

Skinner Street United Reformed Church Poole

Guided by the Holy Spirit we aim to show the love of God the Father for everyone by sharing the work of his Son, Jesus Christ, among our neighbours in Poole and the wider world.



CCL544280

Dear Friends

2024 seems to have been a summer of sport, certainly these last few months.

The Euros held football fans captive, as have the cricket, the golf, the British Grand Prix at Silverstone, the tennis. The list seems endless and of course by the time you receive this newsletter the Olympics in Paris will have begun.

The windows of the Sanctuary at Skinner Street have been decorated with an Olympic theme and from the balcony there are hanging 200 flags from the countries around the world. Already we have had fun trying to guess the different ones!

The windows also have a passage from the bible that ties in nicely with the theme of sport and world unity. We have 10 windows but I have taken just 2 quotes to reflect on. The first from 2 Timothy 2:5

Athletes in a race must obey all the rules to win.

And then from Psalm 133:1

*Oh, how wonderful, how pleasing it is
when God's people all come together as one.*

Paul wrote his letter to Timothy from the dark confines of a Roman prison. The main themes are his advice for building up a church and a guide to the pitfalls. Paul reminds them that what he, Paul, taught them came from Jesus himself and they should pass it on to those they can trust.

Do not listen to other leaders, just as an athlete must obey the rules of his sport to succeed you too must obey the rules.

The Olympic games had already been established at this time in history. So Timothy would have been quite familiar with the life of an athlete and their single-minded focus on winning the prize.

- Athletes must be self-disciplined. We too must say “no” and not be a yes person.
- Athletes will be disqualified and thrown out of the competition if they break the rules. God is the one who sets the rules. We cannot pick and choose which ones to follow.

- We cannot make up our own rules as we go.
- Athletes train hard. They avoid distractions. They are goal focused. They aren't complacent. They always try to improve.
- Athletes seek a temporary crown/prize/medal. We seek an eternal reward and eternal rewards that will not fade.

There is much we can learn from these points.

- ❖ It is hard work being a Christian.
- ❖ Being a faithful one is not easy, we must be hard-working spiritually.
- ❖ Prayer is hard work.
- ❖ Listening to God and understanding his plans for us is not always easy
- ❖ But if we want to grow, we must be willing to do it the hard way. There are no shortcuts and no rule breaking!

Moving on to Psalm 133:1

*Oh, how wonderful, how pleasing it is
when God's people all come together as one.*

With the Olympics sport is just one part, though it is what the Olympics is all about – no sport – no Olympics!

But also it is about coming together not just in teams but as nations.

Coming together in competition not conflict. This wonderful mixture of cultures and race, of colour and beliefs.

Psalm 133 is by David it speaks of harmony of God's people being as precious as holy oil or dewfall on bare hills. A blessing from God.

I think here we can think of God's people as all people, not just Christians, as our belief is that all living things are from God.

To be a Christian is to be connected with others, to be in relationship.

Jesus did not simply call us to love God, but also to love our neighbour to have empathy and not mock our differences.

Another window has these words from Romans 12:10

*Love each other in a way that makes you feel close like
brothers and sisters. And give each other more honour
than you give yourself.*

May God's Blessing rest on you all

Tricia Knapp

WORSHIP IN AUGUST Sundays at 10.30am

- 4th Chris Proudley - ***Songs of Praise***
- 11th Revd Julian Macro ***Holy Communion***
Servers: Chris Proudley & Muriel Coombes
- 18th Mrs Tricia Knapp
- 25th Mrs Maggie Larkin

There will be coffee and fellowship after the services on August 4th and August 18th.

DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER

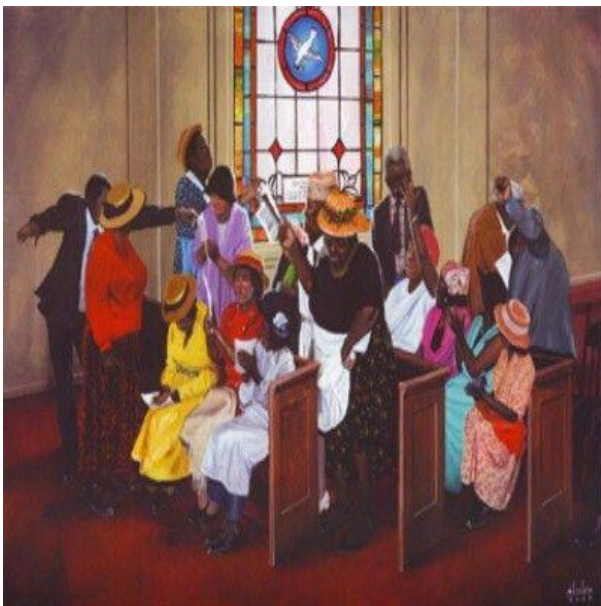
- 4th Muriel Coombes
- 11th Chris Proudley
- 18th Janice Williams
- 25th Shirley Marden

DOOR STEWARDS

- 4th Vera Brown
- 11th Wai Ching
- 18th Alan Knapp
- 25th Jill Campbell – Dyke

THURSDAY PRAYERS 10.15am *(Followed by coffee and fellowship)*

- 1st Patricia Arnold
- 8th Simon Yu
- 15th Revd Sally Taylor
- 22nd Shirley Marden
- 29th Gail Nuttall or Tricia Knapp



Morning Church by John Jones
(African American art)

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NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

AUGUST 2024

I do hope you will all come and enjoy the 'SKINNER STREET OLYMPIC'S'. Tricia has created a very interesting theme for our Church for this 4 yearly event. It is impressive how the games and the bible come together, for some of the best thoughts on living life as a Christian. And it's a very colourful and joyful display too!

I know the weather has not been brilliant for July but at Skinner Street there has been plenty of activity. Plans to improve the garden further are well underway and discussions with the Synod to enable the work needed to the Church building to be carried out continue.

Slowly, month by month, our finances are improving, just enough to keep up with rising costs, something we all know about!

We will be arranging some Fund-Raising Events to raise more funds to help make some improvements. PLEASE do your very best to support these, especially if you can bring in your friends and neighbours! Skinner Street is a place for all our community, who we have a great reputation in welcoming, but we need to spread the word even more that we are here for all!

The details of events are later in this newsletter, but the first one is a BBQ at my house in September (Sat 7th). This is a busy month as we have the Church open for both Dorset Architectural Heritage Week and the Dorset Historic Churches Ride and Stride event. (To Sponsor me on my bike ride, please donate direct to the Church account, referencing R&S or hand to me!).

Thankfully the income from the car park and groups using the hall continue to make a major contribution and help keep the bank balance at the level needed to support all the outgoings.

As the sun is actually shining as I write this, I am going to sign off (too make the most of it!) but wish you all a good August, hopefully relaxing in the lovely part of the world, amongst friends who are always willing to help and support if you need.

Gail Nuttall
Treasurer

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Pastoral Notes

At our weekly prayer meeting and friendship coffee from 10.15am on Thursday's, we enjoy welcoming all friends, old and young and new! We remember in our prayers those who we know consider Skinner Street as 'their home' but for whatever reason, cannot be with us in person. You are all very important to those of us who do meet. But if you join us or not, we pray for all.

Sadly so many of us have 'problems' with health, bereavement or family issues and need those prayers, never be afraid to ask for a prayer. We will also come to visit in your home, just call one of the Elders. We can listen or chat, offer a prayer and communion, your choice. Everyone is important.



Summer Windows – The windows and church are now decorated in a theme for the Olympic Games with flags, plants and much more. There is a quiz too, no prizes just for fun!

We look forward to seeing you on a Sunday or Thursday or come along to one of the church open days on August 8th or September 7th, 12th and 14th.



Diary for August

Thurs 8th 2.30 to 4pm Church Open
 Thurs 15th 7pm Elders Meeting
 Mon 26th From 11am to 2pm Craft and Chat
 (please note change of start time)

Advance Notices

Alternative Worship – On the 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm and starting on September 16th Revd Sally Taylor will be leading a short time of prayer, praise and reflection. All are welcome.



Fundraising BBQ
 (for our share of urgent Sanctuary repairs)
 at Gail's house at 6pm
 on Saturday 7th September Tickets
 £18 each
 (this is to raise funds and not to cover cost of goods and drinks!)



The church is looking very smart with a freshly painted portico and new lettering. It was agreed at the church meeting that, with thanks to a legacy left to the church by Peter Beeton and used to undertake this work, it will be known as Peter's Portico.

The strawberries, pumpkins and courgettes in the raised beds in the Community Garden are coming along nicely.

The prayer Labyrinth is colourful with its flowers and decorated pebbles.

There are benches to sit on so next time you are in Poole come and spend a few moments just relaxing and reflecting on the beauty of nature that surrounds us.

For church matters or to discuss arrangements for a Baptism, Wedding or Funeral: Shirley Marden 07980 923217

To arrange a Pastoral visit or Home Communion: Tricia Knapp 01202 632399

For Hall Lets and Carpark: Gail Nuttall 07774 283179

Deadline for September newsletter Thursday 22nd August