



## 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

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## NEWSLETTER

27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020



### NEW CHURCH?

Good Afternoon. It has been a busy time and I thought I couldn't/wouldn't write anything this week. But alas! I have had some thoughts I feel are important to share.

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” (NRSV)  
Isaiah 43:18-19.

Judging from the number of conversations that have come our way over the past week – I would say there are many of us wrestling with ways of old and what God has in store for us. I would like to refer you to the latest edition of The Connection magazine

(<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/17808/the-connexion-magazine-issue-19.pdf>) Which

shares the stories and ideas of many who have been doing the same searching. To use a quote from Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth -

*“To paraphrase 1 Corinthians 13: when everything else passes away, we are left with only the love of God. So ‘not knowing’ is not only okay, it’s good spiritual practice. Though it makes no sense, offering ourselves into the unknowing of faith may help us remember the*

*most important things: whose we are, why we exist, and what we are for.”*

May God bless us and bring us peace.

Penny

### Thought for the Day –

from Lynn Heaton

As I write, we have more than 60 prayers “planted” in our Church Garden.

The Prayer Garden prayer opportunity has been helpful then, to some in our community, bringing their thoughts to God. And for passers by, or those who have sat on the benches, maybe it’s encouraged them to look at the prayers, or ponder, and think their own thoughts of God. That is all good.

But as we see these cries to God, it has made me ask “How can we just leave people at that point, in that place?” Maybe some of them are people who would really like to know more, and it could be up to us to give them more opportunities to do that. Isn’t that the “Church” as Jesus intended it to be – getting more in touch with the people around us? As he did.

Especially with the ones on the outside.

Before we can do anything, or be of any use to Him or others, we need to get into the right place with Him ourselves. This was something that was very clear to me, that I needed to try to do myself, at the beginning of lockdown.

Spending time deepening our relationship with God should be our first priority, seeking to love him with all our heart, soul and mind, and also letting his love flow over us. Then we will be in the best place to love our neighbours!

We must be careful we don't settle for an introspective spirituality, but pray to be filled and listen to his Spirit, so that we can GROW in him and GO with him.

Let's demonstrate God's love in even more practical ways than we have already been doing. He has chosen us and put us into this community.

In a book I am re-reading at the moment "The Grace Outpouring", the author Roy Godwin encourages us to pray for and bless each household, their health and wealth, and their work situations. Bless the pupils of each school as they return and all the staff, praying for their safety and well-being as well as the learning.

Now that's something we can be getting on with for a start! Let's be the church in the town, for the town!

Reading Matthew 22 v 37-40. Hymn 403  
Singing the Faith. God is Love

- Here are a few of the Prayer Garden prayers from our community. Perhaps you would like to pray with them...
- God, give me strength to make the right decision.
- Please pray for my Dad, John, and let him be pain free.
- Lord God, for the people who have been bereaved, that they may know peace and love.
- Help people to protect animals (from a child)
- For Gramma. Please take her cancer away.
- Dear Lord, I pray that the stress and toughness of the past two months fully comes to an end and I can enjoy my time at university fully x
- Dear Lord, I know it's selfish, but I pray that I get amazing GCSE results.
- Lord would you guide us about our move from London to Dorset. We want to be where you want us to be. R&A
- A prayer for my two daughters who are finding life difficult.
- Please pray for those suffering in Lebanon.

- Thankyou for everything you have done for me Lord and making things happen for me.



## **FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER**

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 pray particularly for John Hunt and his family, for Carol Hooper and her family and we continue to pray for all those who are in special need: John Green; Janet Baker; Paul Wilkins; Martin Heal; Helen Winkworth and her family; Phyllis Batchelor; Duncan's mother; Kathy Crew; Clive and Jill Turner, Ellie and Sophie; Janet Dolling and her family; Judith Hayward and her family; Eileen Higgins; Alex Palmer; Peter and Marjorie Kett; Christina Le Moignan (continuing eye problems).

## **PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH**

Morocco - It's illegal in Morocco to 'shake the faith of a Muslim', so talking about Jesus is breaking the law. Christians are accused of being disloyal to the king, and any believers who have converted must keep their faith secret. Christians who do manage to meet together must do so in house churches, as they cannot get permission to meet publicly, and expatriate churches are monitored to make sure Moroccans don't attend. Let us pray that God will give Christians the freedom to meet together for worship without government intervention. Also for courage and protection for believers seeking to share the gospel with others. Amen.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Go to Lillian and Douglas Scott who celebrate their emerald wedding (55 years!) anniversary on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.

### **3 X THANK YOU!**

Firstly, a very big thank you to **Lynn Heaton** for the imagination and hard work she has put into creating and tending the prayer garden in front of the Church. It looks amazing (see the picture) and is obviously much appreciated by those who have been able to write prayers to be “planted” here. Above all it was the first step towards opening up our space again and proclaiming in the heart of Sherborne that God is with us all at all times. When I was stewarding at the Church on a Saturday morning it was interesting to see how many people passing round the building stopped to look at the prayers. Some even came to the table to write one.

Secondly, you will have read in last week’s Newsletter that, after 10 years, **Raymond Wood** has decided to retire as editor of the Cheapstreeter. I’m sure that many of us will have sent messages to him to express our appreciation of his tremendous achievement. Raymond always engaged our interest and excitement through the articles and contributions he gathered with unfailing regularity, whilst deepening our faith with many wise and true comments. God thank you and bless you greatly, Raymond, for speaking to us in this truly remarkable way through the written word. May you have a peaceful retirement!.

Thirdly, another retirement to report, that of **Brian Walker** as the organiser of Theatre-Goers of Sherborne, I discovered Theatre-Goers very soon after moving here. There was a waiting list to join in those days, but once a member, I realised what a tremendous boon it was, especially for people living on their own. Not only were trips to excellent productions in Salisbury, Bath and other theatres provided with Brian’s precise planning, but it was also a great opportunity to get to know and meet up with like-minded spirits, including several church members. This role must have exacted a lot of hard work, tact, patience and, at times, worry, from Brian over the last 13 years. On

behalf of all of us, I should like to thank him for the joy and pleasure he has brought to so many in the Sherborne area.

Christine Rogers

### **Duncan’s Thoughts for this Coming Week**

Lectionary Readings for week beginning 30th August 2020.

Psalm 105:1-6, Exodus 3:1-15, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28.

We reach another bank holiday weekend and if the weather is nice there will no doubt be a rush to the beaches and other leisure attractions. Hopefully people will not just focus on how they, or their family wish to enjoy themselves but will also be mindful of others and the need in this Covid 19 pandemic to act safely and with courtesy towards others. Paul, in this part of his letter to the Romans, is asking his readers to act with love and respect towards others even when those same people have acted poorly towards them. Saying ‘If your enemies are hungry feed them, if they are thirsty give them a drink; ..... Do not let evil defeat you, instead conquer evil with good.’ What Paul asks of us is not easy because it goes against our normal sense of justice, which says that those who hurt us or others should be punished for their actions.

Behind God’s appearance to Moses in the burning bush that did not burn, there is the injustice of how the Israelites in Egypt are being treated. It is something that God has decided to change, not because God has a desire to punish the Egyptians, but because there is an injustice that needs to be brought to an end. What the Black Lives Matters movement has highlighted is that there are things for the good of all that need to change; we need to behave as a society in a different way.

When Jesus talks about a new way of doing things, His future death and resurrection, Peter reacts in a very human way - that this cannot be the way. Jesus’ reply is that The Cross is God’s way, and it is the way of all who follow him. It is God’s way of love and forgiveness, even when it comes at the cost of a Cross.

Hymn Singing The Faith 615. Let love be real, in giving and receiving,

## Thank you Raymond

After ten years producing the Cheapstreeter you deserve a break. It has always been full of interesting, thought-provoking information and a touch of humour. The profiles of members of our church family have had us saying 'well! I didn't know that!' I remember the articles on Studdert Kennedy, WW1 chaplain and poet. Terry Waite, kidnapped and incarcerated for four years. And many more. The odd sentence which carried me through a week – 'Christianity is not about perfect people loving God; it's about imperfect people being loved by God. Frank Topping'. Photographs: glamorous waitresses at a Cream Tea, photos of our church family who are no longer with us – such as Peter Hattersley and Margaret Bacon. There was a joke about the advantage of getting older is that we can't remember how old we are!

You have encouraged us to contribute, collated and researched for additional material, printed, and folded copies without fuss. I pray that someone else will pick up the baton. It will be a hard act to follow.

## Bible Study Group.

John Crossman has prepared The Ridgeway Autumn Bible Study on Mark's Gospel, chapters 11 -16, covering the last week of Jesus' life. These groups were led for very many years by the late David Smart, and John nobly took over this task. We meet fortnightly, starting on Friday, 11th September, at 2.30, in very small groups in order to socially distance, either at 2 Raleigh Court, Long Street or 9 Portman Square. We would welcome new members, so do give me a ring if you would like to find out more about it. Jackie - 01935 813112.

## Book - "Where is God in a Coronavirus World?"

I'm sorry for the delay, but the publishers have run out of stock and are re-printing, but I'll let you know as soon as I receive them.

Jackie.

## From the Newsletter of the Sherborne Catholic Church –

### Care of Creation

"1st September is World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and marks the start of the Season of Creation – an opportunity for us all to reflect on how we care for our Common Home. The Season runs until 4 October – the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi. In his message for Laudato Si' week, Bishop Mark said 'Our earth is the home for the human family. It is in severe danger and needs immediate protection and healing at a global, national and local level. ... The threatened state of the environment is a universal challenge affecting us all; those most in danger at present, and in the future, are those who are already poor and vulnerable..... "Laudato Si" is permeated by a sense of human, moral and religious urgency, but the Pope recognises the complexity of the joining of the environment and poverty. "We are not faced", he says, "with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental" (#139)'

We invite everyone to reflect, to pray, and to act, so that we achieve that ecological conversion that the Holy Father calls us to."

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

New Wine sessions are on line this year. Google "United Breaks Out". There are some really good speakers, worship sessions and also children's groups. You can look at it at any time. There is a lot to choose from! It was first put online at the end of July and continues to be available.

## SHERBORNE ABBEY

The Abbey has parish worship at 9.30 am on Sunday and is open for private prayer on Thursday between 11 am and 1 pm.

Radio 4: 8.10 am – Wild At Home - This week's service comes from Greenbelt  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000m493>

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](#)).

## **Sojourners**

### **Verse of the day**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15: 13

### **Voice of the Day**

You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope. In such an event, courage is the authentic form taken by love.

Thomas Merton

### **Prayer**

Oh God, where we face uncertainty, give us joy and peace in you. Give us hope where it seems hopeless. Amen.

## **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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