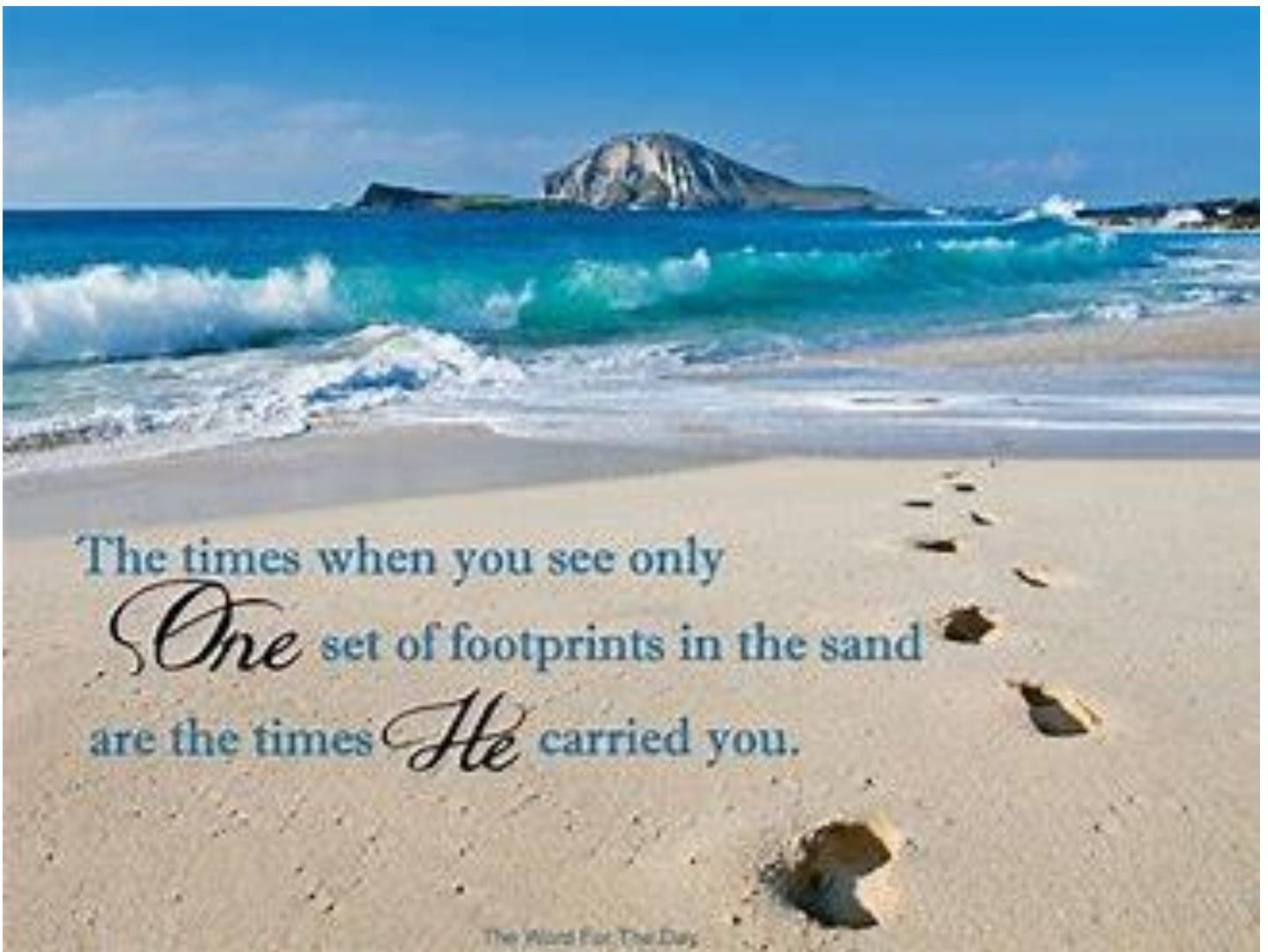




**Skinner Street
United Reformed Church
Poole July 2024**

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.



The times when you see only
One set of footprints in the sand
are the times *He* carried you.

Dear Friends

When I agreed to write for the July newsletter I had not anticipated that I would be doing so just after Mum's (Rev Barbara Meachin) funeral. Before I share some other thoughts with you I want to express my thanks on behalf of Dad (Rev Charles Meachin) and our wider family for the love and practical help that the church fellowship have given us. Your generous willingness is appreciated and helped us to celebrate her life as well as saying goodbye in a fitting way.

Since retiring from full time teaching I have been supply teaching at Poole Grammar School. This is great fun and means tackling a variety of subjects including RE. Alongside the usual questions about me being a scientist and a reverend (which surprisingly still causes a stir) there are precious opportunities to prompt young minds to think about big ideas including from where they get their moral and ethical direction. On a recent occasion I noticed a pupil reading the Communist Manifesto. I was familiar with this as it was set reading at missionary college because some missionaries were going to communist countries. It is not long and is well worth a read if only to illustrate how any ideology can become very different from the original ideas when tampered with by flawed human beings. I showed the boy Acts chapter 2 and, in particular, '⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.' (NKJV).

He was impressed with the similarity of some of the ideas and I think this prompted him to think critically about both.

There are three thoughts that come to mind about this.

First is the value of constantly going back to the source material of our faith in scripture and, in particular, the New Testament and letting it challenge us.

Second is the danger of superimposing our own prejudices on the picture painted in scripture of the unconditional love of God.

And third is the fact that the early church quickly arrived at a policy of sharing resources and meeting need which we must always keep in mind and which I know the fellowship at Skinner Street has a track record of living out.

Skinner Street and all that it does is a sign of God's Kingdom in a community with both potential and need. Be encouraged by your continued presence in the heart of Poole.

God Bless

Tim

Revd Tim Meachin



If you feel you would like to write the 'Dear Friends' letter please let me know. August, October and November are free. Tricia

WORSHIP IN JULY Sundays at 10.30am

- 7th Mrs Mary Chipping
- 14th Revd Dave Harkinson ***Holy Communion***
Servers: Vera Brown and Tricia Knapp
- 21st Mrs Tricia Knapp
- 28th Revd Margaret Evans

DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER

- 7th Shirley Marden
- 14th Tricia Knapp
- 21st Janice Williams
- 28th Muriel Coombes

DOOR STEWARDS

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

If you would like to join the door steward rota please let me know. Thank you. Tricia

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

- 4th Revd Sally Taylor
- 11th Vera Brown
- 18th Shirley Marden
- 25th Chris Proudley



Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?...Because Noah was standing on the deck.

When was the first math homework problem mentioned in the Bible? ...When God told Adam and Eve to go forth and multiply.

How do we know Peter was a rich fisherman?... By his net income.

Why did Noah have to punish and discipline the chickens on the Ark?... They were using fowl language.



JULY NEWS FROM THE TREASURER 2024

It's good to see a sunny end to June, which hopefully is a sign of some classic English summer to come. With the Church Garden looking very inviting, we hope it will encourage local folk to explore it with us. You may have noticed that our Portico is looking very smart with the new coat of paint. Our thanks to a recent legacy and for the moment, I call it 'Peter's Portico'!

Other small upgrade work is being planned but we are applying to the Synod to support the more major jobs to keep our important Grade 11* building in good order so our current use and future mission work within our local community can continue. We have been around in this building since 1777 (as a church since 1662 of course) and intend to celebrate 250 years in 2027 with a sound and well cared for place to use for worship and support our local community. We also have environmental improvements in our minds.

This month sees a General Election but I don't suppose any change at the top will have a direct influence on the day-to-day activities at Skinner Street. The use of our hall as a Polling Station for the local wards will boost the July income. We can use this to carry out more improvements.

A number of events are planned into the autumn which we hope you will support.

I will be riding my bike for the annual Dorset Historic Churches Trust on Wednesday 11 September and the Church will be open on the 7, 12 and 14th September, for visitors to experience the heritage of our building and the part it plays in the history of Poole. If you are able to give a few hours on any of these days to welcome visitors, please let me know. Details of our events are listed in this newsletter.

We are still asking if anyone can, or knows of anyone who can, look out for groups/trusts who give grants and can fill out the necessary application forms!

Gail Nuttall

Treasurer

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

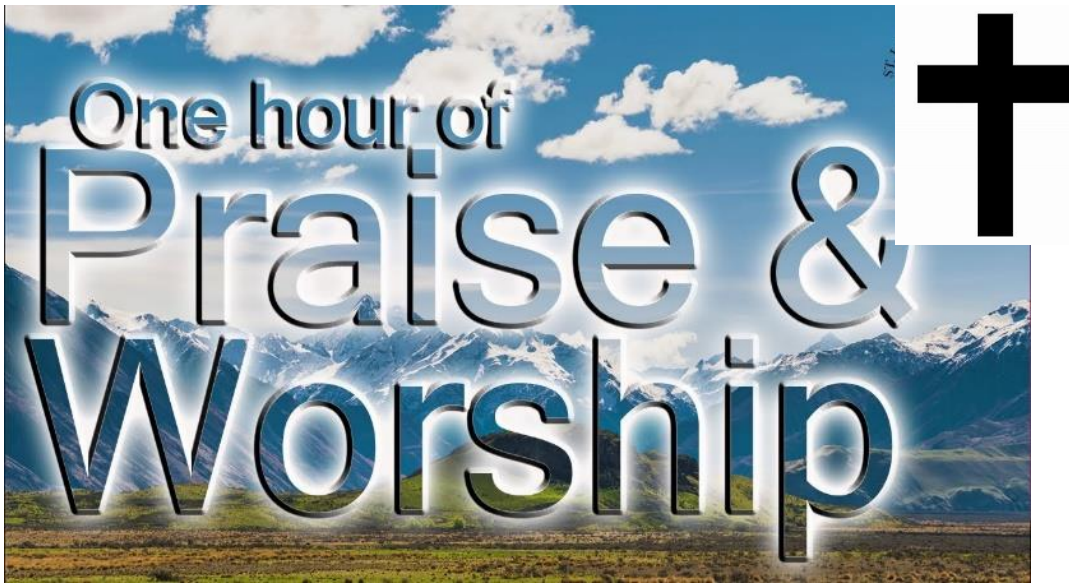


Pastoral Notes

The funeral of Reverend Barbara Meachin held at Skinner Street led by the Moderator, The Reverend Dr Michael Hopkins together with her son, Reverend Tim Meachin, was a very fitting service. Other good faithful friends, who have passed recently are still remembered with their families. Losing a loved one is very hard in the immediate time after but to those closest, the gap left by the loss remains. Our thoughts are with you all and you are in our Prayers.

We also think about those of you not able to get out these days, you are missed and loved!

Our prayer meeting and friendship coffee from 10.15am on Thursday's is a place where everyone is most welcome.



Songs of Praise on August 4th

The morning service on August 4th will take the form of a 'Songs of Praise'. Please would you let Chris know your favourite hymn and he will try to include it.

Diary for July

Weds 3rd 10am Group 27 meet at Skinner Street.
Thurs 11th 7pm Elders Meeting
Thurs. 18th 7pm church meeting with AGM.
Mon 22nd From 11am to 2pm Craft and Chat
(please note change of start time)



Summer Windows – At the end of July the windows are going to have an Olympic theme with pot plants in the colours of the Olympic Rings.

Events planned for the future

The church will be open on the 7, 12 and 14th September,
We hope to have an Autumn craft fair on October 19th
The Harvest Service will now be on October 20th

Footprints in the Sand Poem - Version 2

There are many version of this poem. This was written by Margaret Fishback Powers in 1964

One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.
"I don't understand why, when I need You most, You would leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you,
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."

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

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Deadline for August newsletter Thursday 25th July