



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

Janet Le Moignan 01935 389662
lemoignanjan@yahoo.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

3rd December 2020



Here we are at last! The end of this Lockdown. I feel like throwing open the doors and inviting everyone over to share a meal and celebrate the coming of Advent. But Geoff has just come in and said "No! We can't visit." I am never going to get this straight. . .

But there is plenty more to celebrate this week. We have just received news that Barbara Porter has been declared Covid free. Praise The Lord! Her family are working to get her home – with support - or into a community hospital to improve her back.

The Church services begin again on Sunday the 6th of December. (See upcoming services) We have birthdays a plenty. Ruth's idea for Advent windows has started to happen. (See where to find them.) And then there are Martin's Thoughts about the peace and joy that Jesus brings to us.

So on this cold damp day, curl up with a hot drink and have a good read.
All blessings,
Penny

THURSDAY THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

By Martin Heal

Certainty in our uncertain world

Words from Romans 8

In all things we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, angels or demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any power, neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation (including corona virus) will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

With these victorious words ringing in our ears we come before our almighty God knowing that He is love and where true love is God himself is there.

Let us pray:

Loving Father, be with us now, renewing us with your creative love.

Loving Son, be with us now bringing forgiveness through your saving love.

Loving Spirit, be with us now, strengthening us with your sustaining love.

Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as we worship may we be built up in love. Amen

We Cheapstreeters should be more than half way through our Christmas Tree Festival today but we aren't.

We should be planning our carol singing in care homes and church but we aren't.

We should be thinking about our church New Year party but we aren't.

We should all have done most of our Christmas shopping in November but we probably didn't.

We have been delivering the Sherborne Churches Together Christmas cards with no information about services in them.

Yesterday the second lockdown was said to be over but continued restrictions will be in force.

So far it has been a strange and uncertain run-up to Christmas.

Pat and I will be staying in a cowshed during the festive period, Boris permitting, but we are not expecting a visitation from shepherds or wise men.

The farm building has been converted into a holiday home with underfloor heating and some touches of luxury, hardly suitable for a Nativity re-enactment!

But I know who will be there - our Lord Jesus, not as a baby of course but as a Spirit alive in our hearts. And because all of us who proclaim Jesus as Lord have this wonderful assurance we can celebrate Christmas without much of the trimmings the commercial world suggests we dare not miss.

So with the arrival of Advent we are preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus anew into our lives. By the grace of God and enabled by the Holy Spirit let peace and joy and love be the gifts we hand out during this holy season and maybe Jesus will be born again in the heart of someone near us.

Certainly in our Church we all need to share these gifts with each other as we worship, work and witness together. And this holy season is a good time to begin to find a new unity and a vision to which we can all subscribe. Now there's a thought.

Together let us pray that each of us might reach out and touch our neighbour with the love and compassion of Jesus.

Remember the carol which begins: "Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign" and it ends: "Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine, love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign".

And the carol Joy to the World speaks of the wonder of God's love. Let's tell the world, in our case our little world called Sherborne.

God couldn't love you and me any more than He does right now. We should think anew about this amazing truth and let it touch the deepest parts of our beings. And what better time to do that than as we prepare to receive

God's greatest gift to us and to the world. Be prepared - we have a God of surprises.

Until the Government's recent announcement it looked as if socially distanced Christmas would be bit of a damp squib, let's hope and pray that spiritually our Christmas will be a real cracker! Amen

God of grace

As we are loved by you so teach us how to love
As we are forgiven by you so help us to forgive
As we are trusted by you so lead us to greater trust in you

As we prepare to welcome the coming Christ Jesus

So enliven us to reflect our living Lord both as individuals and as a united congregation. Help us to become channels of hope to a broken world.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all and all those we love during this time of preparation and until Jesus comes or until He calls. Amen

From the Secretary

On Thursday of last week the Church made a significant decision, when it voted by a very large majority to proceed with the planned project to use 54 Cheap Street as a place to get to know members of our local community better, to see where we might help those currently in need (sadly there are many of them during the pandemic) and to show to the public that we believe God's love is for everyone. This will be for a 6 month period, which will then be reviewed.

There is still quite a lot to do before we can open up. The shop deeds are with a solicitor, being checked to see if there are any conditions that have to be met. We are very grateful to Robin Legg, who has spent quite a lot of time helping us in approaching the District Council in relation to planning permission. A Management Committee is in process of being set up, finances need to be sorted and the shop needs to be equipped. However Lynn already has a team of keen volunteers willing to be in the shop on a regular weekly basis and it was a wonderful surprise to know that an anonymous donor had promised £5,000 at the start of the project, to whom we say thank you so much.

In the circumstances January '21 seemed a possible date to open with a review in the following July. In the meantime, we have the first Advent Window on view with nativity figures from the Church and there will be a lot more to see as we approach Christmas. So, on behalf of the Church, our thanks go to Lynn for her vision and to all who are now actively involved in the project.

I have two more thank- yous.

Firstly we say thank you to Peter Kett, who has just resigned as a Councillor, on grounds of ill health, after serving for more than four years. Peter was always keen to participate in the life of the Church and we are grateful for his contribution to our Church, and to other Churches before that.

And then thank you to Raymond Wood, who has just produced the December/January Cheapstreeter, full of good things; and not content with that alone, he has given us all a beautiful Cheap Street banner bookmark. Thank you so much, Raymond.

We have many blessings to count as we move through these troubled times.
Janet Le Moignan

P.S. The Bridge Magazine is now available. Those without internet connection will be getting this delivered. Will those who can, please access it through the circuit website.
<http://.www.yeovilandblackmorevalemc.org.uk>
Circuit-bridge magazine.

Thank you,

Janet

PASTORAL



Special Birthday Greetings - to Ellie Castle who will be 15 tomorrow the 3rd of December and to Ken Ackroyd celebrating his 80th birthday on Friday 4th December. Happy

Birthday to Myra Heard on Tuesday 8th December.

Love and best wishes to you all from all at Cheap Street Church.

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

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

Brunei -The introduction of Islamic laws affects the whole of society, Christians included. Non-traditional Christian communities cannot be registered as churches; they must register as companies, societies or family centres. As such, they are treated as secular organisations and are required to submit their financial and operational reports to the government every year. The sultan has the power to close any existing church at any time. Despite this fearful atmosphere, there are believers who continue to seek opportunities to share the gospel. Conversion from Islam is illegal, and believers from Muslim backgrounds come under intense pressure to return to their original faith.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus, may the light of Your love pierce through the darkness in Brunei. Please protect our church family there - especially those who come from Muslim backgrounds. Help believers in Brunei to be light and salt in their communities, so that others may come to know You and Your salvation. Amen.

Letters

Yesterday I had an email claiming to be from Duncan starting: *Do you have a moment I have a request I need you to handle discreetly.* The email address was not Duncan's usual one and the email was not from Duncan. Please be on your guard.
George Faris

THE MINISTER'S THOUGHTS FOR THIS COMING WEEK

Lectionary Readings for Sunday 6th December 2020 Advent 2.

Psalm 85:1-2 & 8-13, Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8.

As I write this letter the hope is that churches can again reopen for worship, although what the government will permit in tier 2 has not yet been fully revealed. But regardless we are preparing for Christmas by putting up the decorations including the advent rings and the nativity scenes. Like the prophet Isaiah in our reading we are preparing a way for ourselves and others to meet with our God in the birth of

Jesus. It is good news that brings both justice and forgiveness, that brings change that benefits all people and not just some. This is reflected in verse 2 of John Bell's advent hymn:

“The second for the prophets,
who said that Christ would come
with good news for many
and angry words for some.”

At the beginning of Mark's gospel we have very different preparations from most of our traditional Christmas preparations. John the Baptist is preparing the way for people meeting with Jesus, through asking people to acknowledge and turn away from their sin and failings and then seeking to live their lives in accordance with God's will. Something that is repeated in Peter's letter, with his call for his readers to always be ready to meet with Jesus whenever that happens including Jesus' promised second coming at a future unknown time.

Christmas is more than getting together with family and friends as important as that is for us; it is about meeting with the God who chose to enter our world and change it and to be with us, by entering our world as a new born baby in a stable in Bethlehem, who would grow up and go on to give his life for us on a cross outside of Jerusalem.

Hymn Singing The Faith 171. Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,

Duncan

Services at Cheap Street Church in December 2020 and first two weeks of January 2021

6 December, Second Sunday of Advent, 10.30 am: Don Farquharson

13 December, Third Sunday of Advent, 10.30 am: Revd Duncan Goldie

20 December, Fourth Sunday of Advent, 10.30 am, Carol Service: Revd Duncan Goldie

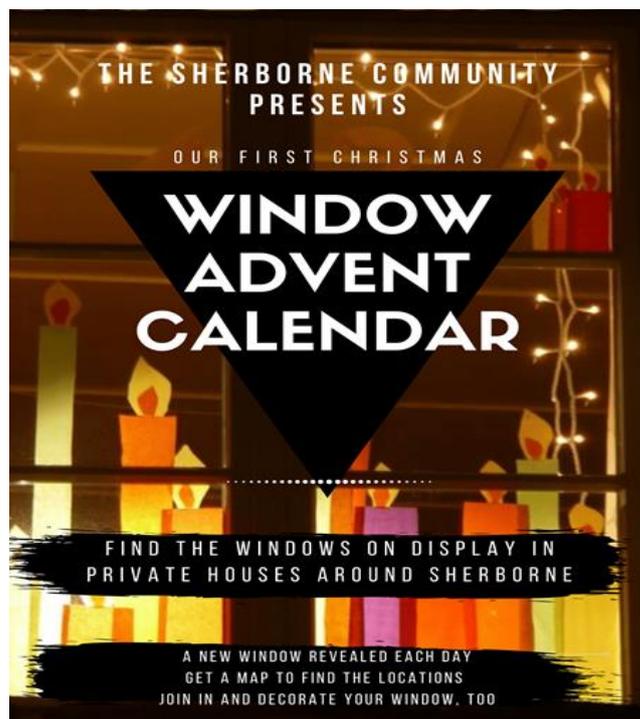
24 December, 6.00 pm, Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion: Revd Duncan Goldie

25 December, Christmas Day Service, 10.30 am: Revd Duncan Goldie

27 December – no Sunday worship

3 January 2021, Covenant Service with Holy Communion, 10.30 am: Revd Duncan Goldie

10 January 2021, 10.30 am: Sunday Worship: Revd Duncan Goldie



Sherborne Community Advent Calendar in home windows

Every day in December a new Advent window will appear at the following addresses:

Date	Address
1	54 Cheap Street, DT9 3BJ
2	101 Coldharbour, DT9 4JL
3	Jacaranda, The Avenue, DT9 3AJ
4	Bristol Road, DT9 4HG
5	8 Acreman Street, DT9 3NU
6	Studholme, Coldharbour, DT9 4AB
7	11 Acreman Street, DT9 3NU
8	Abbey View, Fairfield, DT9 4HG
9	33 Coldharbour, DT9 4HD
10	The Knowle, Bristol Road, DT9 4HS
11	Wallaby House, Bristol Road, DT9 4HS
12	Birchwood, Bristol Road, DT9 4HS
13	34 St. Mary's Road, DT9 6DQ
14	Glenbrittle, Lenthay Road, DT9 6AQ
15	Quinns, Marston Road, DT9 4BL
16	Craigness, Bristol Road, DT9 4HS
17	29 Granville Way, DT9 4AS
18	73 Granville Way, DT9 4AT
19	2 Acreman Street, DT9 3NU
20	10 Terrace View, Coldharbour, DT9 4AF
21	Manor Court, DT9 3JX
22	Hillcote, Bristol Road, DT9 4HS
23	9 Acreman Street, DT9 3NU
24	Cheap Street Church, DT9 3BJ

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](#)

With the Rev Dr Rob Marshall, Rector of Digswell, Welwyn Garden City.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 \(click here to subscribe\)](#).

South West Carols

This Weekend – 5th & 6th December, 7pm each night

Watch LIVE -

at www.southwestcarols.com also on Facebook and YouTube

The Biggest Festive Carols & Nativity Event in the South West!

An online Christmas extravaganza with thousands watching LIVE from homes across the region.

We all know 2020 has been WAY different than anyone would've imagined, but there's one thing can all look forward to - Christmas! The region's first ever South West Carols event will be a celebration of all the GOOD things that take place at this wonderful time of the year as we remember the reason for the season. With 20+ primary schools from across region in the South West's biggest EVER nativity – expect lots of cuteness!

Also regional and headline musical performances including festive traditional carols from London Community Gospel Choir, Wildwood Kin, Lucy Grimble, Exeter Cathedral Choir, 25 South West Musicians in a special collaboration song, and more.

Invite all your friends, family and neighbours and experience the JOY of Christmas without leaving your home!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

The newsletter is compiled by Penny Gardner or George Faris so please send contributions by midday Wednesday to:

Penny Gardner pennylgardner@gmail.com

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