just as we left it? Are there changes that you expect or want to see when we finally go back to church? Does it matter to you at all as long as the building is open? Steve Chalke asked in his book *Intelligent Church* - "What are the non-negotiables of church - what are the things that make a church a church?"

I wonder - What do YOU think makes a church a church?

bb I think that everyone you talk to has a different idea. Therefore it seems like a good time to ask God what he would like from us. If all, or at least many, of us allow time for prayer we might be able to come together on our vision for Cheap Street Church.

But it is not only a vision that we would be seeking in our prayer time. We have much to be thankful for as well as many situations to bring to the Lord. So the council have proposed that we have a day of prayer that will consist of 12 hours of prayer. and end with a short time of celebration and sharing. **WE ARE ONLY BEING ASKED TO PRAY FOR A MINIMUM OF 30 MINUTES.** (But you can pray for a longer period if you wish.)

You do not need a computer. You can sign up for a time that suits you. If two or more wish to have the same time that is okay. The idea is you pray alone and wherever you are safe and comfortable. That could be in the bath, walking or sitting quietly.

What do you think? I recently joined Yeovil for 24 hours of prayer. (NO! I did not pray for 24 hours. . .) I chose a 30 minute slot that was convenient to me. It was quite empowering knowing that I was part of a large team praying.

Do give it a try.

Things to be praying about -

Vision for Cheap Street Church. Where are we going? Anywhere? Do we need to make changes? The POD which is waiting to be launched.

The new church council.

Those effected by COVID

To be thankful for -

Our own health

NHS

The Vaccine

Friends

And so it goes on. . .

With love, Penny

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

25th Feb 2021

By Colleen Farquharson

One night in January I had a dream. I was alone in a foreign country and found myself in a telephone box. I could not make a call for help because I could not speak the language. I had no foreign currency and could not communicate the distress I was in. I felt totally lost, utterly alone and isolated from the people I could see outside the box all going about their business. They had work, they had purpose, but I was locked in and overwhelmed by the sense of being abandoned. I woke up. What was the purpose of such a dream? Did it have a purpose? (Remember Joseph and his dreams?) In truth, I am never abandoned nor forsaken because I have a wonderful Saviour, nevertheless, we all struggle with strong emotions at different times of our lives. Isolation is not easy at any time of our lives, but especially now and for those on their own in lockdown. Feelings can overwhelm us. Anxiety about family issues, jobs, illness, lack of good communication all take its toll. We don't FEEL close to or the closeness of the One who never leaves nor forsakes us. He is there with us, with me in the box BUT I did not acknowledge Him, only my fear.

Jesus would have known fear. He was in lockdown for 40 days in the wilderness. He struggled with issues and was sorely tempted. He combated these by always going to the Word....It is written, it is written. What can we do in lockdown to combat fears? Jesus shows us. Go back to the Word. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you read. The psalms are so good. King David in psalm 40 says, "Why are you cast down O my soul, put your hope in God."

Sing! When I came out of hospital, a friend gave me a CD of Christian songs and these centre my thoughts on God, not on the problem. When I sing my soul is lifted and blessed.

Pray. In his 2nd letter to the Corinthian Christians Paul wrote, "We were under great pressure far beyond our ability to endure, so that we even despaired of life." What do you think he did? Pray. Here is his answer. "But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on the God who raises the dead"

So we can read, sing, pray and we have friends who are on the end of the phone. WE can listen too, because God speaks to us in different ways.

So, what about my dream? Has it unearthed a deep anxiety about present and future? NO I am brought back to the One who knows me through and through. Remember what Duncan said about choices? We can choose which way we take. Lynn said, "When everything is stripped away it is still possible to view ourselves in our relationship with our God. We are spirit beings" AND we have choices to make when the going gets tough. When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot You have taught me to say
It is well, it is well with my soul
It is well, it IS well with my soul.

FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY

At the Church Council last week we agreed that it was too soon to open the church again, either for worship together or for private prayer. We shall review the situation at our next meeting in mid March to see whether there is any possibility of having services in church from April but shall be continuing with our present arrangement of Zoom services on Sundays at least till the end of March. We might possibly open the church for private prayer a bit earlier than we start back with church services, but really it's all 'wait and see'.

On Sunday 21st March we have the URC Assembly Lay Moderator, Peter Pay, taking our Zoom service. Peter is known to one or two of our congregation, and I look forward to meeting him. He has said that he will also write something for the newsletter in the week before this service. This is good news.

Regarding prayer, Penny Gardner asked us to consider having a Day of Prayer together, and the Councillors thought this was a good idea. We have chosen Tuesday 9th March, from 8.00am to 8.00pm, when we are asking people to join in by praying for half an hour at a time convenient to themselves. If you would like to take part, please contact Jan Wallace - phone 389774 - who will be arranging the rota for the day. At 8.00pm we shall finish with a short time to come together on Zoom, for those who are able, to look to God, thanking

him for his presence with us all the time and looking for his guidance for the future.

A lot more happened at the Church Council which will be reported on at the Annual Church Meeting on Thursday 4th March at 7.00pm. Please join us on Zoom then, if you can.

Penny has written more about the Prayer Day, so please read on -
Janet

PASTORAL

Hello everyone.

Good news this week from Eastbury House. Myra Heard and all residents and staff are free of Covid 19. We give thanks to God for their recovery.

Barbara continues to improve and hopes to be properly mobile in 2 or 3 weeks.

We send our love and prayers to Barbara wishing her a good recovery.

Christina is going to The Yeatman Hospital tomorrow for surgery to correct a Detached Retina. She has had a problem for twelve months going regularly to Yeovil Hospital for tests. We wish her well for tomorrow and send love and prayers to her and Janet, from all at Cheap Street Church.

Birthdays

Thursday 25th February Happy Birthday to Sue Lester.

This weekend Janet Dolling will be celebrating a birthday but her date doesn't appear on the calendar, she has a Leap Year birthday.! Whichever day you choose Janet, Sunday or Monday have a good day.

Tuesday 2nd March Happy Birthday to Alison Berry and also to Sylvia Smith who now lives in Berkhamsted, Herts.

Best wishes to you all from our Cheap Street Church Family.

With love and prayers
Eirwen.

FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

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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 prayer Barbara and Dennis Porter; Tom Carmichael; Clive and Jill Turner and Ellie and Sophie; Yve and Ken Ackroyd and all the family; Janet Baker; 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

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, and of course our minister Duncan. We should also remember all those getting their heads around the technology needed to broadcast our services on Sunday. They are trying hard to be all inclusive.
Thank you.

PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Afghanistan - is No. 2 on the Open Doors 2021 World Watch List of the most persecuted countries, 1 point up from last year. It is impossible to live openly as a Christian there. Leaving Islam is considered shameful, and Christian converts from a Muslim background face dire consequences if their new faith is discovered. Either they have to flee the country or they will be killed. If a Christian family discovers they have converted, their family, clan or tribe has to save its 'honour' by disowning the believer, or even killing them. Christians from a Muslim background can also be sectioned in a psychiatric hospital, because leaving Islam is considered a sign of insanity.

Let us pray that God would make seeing eyes blind and that any persecutors looking for secret Afghan Christians would not discover them. Also that despite their isolation, Afghan believers would be strengthened and encouraged in their faith, and that God would be at work, changing the hearts of Islamic extremists and turning them to Him. Amen.

Update from the Community & Wider World Team

We are pleased to report that the Church Council have whole-heartedly approved our proposal that Cheap Street Church should link with the charity Acts 435 in supporting people within our local community who are in urgent need. They also propose that Jackie Bullen should be appointed as an Advocate who will be authorised by this church to carry out the Advocate's duties on behalf of the church. These proposals will be put to the church AGM via Zoom on March 4th, and we very much hope that they will receive your support.

Our main objective is to provide for the needy, as in Acts ch4 v 35, where the apostles distributed their wealth amongst the poor. You may find the following statistics from the Acts435 newsletter for the month of December 2020 interesting:-

12 new churches/charities joined us, able to post requests for people in need.
We helped a record 756 people of whom 100% had their requests for help fully met.
The average length of time to meet a request was 6 days.
We received a staggering £91,175 of donations to requests for help.

This is an exciting venture at a time of great need, and we seek your prayerful support as we go forward. Do, please, contact Jackie (01935 813112) if you would like to discuss ways in which you could become involved.

LETTERS

Dear All,
I am delighted to be able to share the following good news with you.
Rotary Laptop Appeal
The Rotary Club of Sherborne Castles has closed its Laptop Appeal after just four weeks. Thanks to the generosity of Rotarians,

their friends and contacts the Appeal raised the staggering sum of **£42,831.25**. This far exceeded our expectations but has enabled Sherborne Area Schools Trust to acquire all the equipment it needed to support disadvantaged children in its 13 primary schools. In addition, the publicity surrounding the Appeal resulted in laptops, ipads and tablets being donated to the Trust so that secondary pupils could also be helped. We are most grateful to all those who supported this Appeal and for encouraging others to do the same.

Thank you.
David Pearson and Mike Hatch
Joint Presidents, The Rotary Club of Sherborne Castles

From Martin Heal

We heard yesterday (Wednesday) that May Clark, a former member of Cheap Street Church for many years has died, aged 96, in hospital after a massive stroke at her retirement home in Scotland. The funeral is on Tuesday and can be joined by live link. May will be remembered as a cheery loving lady and with her late husband, preacher

John, hosted many social events at their home in Alweston.

More details from Pat and Martin .

The order of service for Sunday 28th Zoom Service follow below.

ZOOM SERVICE 28th February 2021 3:00pm
Lent 2.

Notices

Welcome & Call to Worship. 1 John 3:2.

Music. Singing the Faith 748. Glorious things of thee are spoken,

Prayer

Readings Romans 4:13-25. Mark 8:31-38.

Sermon

What do the readings say to you?

Music. Singing the Faith 351. In Christ alone my hope is found,

Prayers

Music Singing the Faith 94. To God be the glory, great things he has done!

Benediction

THE MINISTER'S THOUGHTS FOR THIS COMING WEEK

Lectionary Readings for Sunday 28th February 2021 Lent 2.

Psalm 22:23-31 & 20, Genesis 17:1-7 & 15-16, Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38.

Much of the political debate at the moment in this country is when will it be safe or the right time for us to start getting our lives back to some kind of normal. There are those who want a precise time table and dates, and others who want to wait until the data says it is safe to do so. Some steps in that direction, such as children attending school again and people be able to have visitor, that live in a care home, have been announced and hopefully more steps will be announced in the coming weeks. We need to hold those who will make those decisions in our prayers.

In Psalm 22, the writer begins by asking for God to act to protect him from the danger he is facing and wanting God to give back the life he has lost. The lectionary reading joins the psalm where there has been a positive turn in events for the psalmist, and he is praising and thanking God for what God has done for him. In Genesis, God acts to change and turn around Abraham's life and gives him a new life. In Mark, Jesus tells us how he, through his then future death and resurrection, is going to change and turn around our lives and give us the new life from God that Paul talks about in our reading from Romans. This comes from Jesus' willingness to give up his life for us, and not hang on to it, as Peter tells him to do. That willingness to give up our lives for others is something that Jesus challenges us all to do.

For the good of others, we will have to give up many aspects of our lives for some time to

come, in order to control Covid, but as Christians we walk in the footsteps of Jesus who has already walked this path and walks with us.

Hymn Singing The Faith 566. Take my life, and let it be [Click Here](#)

Duncan

ALTERNATIVE SUNDAY WORSHIP
SHERBORNE ABBEY -The Abbey Services are also suspended until it is safe to come together in worship.

Radio 4: 8.10 am – The Archbishop of Wales, the Most Reverend John Davies, marks St David's Day in a service for the second Sunday of Lent, recorded under lockdown conditions at Brecon Cathedral.

[Sunday Worship](#)

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 \(click here to subscribe\)](#).

There are a lot more resources on the Methodist Church Web page.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

The newsletter is compiled by Penny Gardner or Ruth Rogerson so please send contributions by midday Wednesday to:
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