



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

23RD APRIL 2020

It is amazing that something like this lockdown can change so much of our way of life. And it happened just like that! Snap! We didn't meet and discuss the situation ad infinitum. We just stopped doing what we had been doing and adapted a new and safer way of behaving. Many of us are wondering how we are going to come out of this shutdown. There have been some great things that have come out of the past few weeks. Who hasn't noticed the birds singing? Or the buds on the trees developing into bloom? Or the cleanness of the air we breathe because of fewer planes and cars. Many of us feel this is a chance to take some of these changes into our future world. A good chance to help the environment.

On Easter Sunday we followed a service on the radio. The minister spoke of the church being closed at present. He likened this to Christ's death – because it is not available now but will be available to us again. But he presented this as an opportunity. An opportunity to stop and think about what we like from our church and what changes that we would like to see.

We became quite excited about the idea that perhaps when we come out of this there will be good changes. We don't have to rush to push to get things back to how they use to be. This is an opportunity to bring church into the 21st century in and sweep away some of the dross.

I was discussing this idea with a friend in the States. He emailed the following quote from an article written by Arundhati Roy -

We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it."

[‘The pandemic is a portal’, The Financial Times, April 3, 2020](#)

Do stay safe. But do think about what YOU would like to see when we come out of this shutdown. Maybe you too would like to voice your thoughts here?

God Bless you. Penny

Congratulations and our warmest good wishes to Sheila and John Green as they celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, 25th April 2020.

Sheila and John were hoping to celebrate with a party for family and friends - including their best man - on Saturday afternoon, but like so many celebrations, this has had to be put on hold for now, and they will be spending the day together at home. We hope that they will enjoy happy memories of their special day fifty years ago and all the blessings that life has brought them since then. We wish them God's peace, Christ's joy and our love for the future. We have been much blessed by their coming to Sherborne and by John's ministry to us.



from the Cheap Street Church Family



from Christine

Sue Way is beginning to take over responsibilities as our new Church Secretary and she will be sending out the Newsletters by e-mail from this week. (Telephone 01935-473513; e-mail sue@wayweb.co.uk) I'll still post out printed copies for the time being, and I'd like to thank Jackie, Christina and Janet as well as Jeff and Sandie for distributing copies.

My last job as the old Secretary will be to update the Church Directory, and I'd be grateful to be sent any corrections or changes to the present edition (2019). In our present circumstances, it has been very useful to have e-mail addresses available. I'd be grateful if those who originally opted not to include them in their details could now let them be added.

Thought for the day with Barbara Porter

I am not very good with modern technology. I have a mobile phone and can text. We have a computer. I can research things and I can e mail. But I do find the computer most frustrating. It often doesn't do what I want it to .We've been able to have family quizzes and games via something called Zoom. I've no idea how it works. However it has been great fun and wonderful to see the young folk on screen. But the telephone! What a wonderful instrument it is, especially in these troubled times. We now speak regularly to old friends we rarely see because they live in distant places. Local friends. Our church family. It is such a blessing that we can chat, ask how people are coping. I have noticed that often I have rung someone and they have sounded down in the dumps, depressed, fed up, but a human voice for ten minutes and they are cheerful and positive.

Like some of you I was brought up in a home where there was no phone. If you needed to make a call you went to the nearest red phone box. You took coins, put them in the slot and pressed button A. Press button B if there was no reply and coins were returned. Children used to shove paper in the hole which held the unused coins, preventing them from falling out. They returned later to collect the pennies stuck in the box! In 1960 it cost 3 old pennies for three minutes for a local call. As late as 1962, when our son was born, Dennis had to run to the phone box to call for the midwife.

At this time of lockdown and isolation I am reminded of the village of Eyam in the Derbyshire Dales. The bubonic plague came to Eyam in 1665 via a consignment of cloth sent by a tailor in London. The fabric was infested with fleas. Whole families began to die. Led by the local rector, William Mompesson, the village went into total isolation. Food, supplied by Chatsworth House, was left at the entrance to the village and paid for, when possible, by coins disinfected in vinegar. Villagers shouted across a

dividing wall to family and friends in the next village. Their isolation continued for 14 months. There was no Waitrose or Sainsbury to deliver food or loo rolls. There was no pharmacy to run to in the hope of getting sanitizer and paracetamol. No greengrocer to deliver vegetables. Their courage and determination prevented the spread of the plague to the north of England and beyond. Many lives were saved. Joan Plant, a descendant of a survivor, wrote 'It must have been terrifying but every single family would have had a strong belief in God.'

Isolated as we are we may feel impotent, helpless to help others. There is little we can do but we can ring them, ask how they are, share their worry and perhaps a laugh. Praise the Lord for the telephone! Raymond said in a recent news sheet that Cheap Street Church is not just a building. It is a family who work and pray together. The building is closed but the Church is still there.

Our greatest blessing is that we have a dedicated, direct line to God. On dark days it may seem that he is not listening but the line is never engaged. We rest in the certain knowledge that he hears us.

Reading: ' There is a difference between naïve optimism and faith. Naïve optimism believes that everything will turn out for the best and is too superficial to take account of the real difficulties and agonies through which humans sometimes go. Faith, by contrast, is the trust that even though the problems are real ones, God is at work in them seeking to bring good out of evil. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither the present nor the future will be able to separate us from the love of God, that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Romans 8. 28 -

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Prayer: In these times of isolation thank you, God, that technology enables us to be in contact with each other. We pray for those suffering because of the coronavirus. May they know your healing power. When we are afraid for ourselves and our loved ones, give us your strength and courage. When we feel alone and isolated, reassure with a sense of your presence. Give wisdom to those in authority, and may our community work together for the good of all. We give thanks for those who care for others and ask you to bless them in all they do. We ask this in the name of Jesus, healer and physician. **Amen.**

Hymn:

When circumstances make my life
Too hard to understand,
No doubt or fear, no pain or strife
Can snatch me from God's hand.
In valleys where the path is steep
With shadows dark and long,
I know the Shepherd leads his sheep
His grace will keep me strong.
It is enough for me to know
God's promise and God's care.
Wherever on life's path I go
My Saviour will be there.

Martin Leckesbusch

Singing the Faith 641

God bless you all.

Barbara

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

INDIA, where Christians face horrific levels of violence from extremists, with thousands of attacks taking place every year. Several states have adopted anti-conversion laws, which make it incredibly difficult for Christians to share their faith and are often used as an excuse to disrupt church services and harass Christians. Churches are attacked and Christians are ostracised by their communities. Let us pray for protection for Christians from Hindu backgrounds, and that pastors whose churches have been attacked will have wisdom and courage to strengthen their congregations. Amen.

GOOD NEWS

Colleen Farquharson – Having had 3 days without needing any Oxygen support the hospital had done all they could so discharged her at 6 pm yesterday. A great relief to be among the land of the living.

However her swab taken on Friday still proved positive for the Virus so we are having to self isolate and wait for someone to take a further swab in a few days. Hopefully to say it has given up its hold.

I had stocked up with food so we are fine.

Weak but contented she enjoyed a good Gammon steak today. Can't be bad. Don Farquharson

Myra Heard

This is to let you know that Myra moved into Eastbury House nursing home on Saturday, as she was unable to cope at home.

Visitors are not allowed under any circumstances at this stage. Margaret reports that Myra sounds quite chirpy and was in the garden.

Pat Drew

Pat was blessed on Monday with the birth of her 4th Great Grandchild, Stanley Cole. He weighed in at 8 lbs 4 oz.

Pat is doing well and was full of praise for the help she has received from Good Neighbors who drove her to an eye appointment and other friends who have kindly brought her shopping and even flowers!

Duncan's Thoughts for the 26th of April

Lectionary Readings for week beginning 26th April 2020.

Psalm 116, Acts 2:14a, 36-41, 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35.

The story of the two disciples walk to Emmaus, is one that I never tire of. You might like to reflect on the above illustration of the story. It is a story of two people that know and have experienced of the all events surrounding Jesus death and resurrection, but do not know what to make of it, nor how they are going to live their lives in the light of Jesus death and resurrection. At the moment, as the lock down continues in order to contain the spread of Covid-19, we might not always know what to make of current events, nor how we are going to live our lives in the future.

In the discussion of the disciples as they walk towards Emmaus, trying to make sense of events, they find Jesus walking with them and entering into their conversations. They are unaware that it is the risen Jesus, that is with them, and is apart of their discussions and their struggle to make sense of the events that are shaping their lives. It is only much later during their evening meal that they realise that the Risen Jesus has been with them, in their struggles to make sense of what has happened.

Most of you will know the reflection "Footprints", sometimes credited to a former bishop of Iran, of the two sets of footprints that mark out a persons life. The person is unaware of Jesus walking with them, even when they are being carried by Jesus. But no matter what happens in their life, and whether or not they make sense of it, the Risen Jesus is with them.

All that is happening the moment one thing we can be sure of is Jesus is with us.

Hymn Sing The Faith 20. Be Still, for the presence of the Lord,



SUNDAY WORSHIP

BBC1: 10 am (times vary) Radio 4: 8.10 am –.

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.

Below is an extract of some words by the Rev Dr David M Owen which appeared in a magazine many years ago and I feel are very relevant now. Perhaps it's suitable for inclusion in a forthcoming newsletter.

Yve Ackroyd

“Take time to think; it is the source of power; Take time to play; it is the secret of perpetual youth. Take time to read; it is the fountain of wisdom. Take time to pray; it is the greatest power on earth. Take time to love and be loved; it is a God-given privilege. Take time to laugh; it is the music of the soul. Take time to give; it is too short a day to be selfish. Take time to work; it is the price of success.

But time, properly understood and used, is a blessing. Indeed, I believe it is one of God's most precious gifts to us, because it is truly a part of himself. Whatever else He is, He is time, for He is always past, present and future. C S Lewis observed that God is not rushed along in the world's time-stream; that he doesn't have to deal with us en masse, but sees each one of us as though we were the only ones He ever made”.

A Poem by R.S.Thomas.

Resurrection

Easter. The grave clothes of winter
Are still here, but the sepulchre
Is empty. A messenger
From the tomb tells us
How a stone has been rolled
From the mind, and a tree lightens
The darkness with its blossom.
There are travellers upon the roads
Who have heard music blown
From a bare bough, and a child
Tells us how an accident
Of last year, a machine stranded
Beside the way for lack
Of petrol is covered with flowers.

Enjoy it. Margaret Field

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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