



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

Sue Way
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NEWSLETTER

14TH MAY 2020

PREFACE

This is the ninth newsletter since we last met for worship on 15th March. There is an ever-increasing number of acts of worship available on online. Some services are live and some recorded in advance. The *Sunday Worship* section gives links to Methodist and URC resources. There are plenty of opportunities to join online congregations: take your pick. George Faris

DUNCAN'S MESSAGE

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Psalm 66, Acts 17:22-31, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21.

There is story of person in a place they did not know, asking a local person for directions, when the person explained where they wished to get too, the local replied, 'well if I was you, I would not start from here.' We all know where we are as a result of the Coronavirus lockdown. We know where we hope to get too, but our current situation is not the starting point that we would naturally choose.

I always find the story of Paul's preaching to the people of Athens, both a challenging and inspiring one. The reading begins with Paul being upset at idols and various types of religious artefacts and objects of worship that he saw in the city. Now Paul could have begun with where he was spiritually and his response to what he saw and condemned the Athenians for their folly. But Paul makes use of what he sees and even compliments them on being very religious, He comments on an altar, dedicated to 'An unknown God,' and takes that as the point that he will begin to talk about Jesus, and what God had done for them through Jesus' death and resurrection. The work of the Holy Spirit in Paul enabled him to begin where the Athenians were, and not where he would have liked them to be.

The VE Day remembrances remind us that victories over enemies that have the capability to destroy us, often take time, determination, and bring periods of uncertainty on the way to victory. In playing our part in this Covid-19 lockdown, we can work to bring about the future victory over Coronavirus, and at the same time we can talk about the hope we have for the future, based on the love that God has for each and every one of us.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 353. *Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it.* Click for: [Isle of Man Methodist Church YouTube version](#)

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 remember:

- Deacon Rebekah-Joy Spinks and her family. Rebekah's father died last week as a result of Covid-19.

- The Miller Family, Tony, Carol and Terry, following the death of Linda.

We continue to hold in prayer all those who are in special need: Phyllis Batchelor; 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.

JACKIE BULLEN'S THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

About a week ago, before going to sleep, I was wondering what I would write about, and on waking at 3.00 in the morning, unable to get back to sleep, I turned on the radio – which is something that I very seldom do – and found myself listening to a fascinating interview with an American writer, Meredith May, speaking about her new autobiographical book, *The Honey Bus*, about her childhood when as a 5-year old, through her grand-father, she developed a passion for bees and bee-keeping. She was explaining that she had learnt everything she needed to know about life from the bees, which sounded fascinating. I felt that The Lord was prompting me to use this as my subject for today.

So the following morning I bought the book on line, loaded it onto my tablet (with the help of my daughter!) and was immediately able to start reading it. It was simply riveting and it struck me that the bees could also teach us, both as individuals and as members of the church, how we should behave.

As I'm sure most of you know, a colony of bees works together 100% of their time to care for the queen and her thousands of off-spring, feeding, nursing, keeping the temperature right, protecting her from invaders, etc., with each individual having a specific responsibility. They are loyal, have their own language – humming with delight, shrieking in distress, falling silent with grief - and growling with menace when threatened.

When she was six Meredith witnessed an incredible sight when she was helping her Grandpa inspect one of his hundred or more hives, to make sure that the eggs were forming alright, when it suddenly started to rain. The bees, of course, were not accustomed to rain within the hive, and immediately they stood together motionless, their posture rigid, their wings tight together like Spanish roof tiles, protecting the next generation from the rain – they were prepared to risk their own lives in doing so.

Just as the bees work together to feed their queen by ensuring a constant supply of young bees to work and bring in the pollen, Jesus said to Peter "Feed My lambs" and "Tend My sheep. As we all know, we need to work together to this end, using our individual God-given gifts to spread the Good News through our words and actions. The lock-down has given us all extra time for prayer, meditation and contemplation, with a number of people discovering previously-hidden talents; may all our talents be used to the glory of God.

Hymn 415, Singing the Faith: *The Church of Christ, in every age* ([a YouTube version](#))

Prayer: Lord, we ask you to take our lives, and let them be consecrated to You. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Out of a population of over 34 million in **Saudi Arabia**, only 1.4 million are Christians. According to Islamic tradition, it is the place of the birth and final resting place of Muhammad, the prophet of Islam. The legal system is based on Islamic law, known as Sharia. It is forbidden to openly practise a faith other than Islam, and leaving Islam is punishable by death. Believers must keep their faith completely secret.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus, we thank You that Your light and love reach into the darkest places, and that Your church is growing there. We pray that God will provide ways for new believers to find fellowship and discipleship. Fill Saudi Arabia with Your presence and build Your kingdom there. Amen.



BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE

Paul Hooley 2020

The greatest of courageous acts
Are shown by those with clearest eye
Of the grimmet of all certain facts –
The knowledge they themselves could die

Yet who, undaunted, still proceed –
Own lives at risk and so aware –
To nurse those in the greatest need
Whom fate's entrusted to their care

Each time they don a mask or glove
They too confront the terror rife
Exists therefore no greater love
Than that of those who risk their life

To save another or comfort give
To those about to say goodbye –
Who may not have that long to live
But will not, alone, be left to die

Let those who follow not forget
The selfless love each carer gave
For we will, forever, be in debt
To the bravest of the brave.

NEWS

Janet Le Moignan writes:

Thank you to everyone who supported the mini plant sale on our garden wall for **Hope in Africa** last Saturday - for those who brought additional plants to sell and those who bought. It was a good morning, with several local people buying as well as those from the church and I now have £113 to hand on to John.

Christine Rogers writes:

With the present news focus on what is happening in care and nursing homes across the country, you may be interested to read the letter in the current edition of the *Bridge* magazine about **Methodist Homes (MHA)**. At Cheap Street Church we do not have a special envelope collection for MHA, but we donate to it half of the money raised on Pack Monday and for our Christmas appeal. Last year this amounted to £177.50. I was pleased to hear from the Methodist Home near Canterbury, where Eileen, an old (aged + long-standing) friend of mine has now settled in happily, that they are completely free of Covid-19 and are now able to get testing and PPE satisfactorily. The situation does seem to be improving.

The Cheapstreeter

Raymond Wood raymondwood1949@gmail.com writes:

If you have a contribution for the magazine, please let me have it by Tuesday 26 May.

Are you old enough to remember the War and, especially, VE Day on 8 May 1945? If you are, please send me your reminiscences – or those passed on to you by your parents or grandparents.

CHRISTIAN AID

This is Christian Aid Week and it is a very different one this year but the need for it continues. Click here to make a donation: [Christian Aid Week](#).

SUNDAY WORSHIP

BBC1: 10.45 am (times vary) - this week from St David's Cathedral.

Radio 4: 8.10 am – The Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

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](#)).

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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