



**Skinner Street
United Reformed Church
Poole January 2024**

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.



Dear Friends,



We have been busy in the community garden in the last few weeks. We were given some wonderful raised beds which we have spent time filling with compost and wood clippings as well as planting bulbs in ready for the spring warmth to return. We have been growing as a group meeting every other week on a Sunday afternoon and have time gardening, eating homemade soup and then having a time of reflection and prayer. The weather has always been kind to us and we have been so blessed to

continue to refine the garden spaces and to dream of how they will look soon.

I have been meeting with various gardeners to get quotes for further development of the garden as we apply for funding in the spring which is very exciting. This development I think will really enable the space to be used so much more by both the church and the community and make further links and community within that. I also think there will be so much potential to host different groups in the garden and for it to become a real hub of activity in Old Town.



We had Follow the star- an interactive Nativity event just before Christmas which was not busy but the people who came enjoyed it and want to come along to the garden in the future which is great. On a linked point Little Eden toddler group is meeting regularly on Mondays in the garden and the parlour and is small but again more people have heard about it and plan to come in the new year.



Thank you for your support and prayers for these new adventures and do keep praying as we venture on. So as we look to 2024 it is with a sense of God's faithfulness and courage to step into His plans and purposes for us in Skinner street and see how it all unfolds in His love and grace.

With every blessing to you in this new year
Rev Sally Taylor

WORSHIP IN JANUARY **Sundays at 10.30am**

- 7th Mr Andrew Hirst
14th Mrs Linda Pain
21st Mrs Tricia Knapp
28th Revd Tim Meachin ***Holy Communion***

Servers: Muriel Coombes & Janice Williams

DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER

- 7th Shirley Marden
14th Chris Proudley
21st Janice Williams
28th Muriel Coombes

DOOR STEWARDS

- 7th Vera Brown
14th Wai Ching
21st Alan Knapp
28th Jill Campbell - Dyke

Please let me know if you would be willing to join the Door Steward rota.TK

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

- 4th Vera Brown
11th Gail Nuttall
18th Chris Proudley
25th Shirley Marden

Pastoral Notes

This time of year can be very hard for those who are on their own, in care homes, with health issues and other hard things to deal with. Please remember, **YOU ARE NOT ON YOUR OWN.** We, at Skinner Street, hope we do keep in touch with you and that you know you can call any of us, (various contact details are in this newsletter) as we have not forgotten you.

All friends, and relatives of, and friends of our Skinner Street family are held in our prayers.

JANUARY 2024! TREASURERS TALES

Well, although I am writing this before, I do hope you have enjoyed a peaceful Christmas and survived New Years Eve, if you stayed up 'till Midnight!

Skinner Street has made good progress over the past year, despite, sadly, Reverend Martyn Neads moving on. Your Elders and others have worked hard to ensure the worship and community activities that make Skinner Street what it is, a caring and welcoming place. It is hoped we can build further on this in the coming year of 2024.

At the Carol Service before Christmas, we were uplifted to see so many in the congregation, enjoying carol singing and explanations. Many 'old friends' came along as well as new visitors. Skinner Street was the church that helped many congregational churches start up in the area and it seems we are still the church that when things change in some of these, we are the place to come and worship. We will continue to work so this remains the position for many years to come yet.

Financially, we have ended the year on a rather better note than we started. The Synod have accepted that we do need more support with any major building work although we can manage the normal cost of running the Church and smaller repair and maintenance jobs. As ever though, we cannot be complacent about raising income.

The collection from the carol service raised a great total of £254.15 which will be passed to Julia's House. We have made other charitable donations during the year to the Royal British Legion and Christian Aid.

A number of you have asked about your permits for the car park. Controversially I am tempted to say 'it's a shame there is not the same number asking to reserve spaces for pews at services'!!

But your support with income for the permits is appreciated. I will be preparing them shortly and be in touch to hand them out. Meanwhile, please display your 2023 permit clearly in your windscreen.

We are hoping to open the church more often, to welcome visitors to admire both the architecture and learn more about the importance to local social history that the church has played and still does! The developing of the outside space into a Community Garden is ongoing, under the energetic leadership of Revd Sally Taylor, a local Pioneer Minister.

We are trying to keep the website up to date with weekly information, take a look, you may find an activity to come along too and enjoy!

For now though, I wish you all are keeping as well as you can and enjoy the changing of the years. Spring will soon be here.

Gail Nuttall Treasurer

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Skinner Street United Reformed Church BH15 1RQ

Lloyds Bank Code 30 96 73 account number 00208804

Gail Nuttall grn23g@gmail.com 01202 707231 - 07774 283 179

23 Crichel Mount Road, Poole Dorset BH14 8LT
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Useful phone numbers

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

Quiz

As we welcome in 2024, how much of 2023 do you remember? So wake up those 'little grey cells' and have a go at this quiz!

1. Which animal will represent the Chinese New Year 2024?
2. What famous flower show took place in May?
3. Why did the UK get an extra bank holiday in May?
4. Who started the tradition of the New Year's Eve kiss?
5. What was the highest-grossing film of 2023?
6. Which famous actor had a viral trial that involved a skiing accident?
7. How many different types of flowers and foliage were in Westminster Abbey for the King's Coronation?
8. What trend is everywhere for Christmas 2023?
9. What was the name of the Queen's favourite holiday home?
10. Which famous building has the largest ceiling in the UK?

Answers on the back page

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- + We will be taking down the decorations in the church after coffee on Thursday January 4th.
- + Craft and Chat will commence again on Monday 22nd January 10-11am.
- + Tricia would like any old Christmas cards to recycle into cards for 2024.(A project for the craft mornings and to sell for church funds)
- + Also she would like your used postage stamps. A friend is collecting them for bone cancer research.

New Years Blessing

*May God make your year a happy one
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their cause need you most,
And by making you anxious to be there to help.*

*God's love, peace, hope and joy to you
for the year ahead.*

2023 quiz answers

1. Dragon
2. The Chelsea Flower Show
3. For the King's Coronation
4. The Romans
5. Barbie, grossing \$1,441,819,187
6. Gwyneth Paltrow
7. 120 kinds of flowers and foliage
8. The bow trend
9. Balmoral Castle
10. Westminster Abbey

Deadline for February newsletter Thursday 25th January