



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

VACANT

NEWSLETTER

24TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Hello. We are finding ourselves in a new season, with new instructions on how to behave in this Covid world. More than ever it seems important to keep our eyes firmly on the cross and the goodness at the heart of humanity. This has been witnessed this week by the large numbers of donations that have been collected by Cath Adams for the Moira Refugee Camp in Greece. People really long to help.



While we have been tucked away the church council have continued to meet on a regular basis and try to figure out how we can function as a church once again. Their last meeting was last night and they have issued these announcements.

Penny

Cheap Street Church Council Report

With regret we announce: -Eileen Higgins and Sue Way resigned as councillor and secretary. We thank them both for their services.

The Church can't properly function without a secretary so we urgently need someone to fill the post. It is not a gender specific role. It can be fairly onerous so please pray about it. (A Secretary is a denominational requirement for a church for both the Methodist and URC)

Saturday morning prayer sessions have stopped for the foreseeable future as we now have Sunday service in the hall and are shortly hoping to open the church again.

If you want to attend next Sunday's service in the hall please tell your pastoral visitor or phone direct to Norma – 01963 251617 or email george.hamill@virgin.net

Sunday 4th October will be a Harvest Service.

John Greens Funeral is 2:30pm on Friday, attendee is only by invite of the family.

From Duncan

More News from the Church Council – Tuesday 22nd September

We are moving forward in getting the church building open for services.

As many of you will know, the first service will be this Friday at 2.30pm when there will be a service of thanksgiving for the life of John Wesley Green, to which the total number of people we are allowed, have been invited. Many more will also be remembering him.

Because of Covid regulations we are not able to open for prayer this Saturday, having used the building the day before. We are now currently suspending this until we have sorted out how else we can open in the near future.

We are very much hoping that we can have our harvest thanksgiving service in

the church on Sunday 4th October, but if this isn't possible we shall still have it in the hall. This will be rather different from usual, but we are asking for non-perishable goods for the local food bank. There will also be Commitment for Life envelopes through which we can make a contribution to help people abroad who have limited harvests due to drought or floods and often limited health care during this pandemic too. And we shall be able to thank God for all his goodness to us.

As Duncan has said, we were sad to hear of the resignation of Sue Way as church secretary and of Eileen Higgins as a councillor for several years. We do thank them both for their service to the church. Please pray about the ongoing life of Cheap Street Church at this time and think whether you can offer your gifts in any way.

Janet Le Moignan

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

By Penny Gardner

I was falling behind as we walked through the picturesque coastal town. The streets were crowded and many people did not seem to be adhering to social distancing. The more I had to step around people the grumpier I became. I frowned and mumbled under my breath. Soon I was walking in the middle of the road. Not much traffic and easier than bouncing on and off the pavement. It was a beautiful town with old buildings, small side streets and a harbour that had once seen busier days. The sun shone and children laughed as they dodged rising sea levels. All the ingredients for a good holiday. But I dragged along in the middle of the road resenting all the small groups who laughed and chatted and seemed to pay little attention to safe distancing. Geoff was trying to get a conversation going that would distract me from my moodiness. Suddenly a bright shiny 4 x 4 came up the road. He didn't slow too much as I stepped out of his way. I grumbled some more. Geoff reminded me that I might expect

cars to want to drive on the road.

I wanted to growl and shake my fist. (I didn't!)

"What's up?" asked Geoff.

I fell silent. I knew that I had lost something that is really important – especially as a Christian. I had lost HOPE.

I ranted to Geoff as we sat over a coffee in a socially distanced café.

I recalled that I had been so full of hope during lockdown. I welcomed changes that were bound to happen. Surely we would use cars and airplanes less. There would be more awareness of nature and I felt certain that mankind would make a bigger effort to slow down climate change.

And in our community. . . I saw that people were getting to know their neighbours and helping where they saw need.

Then the lockdown lifted. The roads filled up. The airports resumed business. And rules were given and rescinded until we were left with no idea what we were supposed to be doing. Geoff listened, as he does from time to time. Then he reminded me that Mahatma Gandhi had said "Be the change you want to see."

He left it there and changed the subject. My thoughts ran on. I wanted a better world but did not know what change I wanted in the new world. As I broke it down a bit I wondered how this better world was going to happen. How will I know it when it happens?

I guess it is a bit like Martin Heal (a couple of weeks ago) asking what our vision for the church is. If we don't have a vision, how do we know what we are working towards?

I thought about the enormity of change that I wanted to see. I realized that it was too big and broke it down into *my* starting point. (Thanking that person that stepped off the pavement to let me walk unheeded.) I can only change myself. But if lots of us are doing this – with God's help and guidance – then we might just find that we can achieve something wonderful.

Let There Be Peace On Earth -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ITXaL2Sk2A>

Pastoral

Our minister The Rev. Duncan Goldie will officiate at the funeral of our dear friend John Green on Friday 25th September. The funeral service will take place at The Crematorium, Yeovil, followed by a Thanksgiving service at Cheap Street Church where Duncan will conduct the service along with The Rev. Kate Konrad minister of Yeovil Methodist Church. We send our love and prayers to Sheila, her daughters Pauline, Christine and their family.

As we say farewell to one person whose life on Earth is done we welcome into the world two new little persons.

Congratulations to Janet and Tony Cole on becoming Great grandparents twice over. Their granddaughter Leah and her partner James welcomed their little daughter Maiya into the world on 5th June. On 24th August a little boy, Ezekiel was born in the Philippines to their grandson Amber and his partner Christine. We send our love and best wishes to both families and ask for God's Blessing.

Janet Baker has been receiving medication for a heart problem for the last few months. Unfortunately this has not worked. On Friday she is going to Yeovil Hospital for a procedure which shocks the heart back to its normal rhythm. Hopefully this will correct the problem. Our love and prayers are with Janet during this anxious time

September seems to be a popular month for Birthdays!

We send belated greetings to Lynn Heaton last week and earlier this week to Penny and Raymond. Tomorrow Thursday 24th September, Happy Birthday Margaret Field.

Love and best wishes to you all from our Church family.

Eirwen

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 Sheila Green and her family. We continue to pray for John Hunt and his family; Carol Hooper and her family; Janet Baker; Martin Heal; 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).

In this strange time, when lots of time is being spent considering important decisions for all of us at Cheap Street Church, please pray for

all on our Church Council at the moment,

Janet Le Moignan

Jan Wallace

Rob Hooper

Martin Heal

Christine Rogers

Norma Hamill

Peter Kett

Also those helping with Property matters related to Covid 19 secure areas,

Geoff Gardner

John Stinchcombe

And of course our minister Duncan.

We also have a new Safeguarding Officer, George Faris. Please pray for George and bless his work in our Church. Thank you.

PRAYERS FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

SUDAN ENDS 30 YEARS OF ISLAMIC LAW!

Praise God that Sudan's transitional government has agreed to end 30 years of Islamic law, under which Christians and churches were severely persecuted. This is a fantastic answer to the prayers of enormous numbers of people, including many Open Doors supporters.

The agreed separation of religion and

state means Islam is no longer the state religion of Sudan. This is part of a peace deal that the government signed with rebel groups in late August, and follows news from July that Sudan had repealed several laws, including the death penalty for people who leave Islam.

Let us praise God for answering decades of prayers on this issue; that God will thwart any attempts to resurrect Islamic law, and that loyalist groups would encounter Jesus. Christians from a Muslim background remain at risk of intense opposition from families, so let us pray for their safety, in Jesus' name, Amen.

The Cheapstreeter

One or two close friends have urged me to reconsider my decision to retire as editor of The Cheapstreeter. Also, I was deeply touched by the many lovely cards, emails and telephone calls I received, as well as what was said in the Newsletter; these made me realise how much the magazine was loved and appreciated and that it would be greatly missed. Therefore, I have decided to continue to produce it. It is too late to do anything for October/November, so I will start again with a Christmas issue. This will be in the previous format. I am very grateful to Christine Rogers, who has kindly agreed to organise the distribution. I shall look forward to receiving your contributions.

Raymond

The Minister's Thoughts for this Coming Week

Lectionary Readings for week beginning 27th September 2020.

Psalm 78:1- 4, Exodus 17:1-7, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23 - 32.

There are some stories which we like to retell as they shape our lives today. The celebrity fitness instructor Joe Wicks was asked why he supported Chelsea, and he said it was because of the 1995 FA Cup final when he chose the team in

blue to support. The only problem is that the Cup final was between Manchester United [0] and Everton [1]. The Psalmist knows that it is important that the people of Israel know not just God's involvement in the present but also the story of their past and God's involvement in it, and that they retell this to each new generation so it becomes a history which encourages them to rely and seek God's help in the present and the future.

I think when we look back on the Covid 19 pandemic there will be a story that will need to be retold in various ways to future generations; and as churches we will need to tell how God was with us in the challenges we faced in our lives. It is hard not seeing friends and family and missing out on activities that we enjoy and that enhance our lives.

I think many of us are a bit like the older Son in the story that Jesus tells in our reading from Matthew; when it comes to the latest Coronavirus restriction we don't want to do it but in the end do our best to keep the restrictions for sake of others. It is the same humility that Paul says we should copy from Jesus, who did not seek to grab equality with his Heavenly Father but sought out of love to comply with his Father's wishes. In the end because of the humble way Jesus carried out his Father's wishes, he is placed above all in heaven and earth.

It is traveling in love and humility with Jesus that will enable us to overcome the current Covid 19 pandemic.

Hymn Singing The Faith 317. At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT CHEAP STREET

Services will be on Sunday (27th September) at 10.30 am in the hall lasting around 30 minutes. Janet Le Moignan will be leading the service.

ALTERNATIVE SUNDAY WORSHIP

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 – **A new heaven and a new earth** [Sunday Worship](#) The Rev'd Canon Rachel Mann of St Nick's Burnage, Manchester celebrates an urban harvest.

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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