



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

Sue Way
01935 804553

NEWSLETTER

30TH APRIL 2020

PREFACE

This is the seventh newsletter since we last met for worship on 15th March. Before the lockdown I had never used Zoom. Now very Friday afternoon I speak to 5 schoolfriends, some I hadn't seen since leaving school in 1966. Before we get cut-off the organiser always makes time to ask about the wife of one of the participants, who is approaching the end of her life in hospital, separated from her husband and family. It's a sharp reminder of what some people are having to face and puts the rest of the week in perspective. George Faris

DUNCAN'S MESSAGE

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Psalm 23, Acts 2:42-47, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10.

One of the unfortunate aspects of the Covid-19 lockdown is those people who are seeing this as an opportunity to steal from people by pretending to people they aren't, and appearing to be people that we would normally trust. This was present before the coronavirus pandemic. Normally once a month I would phoned by a person pretending to be my internet service provider. Fortunately, I have not believed their claims, nor been taken by their false appearance.

In the reading from John, Jesus talks about people in his day who would pretend to be good shepherds, but their intent, was far from caring and looking after those who were tricked into trusting them. In Jesus' day the shepherds that looked after sheep, spent their lives living with the sheep they cared for, and were known and trusted by their flock of sheep. As a true shepherd, they are there for the good of the flock, as for the false shepherds, the flock was there for the good of the shepherd.

Jesus in asking to place our trust in him, urges us to take care as to who we trust. In these current times scientist and politicians have been careful to tell the truth about the situation we face with Covid-19. Even if it is not what we want to hear or would like to be happening. It is a part of being a good Shepherd and allows us to build trust in them and their decisions.

Jesus as our ultimate 'Good Shepherd,' does not promise immunity from the virus, nor from having to play our part in staying at home, to prevent the spread of the virus. What Jesus does promise to with us, and it is the same promise Psalm 23 makes, that as we meet the challenges of this lockdown, and whatever the new normal will be, He is there with us, and is going to stay with us, no matter what happens.

Hymn Singing the Faith 480 & 481. *The Lord's my shepherd*. Click for: [YouTube version](#) (skip the ad)

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 are asked to pray for Phyllis Batchelor and we continue to hold in prayer all those who are in special need: Duncan's mother; Gill Hunt; 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.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Lynn Heaton offers us a poem, try reading it aloud.

Precious Time

Never have I seen Spring, as I have this year
Giving myself time to notice, each flower appear.
Never have I had time, to take this long trip
Down Memory Lane and back, strengthening my grip.
Never have I had space, to really let go
Of the fast pace of life, to find more in the slow.
Never have I been shown, in a crystal-clear way
All those things that are precious in our everyday.
Never have some seen days, that have been like this.
Sadness, sorrow, worry, fear. With no hug or kiss.
Never have we had prayers, on this global scale,
United together, seeking an end, to this deadly trail.
Never have we seen need, like this need we now see,
And also a need to become what we're meant to be.
Never have we been given, such time to prepare.
So many are facing hard times and we need to be there.
Never have we had a chance, to make a fresh start
In the way we have now, with God, His love in our heart!
Never have I had love, like His love for me.
Now I ask His Spirit to show me where I need to be.

A recent version of the Lord's Prayer

Our loving parent, you alone are God
Even your name is holy.
May we see your reign of peace and justice
Your loving work done
Here with us, as it is with you.
May we have all we need to feed us,
And may we be forgiven for all that we do wrong.
And in turn may we forgive those who do us wrong.
May we resist the tests and temptations of this world
And be led away from harm.
For you are our sovereign,
Powerful in love and glorified, now and forever. Amen

Bible reading: 1 John 3 v 18-24
Hymn: Now thank we all our God
[Salvation Army version](#)

To close

In my sorting out, I found a letter from my Mum, who died 30 years ago which ends:
She signed off: "I am always thinking of you, you know. All my love, Mum."
Let's remind ourselves that God wants us to realise:
"I am always thinking of you, you know. All my love, God."

TIME OUT

It had to come
This time of plague
We were too vague
On global warming
Ignored the warning
Nor did enough
To rebuff
The profiteers
Too many fears.
What's there for me our constant plea?
No thought of others, our sisters, brothers.
We're in disgrace our human race!
What must we do when this is through?
Be more caring
Be more sharing
This time of testing
and of resting
Reassessing
A time to think
Back from the brink
A second chance
To join the dance
Leave selfish ways.
These precious days
We'll volunteer to do our most
For those who can't we'll shop and post
Keep our distance, smile and wave
That is the new way to behave
Keep our chins up as we say
"With luck we'll live another day".
And when at last this trouble ends
We'll know the value of true friends
Shirley Fry

PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Christians are kidnapped for ransom across Syria, and in areas controlled by Islamic extremists they can't express their faith publicly. Despite continuing challenges, Christians are shining a light in the darkness of Syria. Open Doors partners with local churches which operate as Centres of Hope which are providing vital short-term aid for thousands of vulnerable families and also offer long-term support, including trauma care and business microloans. Let us pray: Lord God, please bring peace and protection to Syria. We pray for an end to conflict there, and safety for Your children. Please strengthen the local church to be a light in the darkness and hope for the Middle East. Amen.

RAINBOW

I have set my rainbow in the clouds and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Genesis 9.13.

Barbara Porter writes: 'The rainbow has become a symbol of gratitude for the NHS and all carers during the Covid-19 pandemic. Try reading this poem by John Agard aloud!'

De rainbow
you know
God know
what he a doin..
One big smile
across the sky –
I tell you man, God got style.
When you see
rain cloud pass
and de rainbow make a show
I tell you God is doin.. limbo.
But sometimes
you know
when I see de rainbow
so full of glow
and curving like she bearin a child
I does want to know
if God aint a woman.
If that is so
The woman got style
Man! she got style.

SHERBORNE COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Ali Berry writes:

One of the positive things that has come from the present lock down and isolating situation is to see the community come together to help and care for each other.

I am just back from delivering meals from the Sherborne Community Kitchen to people who are vulnerable, isolating or shielding, or who are finding it difficult to get to shops in safety. The meals are cooked and frozen in the Digby Hall by a team who all have Food Hygiene certificates and observe the 2 metre social distancing rules. The meals are then delivered by volunteers who put the bag on the doorstep, ring the bell, and then move back. We wear masks and gloves so the whole process is as safe as possible. Most people enjoy a bit of a chat and it has been lovely to get to know different people in the town, and it is a way of checking that people are ok. Last week one of the delivery volunteers discovered that the elderly lady she was delivering to had fallen in the hallway. She was able to call an ambulance and stay with the lady to reassure her.

The Kitchen still has capacity to produce and deliver more meals as more people want to volunteer to help. If you, or anyone you know, would like to have a meal delivered daily, or just a couple of times a week then either call me

Alison 07814 784732 or
Sherborne Viral Kindness 07884 115987

NEWS

- One of the decisions at our church meeting in March was to appoint Sue Way to be succeed Christine Rogers as church secretary. Sue is taking over on 1st May and Christine is taking a well-earned rest with our thanks. We welcome Sue, who can be contacted on 01935 804553 (a change from the church directory) and by email at sue@wayweb.co.uk.
- John and Sheila Green thank the church family for all the phone calls and cards celebrating their golden wedding. They had a different kind of anniversary celebration with visits from their family, who brought and shared a meal while remaining at the end of the garden. Their faraway daughter joined them via the internet.
- Mike & Molly Hooper were blessed on Monday (Molly's birthday) with the birth of their third grandchild, Isaac Daniel, weighing 10lb 3oz. Isaac is Daniel & Megan's second child and a brother for Charlotte.
- Happy 80th birthday next Monday to Peter Gould.

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Week begins on 10th May and It will be a very different one this year. And the thinking is that it might never be the same again.

Your local Committee was well advanced in making plans for the usual collections when along came Coronavirus and the dreaded lockdown. It was right to cancel the local plans.

It transpired that Christian Aid HQ was already thinking of new ways of raising cash that did not rely so heavily on envelope deliveries although envelopes are a huge fundraiser and will still be available.

Christian Aid announced it was going digital with live-streamed worship, daily quizzes and other exciting ideas which can be found at [Christian Aid week resources](#).

Coronavirus is teaching us what it feels like to feel vulnerable, to fear, to be separated and to experience scarcity. It is at times like these - testing and painful times - that we recognise we are all in it together. Coronavirus impacts everyone, but love unites us all.

Christian Aid Week has always been a joyful celebration of

what we can achieve together for the world's poorest people and at this time of global crisis Christian Aid is needed as much as ever. Your gift of whatever size will help save lives and is as vital as ever.

PLEASE make your donation by visiting [Ways to donate](#)
Thank you.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

BBC1: 10.45 am (times vary) - this week from Bangor Cathedral.

Radio 4: 8.10 am – this week marking the 800th anniversary of Salisbury Cathedral.

Methodist resources: [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 \(click here to subscribe\)](#).

MISSING CONTRIBUTIONS

I received 11 emails for this newsletter. Apologies if what you sent in hasn't been included. Just send it again to Penny for next week's newsletter.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

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

Penny Gardner pennylgardner@gmail.com 01935 389153
and to George Faris gfaris48@gmail.com 01935 420258