



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

Acting Church Secretary

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NEWSLETTER

19th November 2020



As I put the Newsletter together this week I find that the dark and rain reflects my mood. I would have liked to list the many things that we have to give thanks for. But this week has been a very difficult time for many in our church family. (See Eirwen's Pastoral Report and the prayer list)

For those who were unable to attend last week's church meeting, we have some exciting projects to consider. (See Janet's notes from the church meeting.) But sometimes the changes are not very easy to make happen.

Ruth, last week, encouraged us to consider making a Christmas advent window in our own home. (See last week's newsletter) Besides Duncan, she has had no offers from Cheapstreet church. Other churches in town have responded. Surely we have a few people with windows that could help tell the story of Christmas to passers-by.

A note for your diary - there will be a church meeting on Zoom next Thursday, the 26th of November. Contact George Faris for details. On a happy note - I would like to wish Sarah Poushkin a very happy birthday on Sunday!

Penny

THURSDAY THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

By Duncan

Luke 1:46-56

THE UNEXPECTED CHRIST.

In these Covid-19 times there are always things that can take us by surprise. One example recently was while walking my dog Thane; there was a house with tape across its windows and doors, and there was the normal curiosity to see whether the words on the tape said 'happy birthday' or 'happy anniversary' or even 'congratulations'. The words on this tape just said 'Beware'. I hasten to add that I read it from the other side of the road and did not go any closer. It was a reminder that while the level of Covid-19 infections are relatively low in this part of the country, it is still present and to protect others and ourselves from the virus we need to take care.

Before the CoronaVirus pandemic there used to be occasionally on the documentary channels on television a dramatic simulation of what would happen in our modern world if a virus that we had no medical protection from took hold and spread, and the effect it would have and how we would ultimately deal with it. So far the television simulations have proved more optimistic than the reality of the pandemic. When watching those simulations I always found them interesting but thought it will never happen but it has and it has turned our world upside down, and looks like doing so for some time to come.

As we approach advent and Christmas I am aware that while for centuries thanks to prophets, especially Isaiah and Micah, there

was the hope that God would send His son into our world as its Saviour, most people at the time of Jesus' birth would have thought it would be something that would not happen in their lifetime. For Mary the visit of angel Gabriel telling her she was to be the mother of Jesus was an unexpected surprise, one most people would find difficulty in believing happened. But, as Mary's song in Luke predicts, it was an event that was going to turn the world upside down and continues to do so. Covid-19 might change our celebration of Christmas and the birth of Jesus, 'God With Us', but it will not cancel Christmas and the hope for the world that Jesus' birth brings.

Duncan.

REPORT ON THE CHURCH MEETING ON 12TH NOVEMBER

Owing to Covid restrictions this meeting was held on Zoom. This was the first church meeting since March so there was quite a lot to cover. I shall mention just some of the items and write more fully in the Cheapstreeter, coming soon.

Looking back, we were pleased to welcome members from Longburton Methodist Church, who had joined us as a 'class' of Cheap Street in September.

On the property side, the hall had been re-carpeted and a new floor covering laid in the kitchen. People who had seen it were very appreciative. Further work is still needed to upgrade the toilets there and to fix WIFI. A fogger had been purchased so areas could be cleaned in a much shorter time for quick reuse.

Looking forward we heard about Lynn's vision to use 54 Cheap Street as a means of linking with people in the local community, offering practical help to those in need while presenting something of our Christian message. This would be through window displays, a library and leaflets, activity bags for children and through people in the shop showing love and care for those who came in. Several members of the Church were keen to be part of this project on a weekly basis.

Further details have already been circulated. Of those at the meeting, many were in support of this venture but there was some concern at

the cost involved and the loss of rental from the shop. However we do have another shop. We could only assess the project by doing it. There would be a 6 month trial after which it would be reviewed and a longer term future decided. It was agreed to hold another Zoom church meeting on Thursday 26th November at 7.00pm. Please chat this through with others at Church, give it some thought and come if you can.

A number of new appointments were made. I was appointed as Church Secretary. We have 3 new Councillors – Jackie Bullen, Pat Heal and Janet English (on behalf of Longburton). Diane Worsley, also from Longburton, had agreed to join the team of pastoral visitors. George Faris was appointed as the new Safeguarding officer and Rob Hooper and Jan Wallace were authorised to sign cheques. It was agreed I should write and thank Sue way, Lyn Crocker, Eileen Higgins and Kevin Fisher who had previously filled these roles.

And finally, Christmas – a large illuminated Christmas tree will be outside the grounds and it is hoped to add large plywood figures to go with this. More about Christmas later but provided we are out of lockdown, we will have a Communion service on Christmas Eve, using a special Communion kit.
Janet Le Moignan

PASTORAL

Our dear friend Barbara who is in Yeovil hospital has unfortunately tested positive for Covid 19. She is not yet showing any symptoms and is on a ward where she will be closely monitored. We send our love and prayers to Barbara for a good recovery. Dennis asks us not to ring Barbara in hospital but the occasional text would be welcome, and if you wish to send a card please send it to her home. We send our prayers to Dennis and the family at this anxious time. Perhaps we should also pray for all who are in hospital with this dreaded disease, and all the doctors, nurses and support staff who do such a wonderful job caring for all who are ill.

FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

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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 special prayer Barbara Porter; Eileen's son Robert and his wife Dawn who remains seriously ill; Clive and Jill Turner and the girls Ellie and Sophie who are experiencing very difficult times.

We continue to pray for Sheila Green and her family; Yve and Ken Ackroyd and all the family; John Hunt and his family; Carol Hooper and her family; Janet Baker; Martin Heal; Phyllis Batchelor; Duncan's mother; Kathy Crew; 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
George Faris
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

Kazakhstan - Their government is constantly working to increase its control over society, and religious freedom is restricted by legislation dating back to 2011.

No religious activities beyond state-run and state-controlled institutions are allowed and unregistered churches are often raided.

Some converts are locked up by their families for long periods and can be beaten and

expelled from their communities. Let us pray that God will change the hearts of those in power who try to suppress or eradicate Christianity; for courage and protection for believers from a Muslim background, and for comfort for those imprisoned for following Jesus. Amen.

KNITTING GROUP

KNITTING GROUP

I was talking to Margaret Walker recently about her knitting group that used to meet in the hall on Thursday mornings. She would really like it to continue in some way, a different way, but she feels she would like to step down from being in charge. Does anyone feel they would like to help with the continuation of this wonderful work, alongside Margaret? I feel that, even in these restricted times, something could still be happening. The lovely items produced are really welcomed as they are sent off to specific places of need. At the same time, people have been encouraged from inside and outside of the church to work together for this cause, and so the group has helped in building relationships and offered support. What a good thing that is, that we should value, and hold onto if we can. I am not a knitter myself but I know there are a few of you out there! Maybe this is a chance to use your gift, for the church, for the community, and for all those who will love receiving those precious knitted items. Please contact Margaret Walker if you are interested.

LETTERS

I read that Dorset Council is proposing to charge for car parking on Sundays. Should we be making representations?

The churches in Blandford have objected already I believe.

I hoped to bring up the subject at last week's church meeting on Sunday but there was too much on the agenda and we ran out of time.

The charges are proposed for early next year and will, I believe, be open for public consultation.

The argument is that parking charges should be the same across the whole of Dorset and the upkeep of car parks is expensive.

I gather there is a petition in existence.

Anyone wishing to sign could contact Robin Legg.

Martin

Muriel Martin writes -

“I felt I must write to say How much we appreciate the weekly newsletter. . . I would ask you especially to convey our thanks to those who write the “Thought for the Day.” They find time and energy to give words of wisdom and encouragement that often speaks to me.”

“ . . . We are grateful to the few folks that have been in touch through telephone conversations . . . we are thankful God led us to Cheap Street where people are friendly.”
“ . . . We lived through the second world war but even then, though often in danger, people could meet, encourage and worship together. The churches were never closed!”

Muriel went on to suggest a National Day of Prayer.

Following Muriel’s letter we received the newsletter from The Catholic Church who had this to say –

“The Bishops of England and Wales are inviting us to make Saturday 20th November – the vigil of Christ the King – a day of prayer for the ending of the pandemic. We intend to have the church open for private prayer for part of that day, it will be an opportunity for us to join prayers across the world for relief from the pandemic.”

Remember Cheap street Church is open for prayer on Saturday mornings.

George Faris writes

I have morning and afternoon Zoom sessions next Wednesday I am asking for contributions by 10 am on Wednesday the 25th

THE CHEAPSTREETER

If you have anything for the church magazine, I would be grateful, if you could let me have it by this SUNDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER. *Raymond Wood*

THOUGHTS FOR SUNDAY OF CHRIST THE KING

By Christine Rogers

Lectionary Readings:

Psalm 100 Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

Matthew 25: 31-46 Ephesians 1: 15-23

Call to Worship:

As we pause to worship in our homes,
let us remember that we are in the presence
of a King,
Not a King for whom we have to dress up and
enter a palace,
but a King who loves us and comes to us just
as we are.
So come, Holy Spirit, come enter this space,
enter our hearts and minds,
and draw us into the presence of our King, the
King of kings

Amen

Having been expecting to lead worship at Cheap Street Church this coming Sunday, I was disappointed when church services were banned again, in spite of some feelings of apprehension because I hadn’t stood in front of a congregation since last February. Duncan is away this week, so I offered to provide some thoughts for this last Sunday of the lectionary year, this last Sunday before Advent, the Sunday on which we think about Christ as our King.

Jesus was certainly not the king that Israel was expecting. The hopes of the people were for a king who would free them from the Romans and restore the nation to its former glory. The image of royalty used by Jesus in our gospel reading is indeed that of a king of all the world, a king of infinite power who is exercising justice. This king is separating his people into two groups – the goats on his left, condemned for bad behaviour, and the sheep on his right, those who have done well. You can imagine that the people listening to Jesus thought they knew the outcome of his argument. The Jews were of course the sheep, God’s chosen people, especially those like the Pharisees who kept all the subtle details of the law. The disciples would also have been certain that they would be sitting at God’s right hand. They were always arguing about who would be the closest to Jesus in the kingdom

However, how wrong they all were! And how wrong for churchgoers and church members throughout the ages if they imagined they would automatically qualify to be amongst the

sheep. Being chosen to be blessed by Christ the King, the Judge, is not for those of a certain race or religion, it is for those who are often unaware that it could be for them. Jesus often taught that the meek would inherit the earth; that his kingdom was for the needy, the hungry and the sick, the unsuccessful. Here he takes his teaching one step further – it is those who minister to the needy who will enter eternal life. Each person is judged for his or her individual response to help those who are ill or hungry or thirsty or homeless or in prison. Moreover, in so doing, they are doing it for Jesus himself. We read in verse 40:

And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me”.

At this time when our life as Christ’s followers has changed so much and we are looking at what it will mean to follow Him when we reach a “new normal”, let us keep the message of these words of Christ, our King, close to our hearts. At Cheap Street Church, many are thinking about our vision for the future. Here is Christ’s vision for us.

Singing the Faith 693: Graham Kendrick (b. 1950) [click here](#)

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,

Lord, in your suffering world
this is our prayer.
Bread for the children,
justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset,
your kingdom increase.

Refrain
God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray:
Melt our cold hearts,
Let tears fall like rain;
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame

Prayer

Let us live well in this world that the King
created,
remembering to treat all those who are
suffering

as if they are the King who created and saved
us. Amen

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 – [click here](#)
from Holy Trinity, Platt in Manchester
exploring the experiences of the nearby
student community during lock down. Led by
the Revd Dr Paul Mathole and Sarah Bradley.

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
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