



**Skinner Street  
United Reformed Church  
Poole      December 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***

Advent marks the start of the Christian year.

We make much of knowing the timings of the festivals of other religions and cultures and, rightly, may wish to celebrate with them as a sign of friendship and love. It is, however, increasingly the case that the origins and significance of religious celebrations have become obscured by the currently popular approach to celebrating them. Events that bring people together, even if they are unclear as to why, are surely a good thing and Christmas, in particular, seems to have an almost universal place in global culture.

I have sometimes wished people happy new year around the time of Advent Sunday and find that their reaction leads to a conversation.

It is interesting to look in more detail at the scriptural detail associated with the events that punctuate the Christian year and I am, like all of us, on a journey which requires me to constantly revisit scripture and look afresh at what it has to say.

I have a long-standing mischievous desire to leave the Wise Men out of a nativity service and then refer to them on the sixth of January – two years later!

Do enjoy the celebrations as they have evolved in our particular cultural setting. Make the most of being together with those whom you love and remember that, however it happened, God shared his unconditional love for us whatever our understanding of the details.

Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tim

Revd Tim Meachin

**WORSHIP IN DECEMBER    Sundays at 10.30am**

1<sup>st</sup> Mr Gerwyn Davies

There will be Coffee and Fellowship after the service

8<sup>th</sup> Mr Andrew Hirst

15<sup>th</sup>        **No Morning Service - Candlelight Carols at 4pm**

*The offering this year will go to Chestnut Nurseries in Poole*

22<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Tricia Knapp        **Holy Communion**

Servers: Muriel Coombes and Janice Williams

25<sup>th</sup> Mrs Tricia Knapp – **Christmas Day**

**A short reflective service**

29<sup>th</sup> Joint Service at Swanage URC

**DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER**

1<sup>st</sup> Muriel Coombes

8<sup>th</sup> Chris Proudley

15<sup>th</sup> Shirley Marden (4pm)

22<sup>nd</sup> Janice Williams

**DOOR STEWARDS**

1<sup>st</sup> Vera Brown

8<sup>th</sup> Wai Ching

15<sup>th</sup> Volunteers please for the Candlelight Carol Service.

22<sup>nd</sup> Jill Campbell-Dykes

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

5<sup>th</sup> Rev Dave Harkison

12<sup>th</sup> Rev Sally Taylor

19<sup>th</sup> Shirley Marden

26<sup>th</sup> No Meeting



## END OF 2024 DECEMBER NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

The next 'report' I will write, although in December, will have a new year date at the top! Where has this year gone? I have been to a number of exiting places, visited many friends and spent time with friends and family here. I must look back and remember all that has gone on and realise that 12 months, or 365 days is actually quite a long time and that I have, and I am sure you all have, actually achieved quite a lot. Sadly of course, some friends have not made it to the end of this year and we remember them.

Impressive achievement is certainly the case at Skinner Street. Our numbers on a Sunday have been increasing, albeit slowly, it's great to see. The garden and outside of the church is starting to look loved again and used! Thanks to the Sunday Garden Church that Sally Taylor organises, more and more local people know we are here and come along.

Our finances, although not strong, are allowing us to operate, carry out the jobs we must do, together with a few that are desirable. We are still in discussion with the Synod over major work to the structure but we'll get there!

One major change will be to the car park management. We are moving to an Automatic Number Plate Recognition system. PLEASE SEND ME YOUR REGISTRATION NUMBER, BY EMAIL [grn23g@gmail.com](mailto:grn23g@gmail.com) and I will send full information back. But for our Church permits, I will make sure you are registered with Devere, the company helping us. This is the same company who have been managing the car park for us for about 20 years now! If your drive in with a registered car, you will have 4 hours of parking. There are exceptions but you will be informed individually, but PLEASE CONTACT ME [grn23g@gmail.com](mailto:grn23g@gmail.com). This will be operational from 1<sup>st</sup> December, if in doubt, DISPLAY YOUR PERMIT PLEASE.

We have some great things planned for December, full details further in this Newsletter.

So all that remains from me is to thank you all for your support and encouragement over this past year and to wish you all

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS,

hope to see you at one of our events!

Gail Nuttall

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### **Pastoral Notes**

With winter now with us, colder weather may prevent some friends getting out much. Please let us know if you would like a visit from one of us, or need anything as we are willing to help. You will not be forgotten in our Prayers on a Thursday morning. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

You are welcome at the after church tea/coffee on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month and of course on Thursday mornings, prayers at 10.15 followed coffee\tea from 10.30. All are welcome.



Skinner Street URC are holding a fundraising Christmas Afternoon Tea on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm. Everyone is invited.

Please see Chris or Gail for details (Gail's contact info is on page 5).

Mon. 16<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Alternative Worship with Revd. Sally Taylor



Our **Candlelight Carol Service** is on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm. We shall sing some well-known carols and hear the account of how God sent to us the precious gift of His son, Jesus Christ.

There will be a hot drink and festive refreshments after the service.

The church windows have been decorated with the theme of angels please pick up the accompanying booklet as you wander around and look at them.



## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**We are going to change how we manage the car parking!**

We are moving to an Automatic Number Plate Recognition system. PLEASE SEND ME YOUR REGISTRATION NUMBER, BY EMAIL - [grn23g@gmail.com](mailto:grn23g@gmail.com) and I will send full information back. But for our Church permits, I will make sure you are registered with Devere, the company helping us. This is the same company who have been managing the car park for us for about 20 years now! If your drive in with a registered car, you will have 4 hours of parking. There are exceptions but you will be informed individually, but PLEASE CONTACT ME [grn23g@gmail.com](mailto:grn23g@gmail.com). This will be operational from 1<sup>st</sup> December, if in doubt, DISPLAY YOUR PERMIT PLEASE.

### **A Christmas Quiz ➦ answers on page 8**

1. At what time on Christmas Day does the UK monarch broadcast to the nation?
2. Name the fictional character created by Dr. Seuss that stole Christmas?
3. Which pantomime character marries Alice Fitzwarren?
4. In the poem 'The Night Before Christmas', visions of what danced in children's heads?
5. Christmas Island, a territory of the Commonwealth of Australia, is located in which ocean?
6. Which country was the first to use the tradition of the Christmas tree?
7. Which Christmas carol based on a poem by English poet Christina Rossetti has been set to music many times, the most famous by Gustav Holst?
8. Actor Rudolph Walker plays which character in the BBC soap opera EastEnders?

## Answers to Quiz on Page 7

1. 3pm
2. The Grinch (from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, a children's book by Dr. Seuss)
3. Dick Whittington
4. Sugar Plums
5. Indian Ocean
6. Germany
7. In the Bleak Midwinter
8. Patrick Trueman

*Merry  
Christmas*

*Deadline for January 2025 newsletter Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December*

For church matters or to discuss arrangements for a Baptism, Wedding or Funeral: Shirley Marden 07980 923217

For Hall Lets and Carpark: Gail Nuttall 07774 283179



