



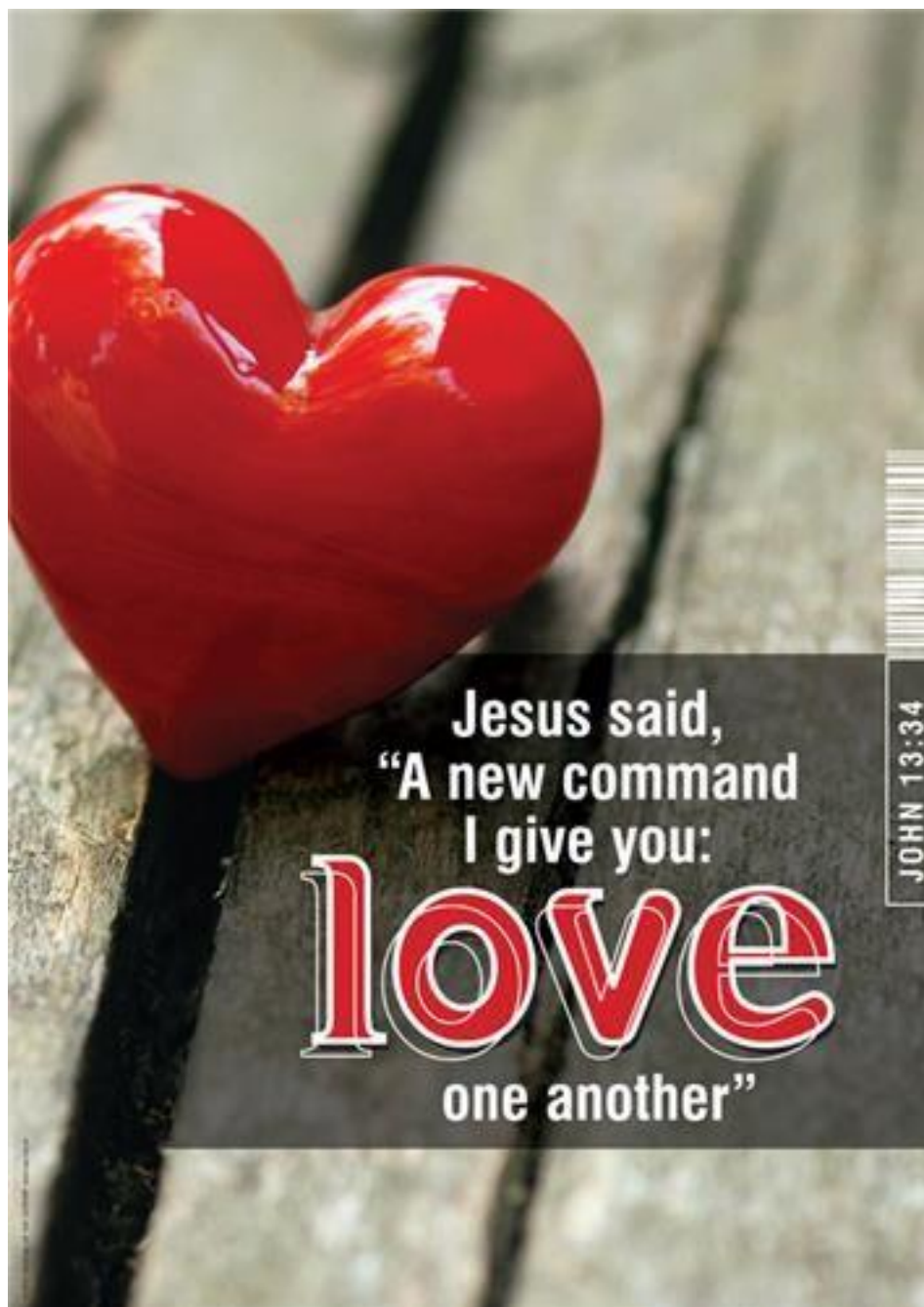
Skinner Street

United Reformed Church

Poole

February 2025

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

New Year message 2025 from The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins (Synod Moderator)

Dear Friends,

First, let me express my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your dedication and hard work over the Christmas season. Whether through community events, activities, or leading worship - often including special and extra services - you have gone above and beyond. In doing so, you have not only shared the story of Jesus but also made Christ visible in the world today. There is no greater calling, and your commitment is deeply appreciated.

As we step into a new year, I wish you a Happy New Year. For many, 2024 brought its share of challenges and a mix of sadness and joy. While some achieved much, for others, simply making it through was an accomplishment in itself.

As we look to 2025, our hopes are renewed.

2025 also marks a significant milestone: the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, a defining moment in the formation of our faith. At our Synod meeting on 11 October, we will be privileged to welcome the Revd Dr Susan Durber, President of the World Council of Churches and a familiar figure to many in Wessex. She will guide us in reflecting on this important anniversary. Such moments remind us that our hope is not in the turning of the calendar but in Christ, who makes all things new.

You may have noticed the popular refrain of “New Year, New You.” Yet this idea, rooted in both self-criticism and consumerism, can feel harsh. We are not disposable objects to be replaced annually, nor should we discard ourselves like outdated electronic devices. Instead, I encourage you to reclaim the “old you.”

Refine, evolve, and improve if you can, but move toward your true self, not away from it. Be kind to yourself and your mind.

This brings me to an alternative approach for the start of the year: Gentle January. In a season where many feel the weight of exhaustion rather than refreshment, let's embrace gentleness:

- Gentle with ourselves,
- Gentle with each other,
- Gentle with our to-do lists and plans,
- Gentle with our creation,

Gentle tones of voice to accompany gentle footsteps and gentle thoughts, all of which can be gently brought into our pauses and prayers. Gentle January sounds inviting to me: a soothing, restorative alternative to the hurried resolutions and relentless pace of the world. May it bring you peace, renewal, and grace as we journey together into this new year.

With every blessing for 2025, Michael Hopkins

Let your gentleness
be evident to all.

The **LORD** is *near*.

Philippians 4:5

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY Sundays at 10.30am

2nd Revd Peter Clarke **Holy Communion**

Servers: Muriel Coombes & Shirley Marden

9th Revd Tim Meachin

16th TBC

23rd Mrs Linda Pain

Coffee and fellowship after the services as arranged

DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER

2nd Shirley Marden

9th Muriel Coombes

16th Chris Proudley

23rd Janice Williams

DOOR STEWARDS

2nd Vera Brown

9th Wai Ching

16th Ross

23rd Jill Campbell-Dykes

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

6th Tricia Knapp

13th Revd Dave Harkison

20th Patricia Arnold

27th Shirley Marden

MARCH

2nd - **Worship Leader:** Rev Julian Macro **Holy Communion**

Servers: Janice Williams & Chris Proudley

Duty Elder: Janice Williams

Door Steward: Vera Brown

Diary for February

Sunday 9th after worship there will be a church meeting

I have no more notices of anything for February.

Details of other meetings etc will be given out in the notices on a Sunday morning

WELCOME TO NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

How has the start of 2025 been so far for you? All I know is that it has rushed by as every other month/year recently!

We were pretty busy at Skinner Street in January, sorting out after some lovely Christmas Celebrations.

Our congregation is slowly increasing. It is uplifting to be welcoming new faces as well as those who have returned.

Financially, the bank balance looks fair but we do not hold reserves or have investments, should any unforeseen problems arise. We have increased our monthly Ministry and Mission payment which we reduced when funds were low. The insurance premium, paid monthly, is currently our largest outgoing. We are still watching the utility bills very carefully.

Unfortunately the Church boiler has stopped working. This boiler, which was a prototype given to us by a Hamworthy Engineering engineer, has finally heated its last for us! It has been in regular service for some 25 years. We are in the process of gathering quotations for a replacement. I just hope we do not suffer any really freezing weather over the next few weeks! This will cause a financial problem for us but we are looking into how we can fund this essential item.

The work to further improve and ensure the structure of front of the Church, should start soon. Although the church building is only a part of our Spiritual being of our congregation, it does give us a beautiful focus for worship as well as a place of peace.

This work, together with the other recent great redecorating of the Portico and windows, shows the community that we are definitely an open and active church, for all! Thank you again to all who have helped achieve all these improvements.

I am sure some of you will have experienced that strange feeling of parking at the Church without having to remember to put up your permit. The recently installed, Automatic Number Plate Recognition system, is now fully up and running. We hope to have registered all our loyal church members but should you have any concerns about your car, please email me (grn23g@gmail.com) AND Devere Parking (deverepark@hotmail.com). If you are only an occasional visitor, and using the hall or parlour, you need to log your car number into the iPad which is just inside the hall door. For occasional users who previously had a church permit, providing you have sent me and Devere, (as previously requested) your number, all should be well. This permission is limited to 4 hours on any visit. Should you have any questions, please email me. Looking forward to February with hope and trust you are too.

Gail Nuttall

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

Gail Nuttall grn23g@gmail.com 01202 707231 - 07774 283 179
23 Crichel Mount Road, Poole Dorset BH14 8LT

Pastoral Notes

During this generally dull part of our year, feeling isolated and lonely is felt by many. At Skinner Street, those of us able enough to be out and about do not forget you! You are all remembered in our Prayers, particularly on a Thursday morning.

Our Elders do their best to keep in touch with you but please, make that call to any of us whose numbers are in this newsletter, at any time, should you need. We are here for you too, not just our friends who can join in the active worship at Skinner Street.



Charles Plumb, was a Fleet Air Arm Pilot, who flew Sea Harriers in the Falkland Islands conflict. After many combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and floated to the ground.

He survived that ordeal and now lectures about lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, “You’re Plumb! You flew Harriers from the aircraft carrier Invincible. You were shot down!”

“How in the world did you know that?” asked Plumb.

“I packed your parachute,” the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, “I guess it worked!”

Plumb assured him, “It sure did – if your chute hadn’t worked, I wouldn’t be here today.”

Plumb couldn’t sleep that night, thinking about that man.

Plumb says, “I kept wondering what he might have looked like back then. I wondered how many times I might have passed him on board. I wondered how many times I might have seen him and not even said ‘Good morning, how are you,’ or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot, and he was just a sailor.”

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn’t know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, “Who’s packing your parachute? Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day.”

Take time out to encourage and thank the people who provide the parachutes in your life.

(Adapted from a story found on a church bulletin website)

Advance Notice
Organised by Churches Together in Poole

Wednesday October 8th, 2025, at 7pm.
St Edwards School, Poole.

Julia Doxat-Purser will speak on
'Threats to Religious Liberty across
Europe (including the UK) and how to respond'.



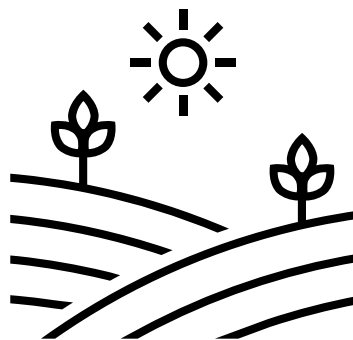
Julia is the European Evangelical
Alliance Socio-Political
Representative Religious Liberty
Coordinator.

To reserve a ticket email: jpmclmartin@gmail.com
A confirmation email will be sent

This is an open event and there is no charge.



Deadline for March newsletter Wednesday 26th February
NB *The newsletter will be available from Sunday 2nd March*
Contributions to Tricia: hp.knapp@ntlworld.com



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

