

**Skinner Street
United Reformed Church
Poole November 2023**

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.



Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: 2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; 3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; 4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; 5 a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; 6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; 7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; 8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace"

Dear Friends

By the time you read, this, the clocks will have been turned back and the evenings will be drawing in fast.

November brings many memories for me. We always looked forward to Guy Fawkes' Night when we would take a pair of my Dad's old overalls and stuff them with wood shavings ready to go on the bonfire. We didn't have many fireworks, but some of my most vivid memories were the Catherine wheels and running away from the boys, throwing jumping jacks at me! We then would eat potatoes baked in the fire. (No tin foil) - probably why I have never eaten the skins. Very different to these days with large, organised firework displays. Only a few days before young people can be seen running around at Halloween, however, we as Christians prefer to celebrate on November 1 with All Saints Day and the festival of light. Other religions also celebrate the festival of light with the tradition of Diwali.

Diwali, or Dipawali, is India's biggest and most important holiday of the year. The festival gets its name from the row (awali) of clay lamps (deeps) that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness.



However, one of the most important festivals is the Festival of Remembrance which is on the television the night before Remembrance Sunday. For me, many years we could be seen in Poole Park with the Sea Scouts where Dave would lead our group to the War Memorial where there was a moving service with an Act of Remembrance.

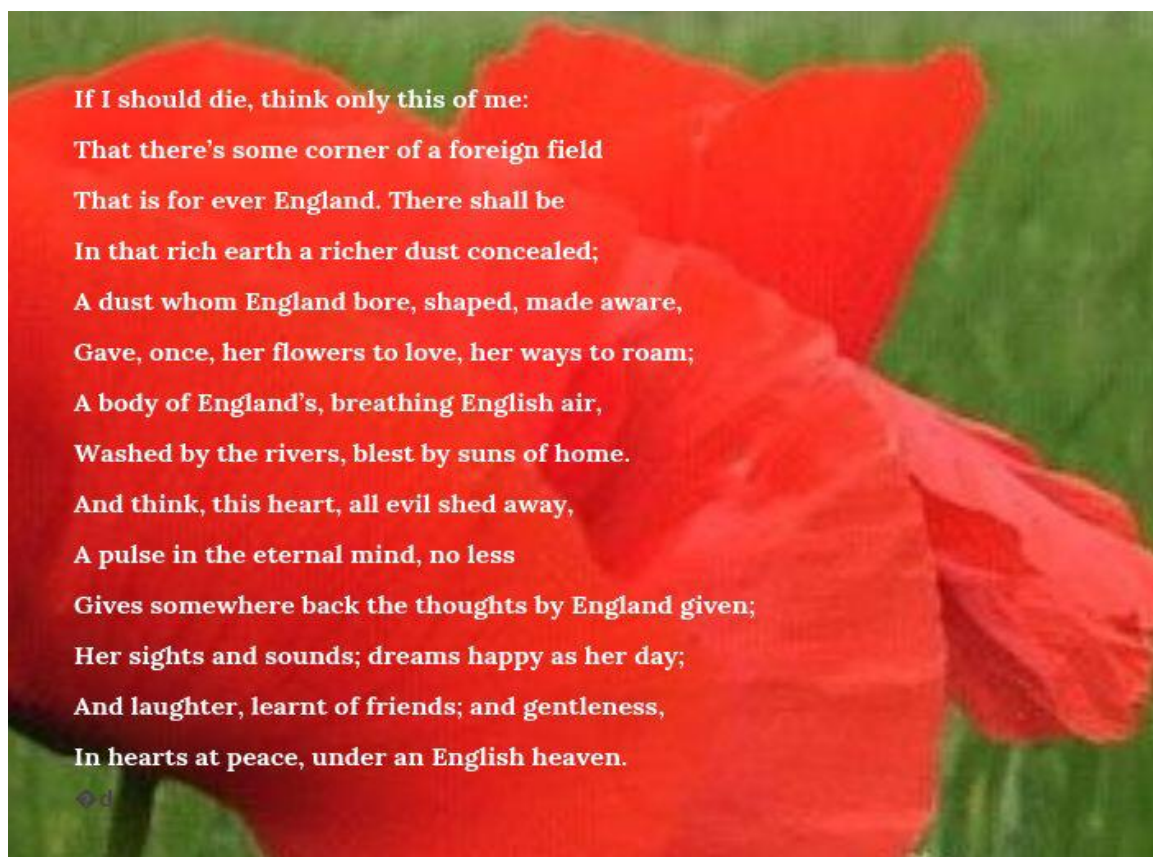
This is a very important time, not only to remember those who lost their lives in two World Wars but also for those who have given their lives since. Not forgetting all animals that suffered too.

It is good that recently the 2 minutes silence has been re-established at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month.

On the fourth Thursday in November, our friends across the big pond celebrate with Thanksgiving, a time for families and friends, to thank God for the harvest, and for all that he has given us.

But most of all we should remember Him who made the biggest sacrifice of all in dying so that we may live.

Every blessing *Shirley*



WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER Sundays at 10.30am

5th Mrs Mandy Hibbert
12th Revd. Sally Taylor **Remembrance Sunday**
19th Mrs Tricia Knapp **Holy Communion**
Servers: Vera Brown & Muriel Coombes
26th Mrs Maggie Larkin

DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER

5th Chris Proudley
12th Vera Brown
19th Muriel Coombes
26th Janice Williams

WELCOME at the DOOR and UPTAKE OF OFFERTORY

5th Vera Brown
12th Wai Ching
19th Elaine and Bill Deans
26th Jill Campbell-Dykes

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

2nd Vera Brown
9th Jill Campbell-Dyke
16th Shirley Marden
23rd Chris Proudley
30th Rev Sally Taylor

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday 5th 2pm We are delighted that the Revd Sally Taylor has chosen Skinner Street for her licensing service. All are welcome.
Monday 6th 6pm Community Garden Meeting
Saturday 25th 10am Church Christmas Clear-out
Thursday 30th 12noon Church meeting. We will also decorate the church and the windows for Advent and Christmas on this date.

Diary dates for December

Saturday 2nd Church Christmas Lunch **Sunday 17th** Candlelight Carols

New Groups As well as exciting plans for the Community Garden there are two new groups starting at Skinner Street. Weekly from Monday October 30th Little Eden will welcome mums and toddlers 10-11am and on the 4th Monday of the Month starting on 27th November 10-11am Craft and Chat, a group suitable for all ages, will begin.

A letter of introduction from the Revd Sally Taylor

An idea of a community garden coming to life has been thought of mine for a while in the life of your church and on my arrival into Poole 3 years ago to be an Anglican Pioneer Curate in Hamworthy I was gradually made aware that this idea was bubbling away. We as a family moved to Poole (from Bridgwater Somerset where my husband had been a curate) for me to be a curate (trainee Priest) as well as for my husband James to be a chaplain in Poole Hospital. My children Abi (19), Harry (16) and Josie (13) all started school then and I began to wonder about what God was calling me to next.

As time went on I felt a calling to Old Town and to see what God was doing there and seek to join in. Through discussion and prayer with Revd Paul Bradbury (leader of Poole Missional Communities) and those in your church I increasingly felt a call to lead this and to start to see what God is calling us to be together and what He is calling us to do in this area of Old Town. I am delighted that God has enabled and led me to be a part of the establishment of the community garden and outreach to the community around us in Skinner Street.

So far we have had a lovely time over the summer gathering people to garden together and pray and share life and last week we shared food as well. I am very excited to see what God will grow here. I am therefore delighted to be licensed by my Anglican Bishop - Bishop Karen - on the 5th of November at 12pm here in the garden of the church in Skinner Street. This service will be a time to pray for the work that is beginning here as well as to bless and license me as an Anglican Priest to work in this context - in friendship and collaboration with you and your church.

Thank you already so much for your warmth and openness and willingness to see what God is doing and venture into that more together. Do come along to the service and stay afterwards for tea and cake it would be lovely to see you.

With love and blessings
Sally

NOVEMBER 2023 TREASURER'S NEWS

I hope you have all found October has been kind to you. The weather has been rather mixed but thankfully we have not experienced the extremes of those living in the more north of the country. Skinner Street buildings seem to have survived without problem, for which I am grateful! But it's heating on time, though I still advise to wear warm coats when coming to the church. I will be keeping the set temperature a bit lower than in the past!

With the Elders, we are trying to move on with some of the repairs needed to our buildings as well as making a plan for the more major things that will need attention in the months to come. For these bigger items, such as replacing the church boiler, the kitchen hot water boiler and sorting out the hall floor, we are looking to the Synod for financial support but need to fill in their long form first!

As I said last month, thankfully the finances are a bit stronger, month to month so we can just manage our normal, regular, day to day repairs. As you know, we cannot be complacent, so letting our hall for local events and allowing people to use our car park, are very helpful.

I have sent £315.00 (+£65.00 that went direct through Just Giving) sponsorship to the Dorset Historic Churches Trust for the Ride and Stride event in early September. Thank you so much to all who supported this, 50% will be returned to us in due time. I give great thanks to Tom Moore, a 'friend' of Skinner Street who gave me his sponsorship to add to mine, thank you Tom.

It is good to see the garden looking much clearer and this work is ongoing through the Community Garden Group. Everyone is welcome when they meet, not necessarily to garden, but to chat and enjoy meeting with those who live in our area. When the weather is not good, we will be inside and I hear that some fun activities, (not garden related!) may be planned!

Although we are now without a Minister, we are blessed with having a group of Lay Preachers and retired Ministers who lead our worship, some coming quite regularly. But one, who came recently, is not back until the new year. He sends us all this very best wishes for Christmas. Yes, it's just around the corner.

Gail

Gail Nuttall Treasurer

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Pastoral Notes

Last month we thought particularly of the family of Les Crabb and we still remember them. We also pray for all our members, many of who have been members or regular worshipers at Skinner Street for decades but for health and age, can no longer join us on a Sunday or Thursday.

But we must not forget those of us supporting the church and without who, we would not exist. You are valued and we do pray for you too!



Christian Aid for Harvest

A big thank you. Through the generosity of your donations at our Harvest service I was able to send £80 to Christian Aid for their Harvest Appeal for the work of BRACKT (Building Resilience through improving the Absorptive and Adaptive Capacity for Transformation) a project to help farmers in the hot, dry, districts of Mutoko and Mudzi the northeast of Zimbabwe.



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

A remembrance poem – Women in War
by 1S

One nice nurse making soldiers better.
Two code breakers using the Colossus
computer.

Three fire officers putting fires out.

Four munition factory workers being
careful with the bombs.

Five mechanics fixing vans and
ambulances.

Six sneaky special operatives hiding
parachutes.

Seven land girls milking the cows and
catching the rats.

Eight pilots flying a plane
as high as a bird.



Shirley discovered this poem but can find no more information about the author.
Can you help?



A challenge for 2024!

For several years now I have thought that when we sing our praises at harvest time the harvest of the sea isn't mentioned in any of the hymns. A pity when so many of the families associated with Skinner Street have been or are fisherfolk. I mentioned this at our harvest service this year just before we sang 'we plough the fields and scatter' and was encouraged to set this challenge - to write a verse we could add to reflect and give thanks for the bounty of the sea.

So over to you, you have until next September! *Tricia Knapp*

Deadline for the December newsletter is Thursday 23rd November to Tricia Knapp 01202 632399 or hp.knapp@ntlworld.com

