



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
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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

16TH April 2020

PREFACE

Every so often my phone bleeps me reminders about what I am supposing to be doing. On Monday 6th there should have been an audiology appointment followed by John Stanfield's birthday party. On Easter Sunday I was reminded I was on church sound duty. This morning the reminder was not to be ignored as it was: 'Newsletter today'. Penny and I are compiling the newsletter on alternate Wednesdays. We're grateful for all contributions. Apologies if we don't use them or shorten them. George Faris

DUNCAN'S MESSAGE

Lectionary Readings for week beginning 19th April 2020:
Psalm 16, Acts 2:14a, 22-32, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31.

I think at the moment we can, more than normal, sympathise with Thomas' annoyance at missing out with the risen Jesus. Currently with the Covid-19 lockdown we are missing out on many things we would like to do. As Christians we have missed out on celebrating Easter, and sharing in Communion together, and whatever we use as a substitute it is not quite the same, and there is a feeling of having missed out. For me personally it is the strangest Easter I have ever experienced with no services to conduct or be part of.

It is a time when we are also missing out on other activities we planned or were looking forward to, and are preparing to miss out holidays, parties, family celebrations, and whatever we put in their place, there will still be a disappointment that we will have to deal with.

For Thomas, there is no lack of faith in his reaction, in fact I do not think that Thomas would have reacted so strongly and in the way he did, if his faith in Jesus had not been so central and important to him. In our life of faith, it is ok to feel disappointment at what we will miss out on, or what has been delayed, and like Thomas Jesus can handle our disappointment. Like Thomas it is important that in our disappointments we keep trusting in God's love for us, and do not miss out on the forgiveness that has been made available through Jesus' death and resurrection.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 351. *In Christ alone my hope is found*. Click for: [A YouTube version](#) (skip the ads.)

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 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.

Ken Bonney's grandson, Alistair Bunkall and his cameraman are still in New York, reporting for Sky News. A worrying time for Ken and his family. Alistair is on Twitter: @AliBunkallSKY.

We are asked to pray for Gill Hunt and we continue to hold in prayer all those who are in special need: Kathy Crew; Colleen and Don Farquharson; Clive and Jill Turner, Ellie and Sophie; Myra Heard; Janet Dolling and her family; Judith Hayward and her family; Eileen Higgins; John Hicks's family; Janet Baker; Martin Heal and Alex Palmer.

PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

This week Iran where Christianity is seen as a Western influence and a threat, and all ethnic Persians are seen as Muslims. Christians who convert from Islam keep their faith completely hidden, as they can face the death penalty or be imprisoned for "crimes against national security". Let us thank God that the church is growing, despite such extreme persecution. We pray that you will give strength to those in prison, and comfort and provision for their families. Amen.

GRATITUDE

Ken Bonney and Raymond Wood offer us part of a recent article in *The Times* by Mona Siddiqui, Professor of Islamic and Interreligious Studies at the University of Edinburgh:

It seems to me that against the bleak backdrop of a global pandemic, where death and grief are everywhere, we should still see the moral force of displaying gratitude in our lives. This is not simply about the sociopolitical optics of applauding the deserving NHS and other key workers once a week. Rather, it is the deeper appreciation of the fact that we are blessed to be living in a country where, despite the social lockdown, life continues more or less with all the comforts we are used to.

We still have running water, electricity and gas, clean air and access to food and other essentials. No one underestimates the potentially dire economic consequences, the mental and emotional distress many will suffer, but civil society has not collapsed. There is a whole machinery of people and processes behind the scenes who are keeping society moving. People seem to have a genuine commitment to wanting to do their duty and beyond.

There is something frightening and humbling about living through this Covid-19 crisis. Both 9/11 and the 2008 financial crisis were socially divisive turning points; today however, this virus has made us realise for the first time in decades the unifying force of the phrase "our common humanity".

NEWS

Don Farquharson reports that Colleen feels she is making slow progress, but any is positive. They are keeping the mask off in the afternoon. Colleen and Don thank you all for your love and concern.

On Tuesday Martin Heal had a lovely surprise when he was informed that he has not got hepatitis as first suggested. He has been diagnosed with pre-diabetes. This has been picked up as a follow on from a severe bout of salmonella. The condition can, hopefully, be treated with a change to his diet.

Pat and Martin thank you for your loving concern.

TODDLER TUNES GOES REMOTE

Normally Amanda Slogrove runs Toddler Tunes sessions in our hall. Amanda is now running remote sessions every Friday morning at 10.30 am. Email Amanda at Amanda.slogrove@btinternet.com for further information.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

BBC1: 10 am (times vary) - this week from St David's Cathedral.

Radio 4: 8.10 am – this week: a virtual service from Holy Trinity Platt, Manchester, reflecting on the experience of the disciples after Jesus' resurrection when Jesus came to them in the upper room.

Methodist resources: [click here](#). Also, the Revd Stephen Day, who is Superintendent of the Croydon Methodist Circuit and whose parents worship at St Mark's in Yeovil, broadcasts from his home on YouTube every Sunday morning at 10.30 am. [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 \(click here to subscribe\)](#)

Daily Worship from Durham Cathedral: [click here](#).

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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