



**Skinner Street
United Reformed Church
Poole** **March 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 are once again approaching what is perhaps the most important time in the Christian calendar. It is a time when there are two very important days for us to concentrate on. I do, however, wonder from time to time which, if either, of the two is the most important. Is Good Friday more important than Easter Day or vice-versa? Both days, however, have their own importance and must stand in their own right. Good Friday and Easter Day are days Christians must set aside for worshipping God.

Jesus spoke many times of His death in the weeks leading up to the moment He was suspended from that cross. It should therefore have been no surprise to His followers that He was betrayed, arrested, tried, rejected, stripped and beaten, mocked and finally nailed to the cross on which He died. But surprised they were. They possibly even thought it was one huge joke and He would soon be released, after all what had He really done?

Jesus went to His death because He needed to die. He needed to die that the sins of the world might be forgiven. That is why the cross, with Jesus still hanging on it, is important to our faith. Most people from our particular strand of Christianity opt for the empty cross because it reminds them, we have a living Lord. But without the still occupied cross we can never get to the day when we can truly celebrate Christ's rising from the dead. Good Friday may be a day of sadness, but it is only the start of greater things to come.

With the resurrection we enter into a new phase in our relationship with God. A relationship which can never quite be the same as the new relationship which started the day Jesus was born. The resurrected Jesus is no longer man. He has become fully divine and our relationship with Him must change. But it is an improved relationship. God previously knew man. But through Jesus he had suffered at the hands of men and is able to love us more dearly than He did before.

The two types of cross, occupied, and empty, have a great deal to say to each one of us. The occupied cross reminds us Jesus has experienced suffering and died for our sins. The empty cross reminds us Jesus was raised from the dead and with that rising each person is given new hope.

As Easter approaches, I pray you will take time to reflect upon these two interdependent days. I pray you will not allow all your Easter efforts to be concentrated into Easter Day. I need to remind myself regularly of Jesus' suffering and dying before I can rejoice in the hope His resurrection brings.

May God bless each of you in whatever you do in His name.

Your friend and servant in Christ,

Dave Harkison

WORSHIP IN MARCH Sundays at 10.30am

- 3rd Revd. Julian Macro
- 10th Revd. Margaret Evans
- 17th Mrs Tricia Knapp
- 24th Mrs Maggie Larkin
- 31st Revd. Dave Harkison

Holy Communion for Easter Day

Servers: Muriel Coombes & Vera Brown

DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER

- 3rd Chris Proudley
- 10th Shirley Marden
- 17th Janice Williams
- 24th Muriel Coombes
- 31st Chris Proudley

DOOR STEWARDS

- 3rd Vera Brown
- 10th Wai Ching
- 17th Alan Knapp
- 24th Jill Campbell – Dyke
- 31st Tricia Knapp

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)

- 7th Vera
- 14th Gail
- 21st Shirley
- 28th Sally

Good Friday Service

As in previous years there will be a Good Friday service outside Sainsbury's supermarket at 10:00am.

Finance notes March 2024.

Just a short note in Gail's absence to update you on the finances.

We are in a much healthier position than we were this time last year. Thank you to all those who have sent donations for their car park permits, we are very pleased to receive these as any donation to help keeping this historic church alive is much appreciated.

By the time you read this Gail should be safely home and back holding the reins after a while deserved rest .

At the time of writing this note she has already visited New Zealand and Tasmania , and by now will be in Australia.

I am sure she will tell us more in next month's newsletter.

Blessings, Shirley Marden

Skinner Street United Reformed Church BH15 1RQ
Lloyds Bank Code 30 96 73 account number 00208804

Pastoral Notes

We continue to hold all our friends in our thoughts and prayers. Especially those who are not too well at the moment or who are worrying about or mourning the loss of a loved one.

If ever you need someone to talk to or to visit there are some phone numbers on the back of this newsletter you can ring.

Matthew 11:28-30 (Good News Translation)

²⁸ "Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn rest. ³⁰ For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light."

What is Easter?

It's not about the eggs to hunt
It's not about a bunny
It's not about brand new clothes
Or candy as sweet as hunny

On this day many years ago
A man named Jesus Christ
Upon a cross for you and me
Gladly gave his life

Not for sins that He had done
Or crimes He must repay
He did it all for you and me
For our sins He died that day

But that's not the end of Jesus Christ
They put Him in a grave
But three days later He rose again
Our sin debt had finally been paid

So this Easter as you hunt for eggs
Dressed up in brand new clothes
Don't think about the Easter Bunny
Think about why Christ arose



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)

'I beg you, bear with one another in love'

The Christian Women of Palestine are calling us to connect with the land from where Jesus came; where he was born, ministered and died – and from where our faith began and is rooted. Despite living in an area of the world where there is ongoing conflict and the future is uncertain, the women of Palestine are sharing with love a reminder that they are there, and they want to give hope to everyone. The theme of the service 2024 'bear with one another in love' seems very appropriate for these women who will not give up witnessing the love of Jesus Christ.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 146 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

There is not an Ecumenical Service in Poole this year but

**You are invited to
Broadstone URC at 10.30am
Friday 1st March**

What's on at Skinner Street URC in March

Saturday 23rd from 10am – we will be decorating the church windows in readiness for Holy Week through to Ascension Day. The theme this year is 'The Passion, the Glory and the Hope'.

There are changes to the times for the Craft and Chat mornings – details on the next page.



COMMUNITY CRAFT AND CHAT



(For all ages)

At Skinner Street URC, Poole

On the 4th Monday of the month

Time from 25th March 10am to 2pm

Enquiries: Tricia 07873133316 hp.knapp@ntlworld.com

Materials provided for knitting, crochet, cross-stitch and card making or bring your own and come for chat!



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

Deadline for April newsletter Thursday 25th March

