



**Skinner Street
United Reformed Church
Poole May 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

The Ascension of Jesus by Miki De Goodaboom

Dear Friends

The community garden has come on leaps and bounds in the last few



months. Spring has finally come and the tulips are out and what seeds we planted in the wind and cold and rain of March and put in our little greenhouse have begun to sprout and we have even planted the sweet peas and broad beans out in the raised beds! Life is returning and growing also for the first time in the garden.

Planting out the broad beans and sweet peas

As a group of people, we are also feeling like its spring. God has brought along new people – some new to faith, some without and some who have journeyed with the Lord for a while. We have taken to a pattern when we gather every other Sunday of an hour's gardening followed by an hour to share and chat over food and then we have time to pray together. We have been undertaking as a group a Lectio Divina each time we meet and as we settle together after food over coffee. This is such an approachable way to study the Bible together and to let God be God in inspiring our thoughts and sharing what from the passage we read together has stood out for us as individuals. This then leads into our time of prayer and it has felt very much the right way to bring in faith to this space and into this community as Lectio Divina can be done with someone who has never read the Bible or with someone who has read it daily for years. Children are also able to contribute and join in and this for me has been so important and underlines what someone I listened to the other day who leads small churches said, "there's no such thing as the junior Holy Spirit!". I love this as we as a group then are all equal and all able to receive and experience God as we are.

We have also been enjoying creating and using our prayer labyrinth which was built one Sunday very unexpectedly and with surprising ease. The younger members of the group have loved decorating stones which form the layout of the labyrinth and we have also been busy planting it up with rock plants, primroses and violas so it will eventually be a living labyrinth! God is so faithful and we continue to be surprised by His provision and the ease in which we grow and journey on as a group.



The prayer labyrinth

Thank you for your prayers they are much appreciated.
Revd. Sally Taylor



A friend who is a graffiti artist came and the children created great artwork and decorated stones for the labyrinth – we plan to use graffiti spray paint to decorate some of our planters in the garden.

WORSHIP IN MAY Sundays at 10.30am

5th Mrs Tricia Knapp
12th Mrs Linda Pain
19th Mrs Tricia Knapp *Café style worship with Holy Communion*
Server: Muriel Coombes

26th Susie Johnson (TBC as we have been invited to join with Swanage URC when the new Moderator will be leading worship and presiding at Communion).

DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER

5th Shirley Marden
12th Chris Proudley
19th Muriel Coombes
26th Janice Williams

DOOR STEWARDS

5th Vera Brown
12th Wai Ching
19th Alan Knapp
26th Jill Campbell - Dyke

THURSDAY PRAYERS 10.15am

(Followed by coffee and fellowship)

2nd Vera Brown
9th Revd. Dave Harkinson
16th Elaine Deans or Tricia Knapp
23rd Revd. Sally Taylor
30th Gail Nuttall

Pastoral Notes

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who have lost loved ones. All members and friends who leave us are greatly missed but will not be forgotten. The book of all those who have gone before us is on the table by the Church door, do take a look.

We also think about those of you, who would be active, if only you could. Please be assured that you are thought of and talked about regularly and we try to keep in touch with you all.

We send you love.

MAY MAILING 2024 FROM THE TREASURER

Many things are happening at Skinner Street, just hoping we can all keep up! Sadly, this also has been a few weeks of attending the funerals of some very good friends of our Church, but as we all understand, this event in life is part of it. Our prayers are with all those most closely affected.

I am still gathering my thoughts (and jobs!), after my wonderful trip 'down under' in February but think I'm 'getting there'.

The church bank account is still viable but we are monitoring it closely as a couple of 'hic-cups', not of our making, have to be covered in this next month.

Thankfully the monthly giving, weekly collections, car park and hall income are still reliable and keeping things solvent. From the end of May, as forewarning, the car park could be busy at weekends as the Brownsea Open Air Theatre group start their set building and park with us. They make a generous donation so please be understanding.

Now Covid is well behind us, we will be looking to hold more fundraising events as the maintenance of the building cannot be ignored. We are in discussion with The Synod but it seems that most of the smaller jobs needed will have to be funded from our own, limited, resources.

The church windows are still displaying the Easter events and will be until Ascension Day, 9 May. If you would like to come and view them, at any time, do give me or, Tricia a call as we will try to meet you.

Thursday mornings are always open 10.00-11.30am and of course at our Sunday Worship, 10.30am.

Please keep an eye out, even on our website, for forthcoming activities and events as you will be assured of a warm welcome!

Gail Nuttall Treasurer

Skinner Street United Reformed Church BH15 1RQ

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DIARY FOR MAY

Thurs. 9th After prayers and fellowship we will take down the window displays.

Weds. 15th Group 27 meeting meet at the church at 10am

Monday 27th – 10am to 2pm- Craft and Chat. All are Welcome. Come for all of the time or just pop in for an hour or so and have some Coffee and Cake!

Other news.

As Gail mentioned in her letter there are some new events for the church and your diary.

On 10th May from 2pm a veterans games afternoon will begin. Then it will be on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Open to all those who have served in HM forces.

Sunday 16th June at 10.30am a Pet Service in the garden followed by a Bring and Share Lunch.

The church will be open 7th, 12th and 14th September for The Dorset Historic Churches Trust and the Ride and Stride Our Harvest service is on 15th September

Saturday 19th October is an Autumn Craft Fair
Candlelight Carols 15th December.

We are also planning to have an All-Saints Eve time of reflection on Thursday 31st October at 10.15am

More details of all these events nearer the time.

The windows will also be decorated with seasonal themes at various times throughout 2024.

If you would like to help with any of the above or have more ideas please see Gail, Tricia or Shirley.

PS. Looking ahead to 2025 on Thursday 10th April it is planned to have a Lent Lunch.



WEEK 2024 **12TH – 18TH MAY**

The title of this year's campaign is 'Pushing back against poverty'. The focus is on Aline Nibogora from Burundi. Married at an early age she had her first child at 14. A few years later, Aline faced even more devastation when her husband married another woman, forcing Aline to flee. He prevented her from taking their children with her, and in a further act of cruelty, told the local community that Aline was mentally ill and unable to care for her children.

Hungry, scorned and alone, Aline took her first step towards her new life. She started by participating in a transformative three-day community workshop, funded by Christian Aid. And was able, with the help of a small start-up loan to start a business trading avocados and peanuts locally. Once Aline secured a home for herself, her three eldest sons were able to escape their father and join her. They told Aline that their father had abused them and sent their three young siblings to live with different members of his family. Aline still hopes that she'll be reunited with her youngest children in time.

Today, Aline lives peacefully on her own plot of land in a remote village in the Kayogoro Commune in Makamba Province. She's baked her own bricks and is building a strong home for her and her children in every sense.

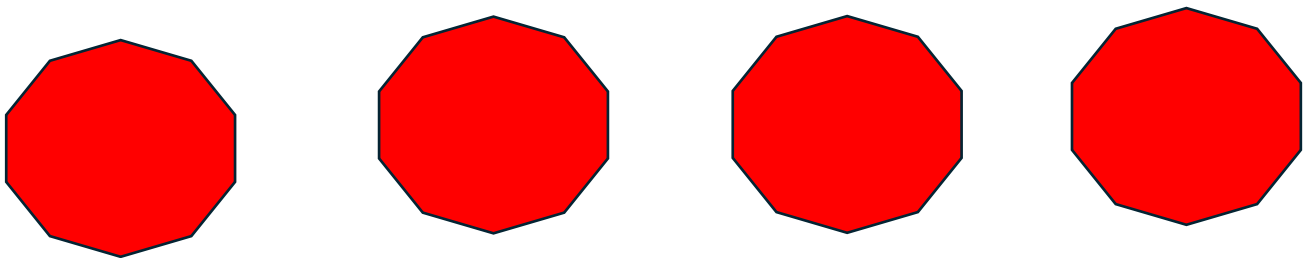
Now Aline can afford food, clothes and essential healthcare for her family. She's also purchased solar panels so her children can do their evening homework by electric light.

A daily devotional booklet is available on the table at the back of the church and Christian Aid envelopes will be in the pews from 5th May. With your gifts, prayers and action you could help someone like Aline to transform their own life.

Tricia Knapp

SEVEN AMAZING BIBLE FACTS

- Over 100 million copies of the Bible are sold each year.
- In 1631, a publishing company published a Bible with the typo “Thou Shalt Commit Adultery.” Only 9 of these Bibles, known as the “Sinners’ Bible” exist today.
- The full Bible has been translated into 532 languages.
- The Bible informs the tradition of three major world religions: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.
- The first authorized Bible printed in English is the Great Bible of 1539. King Henry VIII declared that it should be read aloud during the church services in the Church of England.
- The Bible has inspired more song lyrics than any other book, including “40” (U2), “Adam Raised a Cain,” (Bruce Springsteen), “Adam’s Apple” (Aerosmith), “Be Still” (Kelly Clarkson), “Blackened” (Metallica), “Cinnamon Girl” (Prince), “Come Sail Away (Styx), “Every Grain of Sand” (Bob Dylan), “I am God” (Kanye West) and many more.
- The world’s smallest bible can fit on the tip of a pen. Scientists etched the 1.2 million letters of the Old Testament on a tiny silicone disk, which they call the Nano Bible.”



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 June newsletter Thursday 23rd

