



# 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  
01 935 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

Christine Rogers  
01935 815216

# NEWSLETTER

## 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020

Hello!

How has your week been? What are you missing most about being confined to home? It might surprise us to hear what people miss. I spoke to someone (no names – cause I am worried about him! ☹️) this morning who was arranging committee meetings via the internet! Maybe you would like to say what you miss most and what you are doing instead.

George Faris, Christine Rogers, Raymond Wood and I will be involved with putting together this newsletter. If you have anything you would like to contribute you can send it to all of us or any one of us.

Geoff and I are enjoying the wonderful weather and spending as much time as we can in the garden. We feel very fortunate to be together and think often about you who are alone in your home. I hope you will feel that you can phone one of us or your pastoral visitor at any time for a chat.

We have a couple of contributions this week. Christine has kindly contributed her thought for the day and Duncan a thought for the week.

So there is plenty to keep us spiritually focused.

Geoff is popping into the Church regularly to see that all is well. He also says he has plenty of rhubarb – if anyone wants some.

Take care and God Bless You

Penny

## THOUGHTS FROM DUNCAN

Lectionary Readings for week beginning 29th March 2020.

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45.

As our lives are pared back to the bare bones with the latest restrictions imposed on us, to try and defeat the Coronavirus pandemic, this week we share Ezekiel's God given vision of the valley of dry bones. For many of you the spiritual song 'Dem Bones' written and composed by James & Rosamond Johnson, and first recorded in 1928 by the Myers Jubilee Singers, will come to mind, you may have sung it in Sunday School. Part of the lyrics follow below.

Ezekiel connected dem dry bones  
Ezekiel connected dem dry bones  
Ezekiel connected dem dry bones  
Now I hear the word of the Lord  
Well, your toe bone connected to your foot bone  
Your foot bone connected to your heel bone  
Your heel bone connected to your ankle bone  
Your ankle bone connected to your leg bone  
Your leg bone connected to your knee bone  
Your knee bone connected to your thigh bone  
Your thigh bone connected to your hip bone  
Your hip bone connected to your back bone  
Your back bone connected to your shoulder bone  
Your shoulder bone connected to your neck bone

Your neck bone connected to your head bone  
I hear the word of the Lord!

A dem bones, dem bones gonna walk around  
A dem bones, dem bones, gonna walk around  
A dem bones, dem bones, gonna walk around  
I hear the word of the Lord!

The scene that Ezekiel is shown is of a past battle, the field is now sterile, the bones of the soldiers have been picked clean and scattered. No coming back from that is the logical conclusion. It is also the position of the nation of Israel at the time. Ezekiel is commanded to speak God's word of new life into that situation, and the impossible happens; Israel and the army are brought back to life. In John 11, Lazarus is brought back to life from an impossible position, a life that has been changed by God's intervention. Whenever we return to life again after the Covid-19 Pandemic has passed, it needs to be a new and different life, a life that is not just about being centred on ourselves and our needs, but on God's love, and the wellbeing of all of us, and a truer valuation, of what is important and at the core of our lives as individuals, families, communities, and as a country.

Duncan.

### *from Ali Berry-*

• The Berry family have moved, again, this time to Twelve Acres on the Corelli estate in Sherborne. This is, hopefully, a permanent move and we are looking forward to forming friendships with the families around us.

Also,

• The management committee of Yeovil Street Pastors had already made the difficult decision last week to suspend patrols for the time being. Although we all feel we have been called to serve the Lord and our community in this way, and that we walk under His authority and protection, the MC have to put the safety of the Street Pastor family first.

• Rendezvous is also closed now, but the youth workers are available to talk on the phone if any young people need help or advice. Please continue to pray for the vulnerable and marginalised in our community.

Hope these things will be of interest to our Church family.

Can this be a place where people can ask for help too?

### *From Christine -*

Many of you may already have your favourite sources of daily readings and devotions, but if you use the internet, you might find the following websites useful:

devotions.urch.org.uk (Thanks to Sue Way for pointing this out to me) Here you will find a hymn with music, a Bible verse with a commentary, and a prayer. You can just pick it up here or subscribe to the site and have each day's contribution sent by email early in the morning.

methodist.org.uk a-word-in-time Click on "A Word in Time

Bible Study” and you will find commentaries on the week’s readings from the Methodist Prayer Handbook. Click on “Prayer” to bring up two prayers from each day’s collection in the handbook.

### **From Kevin Fisher –**

My thoughts & prayers are with the wonderful people at Cheap Street. Virtual hugs too (but I really miss the real ones & look forward to them coming back when possible!).

Life at Circuit level has been busy as you might expect. The Circuit Meeting was, of course, cancelled last Thursday and the District Synod scheduled for the end of April has now been cancelled. There have, however, been lots of communications up & down with much help & guidance provided. Our Ministers and Lay employees continue to work as best as they can by phone and through the internet.

Kevin Fisher

### **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 have been asked to join together with others in Sherborne at 8.00 pm every night to pray for NHS staff and carers in and around Sherborne

We continue to hold in prayer all those who are in special need: Kathy Crew; Colleen Farquharson; Clive Turner and Jill, Ellie and Sophie; Myra Heard; Janet Dolling and her family; Judith Hayward and family; Eileen Higgins; John Hicks family; Janet Baker; and Alex Palmer

We have heard

- that Colleen is now home from hospital. Unfortunately she is still having difficulty with her jaw and vision in her eye. She says that she is really grateful for the prayer she has received.

- Tot Hansford was home for a short stay but is now back in Yeovil Hospital
- Jill Hunt is at the Yeatman but hoping to be home soon
- Muriel Martin is now recovering at home.

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY FROM CHRISTINE ROGERS**

#### **Three Thoughts for Lent**

Thinking about this season of Lent, my thoughts turned to how it has been represented in poetry and art. My first thought is to share a poem I’ve always liked, Robert Herrick’s: “To keep a true Lent”

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|---|--|
| 1 Is this a fast, to keep<br>The larder lean ?<br>And clean<br>From fat of veals and sheep? | 4 No, ‘tis a fast to dole<br>Thy sheaf of wheat<br>And meat<br>Unto the hungry soul.             |
| 2 Is it to quit the dish<br>Of flesh, yet still<br>To fill<br>The platter high with fish?   | 5 It is to fast from strife<br>From old debate<br>And hate:<br>To circumcise thy life.           |
| 3 Is it to fast an hour,<br>Or ragged to go,<br>And show<br>A downcast look and sour?       | 6 To show a heart grief- rent;<br>To starve thy sin,<br>Not bin;<br>And that’s to keep thy Lent. |

A word of explanation about the last verse. “Bin” refers to a bin in which food is kept. It summarises the message of the poem: keeping Lent is not a question of how much you are able to fast and refrain from food. Instead it’s about refraining from hatred and strife and sin, it’s about transforming our lives.

Do read the poem aloud. I just find its use of metre and rhyme so brilliant, and although Herrick lived in the

Seventeenth Century, his thoughts about how we should keep Lent are just as relevant today. A friend of mine sent round an email recently, suggesting that now we can’t go out to the theatre or cinema or for a meal in our favourite restaurant or pub, we could give the money we would have spent to our favourite charity. How about the Foodbank? It really needs help at the moment, and that would certainly be to “dole our sheaf of wheat and meat to a hungry soul”.

Secondly, thinking of the visual arts, we move to a painter closer to our times. An English painter, Stanley Spencer, (1891 – 1959) is well known for his pictures depicting Biblical scenes occurring as if they took place in Cookham, the small village beside the River Thames where he was born and spent much of his life. I remember visiting the gallery of his work in the village Methodist chapel, which he attended when he was growing up. Spencer also painted a series of studies of “Christ in the Wilderness”, (you can “google” them on line), portraying the forty days Jesus spent in the desert. I find them compelling images, which give us a startling insight into Jesus’ total isolation and his inner strength. They also show his (and Spencer’s) great love for nature and affinity with all creation. In one picture Jesus cradles a scorpion in his hand.

Leading on from this, my third thought is that our compulsory period of isolation - whether we are totally on our own or with a pet, a spouse, a partner, or other family members – this time can perhaps help us appreciate in some small measure what Jesus must have experienced during those forty days – being alone, being cut off, being socially distanced. Jesus chose his isolation for a purpose as he prepared for his ministry. He was “led by the Spirit” into the wilderness, and he returned to Galilee “filled with the power of the Spirit”. The one thing that we have been given this Lent is time - time to read and pray, time to think, time to clear out old junk and plan for the future. So let’s make the most of what we have so unexpectedly been given and return to “normal life” all the richer for it.

Singing the Faith: 238

A prayer during this pandemic

Loving God,

If we are ill, strengthen us.

If we are tired, fortify our spirits.

If we are anxious, help us to consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air.

Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders.

Don’t let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves.

Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace.

Help us always to hold fast to the good,

See the good in others,

And remember there is just one world, one hope,

One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.

In Jesus we make our prayer,

The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,

In whom we trust these days and all days, Amen.

*The Revd Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference*

### **PRAYER FROM THE IONA COMMUNITY**

Deep peace of the running wave be with you

Deep peace of the flowing air to you

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you  
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you