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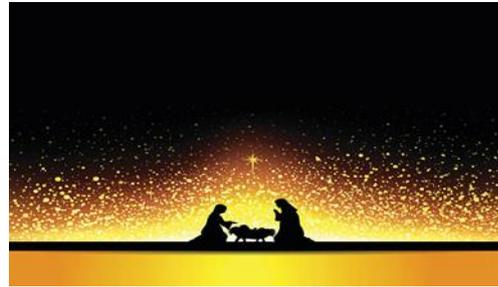
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CHURCH
GOOD NEWS

December
25th, 2021

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

Welcome to Christmas Services



Tonight, the **Christmas Eve Service** will be at 7.00 pm and will be led by **Revd Duncan Goldie**. It will include Holy Communion.

Tomorrow's **Christmas Day Service** will be at 10.30 and be led by **Revd Christina Le Moignan**.

Thursday December 30th – Prayers at 9.45 followed by Thought for The Day led by **Margaret Field** at 10.30 am.

Thursday Coffee morning will be in the church hall from 10.00 to 11.30

Sunday January 2nd at 10.30 we will have a Covenant Service which will be led by **Revd Christina Le Moignan**

There will NOT be a service this Sunday December 26th -Boxing day

The POD is now closed until the new year.

PASTORAL

Earlier this week we received the sad news that Peter Jackson's father had died last week aged 92years. Peter who is one of our church organists has not been able to play the organ for us for some months as he has been caring for his parents.

We send Peter and the family, our love and prayers from everyone in Cheap Street Church.

Please remember our Church Family members who are on our weekly prayer list, along with other members of our congregation who wish to remain anonymous despite health problems.

We ask God's Blessing on all who live in Sherborne, and on all His people throughout the world.

The First Birthdays of 2022

Saturday January. 1st. Ruth Armstrong.

Saturday. 8th. George Faris.

Sunday. 9th. Sheila Green.

Wednesday. 12th. Geoff. Gardner.

Happy New Year Birthdays to you all with love and best wishes from everyone in Cheap Street Church.

The Pastoral visitors and I wish you all, a Peaceful and Blessed Christmas with best wishes for a Healthy 2022

With love and prayers to you all.

Eirwen.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Thank you to all who took part in carol singing outside Waitrose last Saturday and at Riverside on Monday afternoon. Both occasions went well. At Waitrose we had people from other churches joining us, making about 20 in all. At Riverside we sang from the back garden to residents in the conservatory, who had the door open and were covered with blankets to keep warm, but I think they appreciated our coming and it was really nice to see Margaret Walker and Clive Turner among them. Afterwards we were treated to mince pies and hot drinks in their new 'summer' house which was decorated for Christmas and had a fire!

I mentioned last time that we have been invited to join in a Prayer Day organised by Methodist Districts in the South West. Further details are given elsewhere in the news sheet about what to pray about, concerning the effects of Covid on people and also on our own response, both individual and together as Church, for the New Year. I am hoping Thought for the Day can be linked in with this, but otherwise I think on this occasion our praying will be done individually at a convenient time, but please do remember this and be aware that we are joined with others praying in our own Southampton District, and throughout the South West. As we are sharing in this, our next Cheap Street Prayer Day will now not happen in January, as we intended but will be a bit later on.

Please do also remember our annual Covenant Service on Sunday 2nd January, a special time as we think about God's promises to us – and ours to God. Again, this is both individual, but also joint as Church.

But first, we have Christmas when we celebrate God's greatest gift to us. Christina and I hope that it will be a happy and blessed time for you all. Janet

PRAYER RING

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

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 Kathy Stephenson and Viv Evans; Angie Langcricks; Peter and Denise Gould; Muriel and Raymond Wood; Martin and Pat Heal; Marjorie and Peter Kett; George and Norma Hamill; Brian and Margaret Walker; Jan and Phil Wallace and their daughter Emma; Eileen Higgins; Alex Palmer.

Please remember our Cheap Street Church Family in your prayers.

PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Prayers for the persecuted church: **Bhutan** - All Bhutanese citizens are expected to be Buddhists and anyone who leaves Buddhism to follow Jesus is watched with suspicion. Conversion to Christianity is perceived as bringing shame on the family, so family members often put enormous pressure on converts to return to their original faith - including disowning them if all else fails. Particularly in rural areas, Buddhist monks oppose the presence of Christianity. No Christian church in Bhutan has official government recognition, so all Christian gatherings for worship are technically illegal.

Let us ask God to bless leadership gatherings run by Open Doors to bring leaders together for fellowship; that God would protect believers from Buddhist backgrounds, and for wisdom for those leading churches that are being monitored. Amen

Let us pray for the Christians being driven from the Holy Land

That is the heading of a recent article in The Sunday Times written by Archbishop Justin Welby and Hosam Naoum, Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem.

The following are extracts from that article:

"Church leaders in Jerusalem have raised an unprecedented and urgent alarm call. In a joint statement they said Christians throughout the Holy Land had become the target of frequent and sustained attacks by fringe radical groups. They described "countless incidents" of physical and verbal assaults against priests and other clergy, and attacks on Christian churches. They spoke of holy sites being regularly vandalised and desecrated, and the ongoing intimidation of local Christians as they go about their worship and daily lives.

So let's get real this Christmas. When we sing O Little Town of Bethlehem, or Once in Royal David's City, let's hear the voice of the church of the Holy Land - and thank them for their gift to all of us. Let's pray for their flourishing and their future; a future intertwined with the future prosperity and

common good of all communities. Woven through the first Christian story in the message of hope and of good news for all people - a small light that can never be put out."

2022 Weekly Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2022 are available to be collected for those using 2021 envelopes. Please assist in getting them delivered. We have 7 spare sets available so new subscribers are welcome.

Thank you to all who contributed regularly to church funds in 2021. Several people have increased their standing orders and one member has made a very generous donation. Could you do likewise?

George Faris (phone: 01935 420258)

Best wishes for Christmas and 2022,

George



POEM for CHRISTMAS



The following was sent in from Margaret Field –

Son for a Winter Birth

Under the watchful lights
A child is born;
From a mortal house of flesh
Painfully torn.

And we, who later assembled
To praise or peer,
Saw merely an infant boy
Sleeping there.

Till he awoke and stretched
Small arms wide
And for food or comfort
Quavering cried.

A cry and attitude
Rehearsing in small
The deathless death still haunting
The Place of the Skull.

Outside, in the festive air
We lit cigars.
The night was nailed to the sky
With hard bright stars.

Vernon Scannell.

PLEASE NOTE -There will be no Good News Newsletter next week. The next edition will be for January 9th and that will also cover a two-week period as Geoff and Penny will be taking a break. (COVID Permitting)

CHRISTMAS DUTIES

Councillor on Duty – Cath Adam

Door Stewards – Sandie Hassell

Music – Janet English

Sound – Jeff Hassell

JANUARY 2ND DUTIES

Councillor on Duty – George Faris

Door Stewards – Hillary Brown and Audrey Robson

Music – Viv Daniels

Sound – Michael Brown

CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE NEWS AND PEW SHEETS TO Penny Gardner – email pennylgardner@gmail.com or 01935 389153

Minister – The Revd Duncan Goldie- 01935 812916

Church Secretary – Janet Le Moignan
01935 389662,