



**Skinner Street  
United Reformed Church  
Poole June 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.*



CCL544280

## ***Dear Friends***

The background reading for this message is

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CHAPTER 28 VERSES 1 – 16

Text Acts Chapter 28 verse 15 “ ..... at the sight of these men Paul thanked God and was encouraged”

Chapter 28 of the Acts of the Apostles is a very moving , exciting and certainly an adventurous chapter. It is a part of the story of St Paul's journey to Rome . Paul being a Roman citizen, when he was hauled before the Roman Governor Festus and King Agrippa in a previous chapter and asked to give an account of his faith in Jesus Christ , appeals to Rome. This was the right of every Roman citizen wherever they were throughout the world. If they had been hauled before a magistrate, or as in the case of Paul ,the Roman Governor Festus and King Agrippa, they could appeal to Rome. The granting of this right of appeal meant that the crime that had been committed would be tried before magistrates at the very centre of the Roman Empire . Paul had been arrested in a riot for which he was not responsible and decided to appeal to Rome on two accounts. The first was that he felt that he would have a fairer hearing in front of a Roman magistrate rather than King Agrippa or the Governor. Secondly Paul thought that this would be an opportunity for him to go to Rome and explain what the faith meant to him. This appeal having been granted meant that Paul had to make this very difficult journey across both land and sea and the 28<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Acts of the Apostles gives an account of his safe arrival in Malta and subsequently in Rome .He has survived storms in what we today know as the Mediterranean Sea . He gives an account of how the ship he was on as a prisoner ran aground .Verse 41 of this chapter describes it in graphic detail and simplicity of words “the bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken into pieces by the pounding of the waves” . The soldiers on board wanted to kill all of the prisoners on board to lighten the vessel but the centurion in charge wanted in particular to save Paul's life. So the centurion who was in charge ordered those who could swim to jump over board and get to land .

The rest could use planks or pieces of wood from the ship itself and make their own way to the safety of the beach. So verse 44 of this 28<sup>th</sup> chapter tells us “in this way everyone reached land safely”

They discover that they have in fact been shipwrecked on the island of Malta and even here, Paul has to face all kinds of problems and difficulties. Remaining on Malta for three months. Fortunately for Paul Malta was an island where ships wintered away from the storms of the winter period and after three months Paul was placed on a ship which ultimately took him to Putoli and from there he travelled on to Rome. It is in Putoli that Paul is met by three brothers and “at the sight of these men thanked God and was encouraged.

“Was encouraged” Paul had passed through very difficult experiences to reach this point in his life but he is encouraged by seeing these three brothers who have come to meet him, who he did not know and had never met.

Like Paul we will have passed through very difficult experiences. Most of us will have lived through threatening experiences throughout our lives and will have had to face various kinds of personal illnesses or trials in our lives. Often the support and concern of others is what helps us through. We can be encouraged just by being what we are to one another. St Paul was uplifted and encouraged just by the very fact of three strangers, who happened to be three brothers, coming to meet him. We need to remember to encourage one another, to be there for one another. As Paul thanked God for the sight of these men and was encouraged so we should thank God for the gift of one another to each other and remember to be there for one another. Whether that is through modern means of communication or physically remembering each other. We can all think of one another and pray for one another asking God to sustain and encourage each other.

“....at the sight of these men Paul thanked God and was encouraged”

AMEN

God bless you all and keep safe Rev'd Margaret (Evans)



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 JUNE    Sundays at 10.30am**

- 2<sup>nd</sup>    Revd Sally Taylor
- 9<sup>th</sup>    Mrs Maggie Larkin
- 16<sup>th</sup>    Pet Service in the Garden (followed by a picnic lunch)  
Revd Sally Taylor and Tricia Knapp
- 23<sup>rd</sup>    Mr Andrew Hirst
- 30<sup>th</sup>    TBC

Servers: Muriel Coombes & Janice Williams

Wareham and Swanage will be joining us for this joint service.

## **DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER**

- 2<sup>nd</sup>    Chris Proudley
- 9<sup>th</sup>    Muriel Coombes
- 16<sup>th</sup>    Pet Service
- 23<sup>rd</sup>    Chris Proudley
- 30<sup>th</sup>    Janice Williams

## **DOOR STEWARDS**

- 2<sup>nd</sup>    Vera Brown
- 9<sup>th</sup>    Wai Ching
- 16<sup>th</sup>    Alan Knapp
- 23<sup>rd</sup>    Jill Campbell – Dyke
- 30<sup>th</sup>    Tricia Knapp

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)*

- 6<sup>th</sup>    Chris Proudley – Prayers will start at 10am to enable those who wish to also join in the D Day act of Remembrance on the Quay at 10.40
- 13<sup>th</sup>    Vera Brown
- 20<sup>th</sup>    Revd Sally Taylor
- 27<sup>th</sup>    Tricia Knapp

## **Diary for June**

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> from 10am    Craft and Chat

**Advance dates for July:**    Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> 10am Group 27 meet at Skinner Street.    Thurs. 18<sup>th</sup> 7pm church meeting with AGM.    Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> decorate windows with an Olympic theme (your ideas welcome. TK)

## **JUNE CHAT FROM THE TREASURER 2024**

Writing this while looking out of my window, the sun shining and the rhododendrons really brightening up the garden, life feels pretty good. I hope you are also enjoying this time of year, despite the ups and downs of 'normal' life and the sad things happening in the wider world.

Skinner Street is doing well. Our garden, thanks to Sally Taylor, our local Pioneer Minister and her Garden Church friends, is becoming a far nicer, calmer space for all to use. We are also getting on with small repairs and decoration on the outside of the Church, though major work requires the financial help of the Synod. Those may take rather longer to be completed.

Financially, we are still stable but at a low level. We do need to seek grants to help with a lot of work. We would love to hear of anyone who can 'form fill' for grants etc, do contact us! The monthly FreeWill giving is most valuable and appreciated. Other sources of income, from the regular groups using the hall and those in the car park, are equally necessary. It is always helpful to 'host' elections but now we will have an extra date, 4 July 2024 for the General Election. We can use this opportunity to 'advertise' the church as well as a useful boost to the bank account! With the 250 anniversary of the church building approaching in 2027, an amazing milestone, we plan to build on this event, not only to increase the profile of this unique, historic building but to increase our mission of spreading the love of Jesus in our community.

A small group has been formed and we hope to offer various activities running up to 2027, please watch out and support us!

A quick reminder that the car park will be pretty busy at weekends, as the Brownsea Open Air Theatre crew will be parking with us. Please display your permit!

Gail Nuttall                      Treasurer

Skinner Street United Reformed Church BH15 1RQ  
Lloyds Bank Code 30 96 73 account number 00208804  
Gail Nuttall [grn23g@gmail.com](mailto:grn23g@gmail.com) 01202 707231 - 07774 283 179  
23 Crichel Mount Road, Poole Dorset BH14 8LT

## An offer to run Ember

As a church at Skinner Street, you have a wealth of history and of place in the local community - being a special spiritual hub of God's work and activity in Old Town Poole for more than 250 years - predating the current wonderful sanctuary building.



I think, as I have journeyed nearly a year with you and with people in the community developing the garden, that God has a plan for the future of the church here in Skinner Street and I would love to host time and space for prayerful reflection to enable you as a community to discern and see where God is leading you into the future. I run Ember which is a reflection day for churches that are facing decline and having to rethink what church is as they look to the future with honesty and realism. Ember is a hosted and safe place for church communities to explore, through liturgy and ritual, music, prayer, Bible study and reflection, the themes of surrender and death and resurrection - the themes of Easter and all that God did in that time. By taking time to deeply explore these themes, we would allow space for you as a church to come before the Lord in surrender and create a brave environment for you to look at the decline and loss within the church as well as then engaging with God as to what He is calling you to as a congregation going forward in reimagination.

Myself and my colleague Rev Lucy Bolster would be happy to host an Ember Day for you as a church community which would be a Holy Saturday kind of day to:

...come away together.

... acknowledge things that are dying in your church context.

give space to your grief.

...be brave, honest and courageous

...expect encounter and be open to God and one another and to see where God leads into the future.

After that initial Ember Day, I am happy to journey with you in the long term and see where God leads us in His plans for your church and community. I do believe as I have already said that God has plans for your church ones; that will bless you and the community it serves and it would be a real privilege to walk with you in this journey as we look to the future.

With love and blessing

Rev Sally Taylor

### **Pastoral Notes**

Sadly another 'old and faithful' supporter of Skinner Street and the wider United Reformed Church, Reverend Barbara Meachin has passed to a higher place. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Charles and the family. Both Charles and Barbara have led many services at Skinner Street as has son Tim. We look forward to holding her funeral service. A very talented lady, she will be sadly missed.

We remember all who cannot come to worship with us, due to the various afflictions of older age. You remain in our prayers. If the Sunday service is not possible, we do have our prayer meeting and friendship coffee from 10.15am on Thursday's. Everyone is most welcome.

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.



In the Garden  
SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024 10.30am  
Bring your Pets along to this special Service  
Stay for a Picnic Lunch And a Chat  
Treats for your Pet too!

### Songs of Praise on August 4<sup>th</sup>

The morning service on August 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Christian Aid week 2024

The amount collected in the Christian Aid envelopes was £40.  
Thank you to all who donated to this year's appeal.



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 July newsletter Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June*