



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

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NEWSLETTER

12th March 2021



After a very uplifting day on Tuesday we finished with an informal and Spirit lead service of celebration, on Zoom. It was a chance for all of us to share. Lynn brought us an image of being like a bowl before God prepared to catch God's words for us. Jackie said she imagined an outdoor service with a marquee to keep us dry if the weather was wet. I think all of us were caught up in the beauty of the day and the power of several people praying. In the end we had all the time slots filled at least once. Our enthusiasm was such that it was felt that we should do this again! Another 12 hour day of prayer is now planned for the 6th of April. Do try to join if you have the time.

And 'time' reminds me that this is our 52nd Newsletter! It has been one year since the original Lockdown. We are hopefully nearing the end of our wrestle with Covid and looking at going back to a 'normal life'. I wonder what kind of feelings that conjures up for you? One year of loneliness? Reading? Sunshine? Gardening? Drawing? Learning? Netflix? Will you look back with positive thoughts? Or will your thoughts be full of sadness?

I do hope that as Spring breaks through that hope returns and you may realize that you

^{bb} have not been alone for the last year. God has been with you every minute.

For those of you who would like to read a little more about prayer I have included a reflection on Prayer that was sent to me. It is by Pope Francis and is on the last page.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

By Christine Rogers

the Foxes have Holes

Do you have a favourite journey? Mine is one which I made regularly in my younger days - the journey by steam train through a flat, green Yorkshire landscape with glimpses of the Humber estuary, the journey to and from Hull, often travelling between home and university. Home, leaving home, returning home, and now staying at home; having a home is so important for all of us, and memories of our childhood home often accompany us through our life. That old steam train journey is still the stuff of my dreams.

During this season of Lent, however, we think of Jesus alone in the wilderness, having no home except for the natural world around him, and we also think of those who follow him and serve others, and may have to give up their homes to live where they are needed.

I've probably already mentioned in some sermon or other the painter, Stanley Spencer, whose gallery I once visited in his Thames-side home village of Cookham. One of Spencer's projects was a series of studies called "Christ in the Wilderness", compelling

images, which give us insights into what Jesus experienced during his time on his own. The picture for our thought today is called "The Foxes have Holes" (painted in 1939 and now in the Gallery of Western Australia in Perth), a reference to Jesus' reply to someone who says that they will follow him wherever he goes: "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." (Matthew 8, 20 and Luke 9, 58).



Jesus appears to be in some sort of a wood, but the trees are shown just by their roots, and everything is in shades of brown and grey. A haggard looking Jesus is leaning against a bank whilst the unperturbed foxes pop in and out of their holes, pausing to have a look at him. Jesus seems to be in harmony with his natural surroundings, completely at ease with the foxes, almost embracing them with his outstretched arms, which also symbolically seem to foreshadow his cross.

Jesus' temptations in the desert bring him to accept what his Father is calling him to do and how he is to do it. He is going to demonstrate God's great love for the world, restoring its relationship with God through the difficult path of suffering love. He has a home that is beyond the homes of this world, those holes of the foxes and nests of the birds and bungalows and flats of the elderly. He has no such earthly home, and to follow him means being prepared to go with him, even into the unknown. For all of us, to be with Jesus is to be at home.

Singing the Faith 251: "Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets."

Prayer: Dear Lord, You had no home on earth as you followed the way of the wilderness and the cross. Keep us close to you, safe from

the temptations of this world, trusting in your love and offering it to others. Amen

You can look up the other pictures if you google: Christ in the Wilderness Stanley Spencer. There is also a lovely book of reflections on them by Stephen Cottrell, the present Archbishop of York. I'd be happy to lend it to anyone who is interested.

Christine 01935-815216

FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY

Brief Notes from the Church Meeting - 4th March

Property - Geoff Gardner reported on upgrades to the hall - new carpet and kitchen floor - agreed to now improve the toilet area. Outside maintenance on church roof and hall wall done. Garden needed urgent attention - agreed to get some outside help for cutting back and clearance - Hopefully Zac Graham. Geoff had maintained weekly checks on the building during lockdowns.

CWW - Jackie Bullen spoke of ongoing projects. Shares had kept in contact with local Syrian families - adults and children were basically doing well - finding jobs a problem. Hope in Africa had benefitted financially especially £1075.50 donated in response to their Covid appeal. 47 Christmas boxes were sent to Romania and Christmas cards were sold for Traidcraft.

Pastoral - Eirwen Cox has updated us regularly via the newsletter. She reported on the deaths of Church members and friends during the year - we remembered Charles Pennington, Gill Hunt, John Hooper, John Wesley Green, Hilda Clarke, Graham Pennington and Brian crew - and their families. Eirwen also thanked everyone who had helped people keep in touch during this difficult period through Zoom, the newsletter and phone calls.

There were no reports from Family Team or Worship & Growth which had not met. Lynn Heaton spoke of Ada and Elsie joining in with Yeovil Saturday Church on Zoom and contact with children through No 54 windows and sticky church bags. Some new people would be needed when activities for children were

resumed in Church.

Finance - George Faris presented the unexamined Church Accounts for 2019/2020, currently with Phil Butler - there is a significant deficit compared to the previous year due to lockdowns. George's graphical presentation was much appreciated.

Appointments - The Secretary and Treasurer were both re-appointed for another year. Geoff Gardner was appointed as a new Councillor - Rob Hooper was appointed as the new Property Steward, but would initially work together with Geoff. Geoff was thanked for all he had done looking after the property - Norma Hamill, who had completed 6 years as a Councillor was also thanked for her hard work.

The Pod - Rob Hooper said that there were still one or two issues to sort out but progress was being made - it was hoped to open on 12th April when non-essential shops would open again. Two charities to be based there were agreed - Acts 435 with Jackie Bullen and CAN with Ruth Rogerson - both in different ways helping people in financial need.

Also The prayer day - mentioned elsewhere

Opening the church building again - the decision to be made at the Church Council on 17th March

This is not a complete list but I hope it gives everyone an idea that we are still functioning!

Janet

PASTORAL

It is lovely to be giving you so much good news for a change.

Barbara is making good progress and was able to join the Prayer Day on Tuesday. She also met up with Dennis yesterday albeit through the glass partition. Barbara is now out of isolation and able to go to the dining room for meals and meet other residents. Myra Heard is completely recovered and during the recent good weather was able to sit out in the garden..

Following a recent scan and consultation Martin Heal was given a 'Clean Bill of Health'. And on Tuesday Christina was told the repair to the retina had been successful and she can

now hold her head upright! She has another hospital check up in two weeks.

Wonderful news and we give thanks to God, and to all medical and surgical experts involved in their recovery.

Many prayers have been answered.

Birthdays

Thursday 11th March Jonathan Hill

Friday 12th March Jan Wallace

Monday 14th March Elsie Hooper (5)

Wednesday 17th March Philip Rogerson.

A very Happy Birthday to each and every one of you, from all at Cheap Street Church.



With love and prayers to you all.

Eirwen

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:

Eirwen Cox 01935 815960,

Penny Gardner 01935 389153,

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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

Libya - There is no freedom of speech, no freedom of religion, and no possibility of public church life in Libya. Though there are around 34,500 Christians in the country, only a tiny number (approximately 150) are Libyan the majority are migrant workers. Libyan Christians from a Muslim background face violent and intense pressure from their family and the wider community to renounce their faith. They are also vulnerable to abduction, murder or sexual assault by Islamic militant groups and organised crime groups. Let us pray for Libyan Christians, under immense pressure, to know God's peace; that new and isolated believers will find others to share with and learn from. Also let us pray for those in power in Libya; for peace and stability, and for an end to the proxy civil war. Amen.

CHEAPSTREETER MAGAZINE

Here we are again! Another issue of the church magazine is due out towards the end of the month. Just a reminder that I would like contributions with me by Tuesday, 23rd March, if possible
Many thanks,
Raymond

LETTERS

Dear Friends,

We are sending through details of a District Challenge which has been organised with Christian Aid. As many of us, and our family and friends, are receiving the Covid vaccine we are inviting you to please donate to the work of Christian Aid on our own District

giving page:

<https://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/giving-thanks-for-our-vaccines-across-southampton-methodist-district>

Much of their work is across the world in areas where the vaccine will be rolled out in a much later, and slower, way than ours is being done. In order to ensure that the medical teams have all that they need to facilitate the roll-out of the vaccine the support from organisations like Christian Aid is vital.

We have set our District a challenge of raising at least £2,600 – representing our District number of 26! – so please do give as generously as you can and spread the word to family, friends and community groups so that we ask everyone to share the joy of getting their own vaccine with sisters and brothers around the world. We are also working on a press release to go to local news outlets and this should be available next week. Our suggested donation is £10 but please just give as you are able. (Note: click on 'custom amount' to choose your preferred donation, and where it asks for platform fees you can select 'other' and then zero.)

Let us not only meet our target but smash through it as we journey through the next few months.

We also invite you to hold the work of Christian Aid in your prayers as they work on our behalf.

I hope that you, and those closest to you, are able to stay safe and keep well.

Every blessing,

Andrew

Revd Andrew de Vile, District Chair of the Southampton District

**ZOOM SERVICE 14th March 2021
3:00pm Lent 4 Mothering Sunday.**

Notices

Welcome & Call to Worship. Romans 8:6.

Music. Singing the Faith 55. Amazing, grace (how sweet the sound)

Mothering Sunday

Prayer

Readings Ephesians 2:1-10. John 3:1-21.

Sermon

What do the readings say to you?

Music. Singing the Faith 255. Father, I place into Your hands

Prayers

Music Singing the Faith 544. Love divine, all loves excelling,

Benediction

THE MINISTER'S THOUGHTS FOR THIS COMING WEEK

Lectionary Readings for Sunday 14th March 2021 Lent 4 Mothering Sunday.

Psalm 107:1-3 & 17-22, Numbers 21:4-9, Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21.

The lectionary readings for this week talk a lot about the need to keep our faith in God, but on this Mothering Sunday in the United Kingdom no mention of mothers and their importance to us. Mothering Sunday was originally about giving thanks for the churches that nurtured and brought us up in the faith whatever age we first began placing our faith in Jesus.

Psalm 107 is a psalm that speaks of the need to keep faith in God especially in the face of events or circumstances that we have no control over. Currently as the Covid 19 situation hopefully continues to improve, it is important to keep our faith in Jesus and what Jesus has done for us through his death and resurrection. The story of the bronze snake on a pole in Numbers is about the people being enabled to once again place their faith in God so they can be healed from the snake bites they have received. In the same way when we look to Jesus' death & resurrection we find forgiveness and healing we need; as Jesus says while talking to Nicodemus and us, His death is not about condemning us but restoring us.

It is good to give thanks for mothers and

others that give so much. It is also good to give thanks for churches and congregations that have also given so much in encouraging us in our faith in Jesus.

Hymn Singing The Faith 746. For all the saints who showed your love [click here](#)

Duncan

ALTERNATIVE SUNDAY WORSHIP

SHERBORNE ABBEY –Will be open for Mothering Sunday

Radio 4: 8.10 am – A Service for the Fourth Sunday in Lent, led by Rev Cheryl Meban and Helen Warnock.

[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: Penny Gardner pennylgardner@gmail.com 01935 389153 and to Ruth Rogerson rogersonruth@gmail.com 01935 813498

Pope Francis – Prayer in daily life – February 2021.

There is no day more wonderful than the day we are living. Those who live always thinking about the future: “But the future will be better...”, but do not take each day as it comes are people who live in their fantasy, they do not know how to deal with concrete reality. And today is real, today is concrete. And prayer takes place today. Jesus comes to meet us today, the day we are living. And it is prayer that transforms this day into grace, or better, that transforms us: it quells anger, sustains love, multiplies joy, and instils the strength to forgive. Sometimes it will seem that it is no longer we who are living, but that grace lives and works in us through prayer. And when an angry, an unhappy thought comes to us, that moves us toward bitterness, let us stop ourselves and say to the Lord: “Where are you? And where am I going?” And the Lord is there; the Lord will give us the right word, the advice to go ahead without that bitter taste of negativity. For prayer is always — to use a profane word — positive. Always. It will carry you forward. Each day that begins, if welcomed in prayer, is accompanied by courage, so that the problems we have to face no longer seem to be obstacles to our happiness, but rather appeals from God, opportunities for our encounter with him. And when one is accompanied by the Lord, he or she feels more courageous, freer, and even happier.

Thus, let us always pray for everything and for everyone, even for our enemies. Jesus counselled us to do this: “Pray for your enemies”. Let us pray for our dear ones, but also for those we do not know. Let us pray even for our enemies, as I said, as the Scriptures often invite us to do. Prayer inclines us toward a superabundant love. Let us pray above all for unhappy people, for those who weep in solitude and give up hope that there might still be someone who loves them. Prayer works miracles; and so the poor understand, by God’s grace that, even in their precarious situation, the prayer of a Christian makes Christ’s compassion present. Indeed, he looked with great tenderness on the weary and lost crowd who were like sheep without a shepherd (cf *Mk* 6:34). The Lord is — let us not forget — the Lord of compassion, of nearness, of tenderness: three words never to be forgotten. Because this is the Lord’s style: compassion, nearness, tenderness.

Prayer helps us love others, despite their mistakes and their sins. The person is always more important than his or her actions, and Jesus did not judge the world, but saved it. The life of people who always judge others, who are always condemning, judging, is a horrible one... It is a horrible, unhappy life. Jesus came to save us. Open your heart, forgive, give others the benefit of the doubt, understand, be close to others, be compassionate, be tender, like Jesus. We have to love each and every one, remembering in prayer that we are all sinners and at the same time loved individually by God. Loving the world in this way, loving it with tenderness, we will discover that each day and everything bears within it a fragment of God’s mystery.

