



**Skinner Street
United Reformed Church
Poole September 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

Dear Friends,

A few Sundays ago Tricia was leading our Sunday service and she chose for us to sing "There's a wideness in God's mercy" number 683 in Mission Praise. Not a hymn I knew well, but Frederick William Faber's words spoke to me.

I researched him and found that he was born in Yorkshire in 1814 into a family of Huguenot descent with strongly held Calvinist beliefs. When he went to Oxford University he came across members of the Oxford Movement and their Anglo Catholic teaching attracted him, but also troubled him due to them being at odds with what he had been used to in his upbringing. He struggled with his feelings for some time and eventually converted to Rome and in fact became a Priest before later dying in 1863.

It seems to me that these emotional troubles are reflected in his words and plea for tolerance which is as relevant today as when he wrote them. To escape his struggles with the path God seemed to have laid out for his life he often used to holiday in the Lake District and there became a good friend of William Wordsworth.

He also had a very strong friendship with George Smythe a politician and follower of Disraeli and it is thought that this friendship was in fact a romantic one. Another reason for Frederick to wish for tolerance and understanding in the eyes of the Church and while things in this respect have certainly improved since the mid Victorian times, there is still much to be done in this area, especially across the World.

It seems to me that all of this comes through in his words and that is why they spoke to me.

In particular in the fifth verse:

If our love were but more simple,
we would take Him at His word,
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord.

We at Skinner Street should be proud of the fact that throughout our history we have been a welcoming and inclusive Church. From our non-conformist roots, to school children from Hamworthy, divorcees who wished to remarry and same sex couples who wished to be blessed (for which I am personally very grateful!).

We have always lived the philosophy that Fredrick speaks of in his hymn and I am very happy that he would receive a very warm welcome were he to visit us today.

Chris Proudley



September Song

September comes softly
With a whisper in the trees
Leaves fall like confetti
Dancing in the breeze

Autumn's Kiss

September's chill settles in
Leaves turn from green to gold
A gentle reminder
That change is beautiful

Farewell to Summer

September sun fades away
Leaving memories of warmth
As we embrace the cool embrace
Of autumn's tender touch



Treasurers Notes for September

As we 'race' into September after the pleasant summer we have enjoyed, Skinner Street has many things to help us move towards Christmas!

First we have two Open Days for Dorset Architectural Heritage Week and Dorset Historic Churches Trust annual Ride and Stride fundraising event.

The DHAW showcases many of Dorset's wonderful buildings. The church will be open on Thursday 11 September, after prayers, 11.00am through to 3.00pm, with our very interesting archives available. We are opening again on Saturday 13 September, 10.00am to 4.00pm for visitors and any people from the many churches around Dorset who may be participating in a sponsored walk or ride for Dorset Historic Churches Trust. This trust is 65 years old this year and has supported Skinner Street with two grants.

On both days the windows will showcase the history that Skinner Street has seen. This is also a 'taster' for the 250th Church Anniversary in 2027.

Do make sure you come and enjoy these Open Days. If you would like to be a guide or help serve refreshments on either of these days, please let me know by email grn23g@gmail.com or phone 07774 283 179.

Although the church finances are improved, to continue the work of the church to our congregation and community, we need to spread the word that we are an active and thriving group of Christian folk. The open days do help raise awareness for us.

Thank you to all who work to keep us active but offers of help are always welcome!

I just hope the weather will be fair for my walk with Patricia along the Purbeck Ridge, Ulwell to Swanage URC and then with Chris around the ancient walls of Wareham ending at our URC there. Report next month!

Gail

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Pastoral Notes

As the weather cools and the days shorten we continue to remember all those in our fellowship.

Some of you are, we know, are having a rough time at the moment and we hope you know our thoughts and prayers are with you.

If you are unable to get out please let us know if we can help you in any way, even with shopping or just a chat, the Elders and others will get to see you.

*Don't worry—I am with you.
Don't be afraid—I am your God.
I will make you strong and help you.
I will support you with my right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER Sundays at 10.30am

7th 'Working Party' (Chris has the details)

14th Mrs Tricia Knapp –

Pet & Animal Blessing Service

21st Mr Linda Pain

28th Revd. Dave Harkinson ***Holy Communion***

Servers: Muriel Coombes & Vera Brown

There will Coffee and Fellowship after the services

DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER

7th No Elder needed

14th Chris Proudley

21st Janice Williams

28th Muriel Coombes

DOOR STEWARDS

7th Vera

14th Ross

21st Ross

28th Ross

THURSDAY PRAYERS

4th Vera Brown

11th Chris Proudley

18th TBA

25th Lorraine Thornton



Diary for September

Thursday 11th 11am - 3pm Church Open and Windows Decorated
Saturday 13th 10am – 4pm Church Open and Windows Decorated for
Dorset Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride

RIDE+STRIDE



Gail will be taking part again this year and would appreciate your support. For every £1 she is sponsored Skinner Street will receive back 50p

Churches Together in Poole

Tuesday 16th 12.30pm Churches Together in Poole Meeting
Friday 12th 7pm Acoustic Evening at St. Jame's
Saturday & Sunday 13th & 14th St Jame's Church are participating in
Seafood and Sounds 2025 - there are flyers in the church for these last
two events



1. Why did Noah discipline the chickens on the ark? They were using fowl language!
2. How does Moses make his coffee? Hebrews it!
3. What's a missionary's favourite kind of car? A convertible.
4. What did the grape do when it got stepped on? Nothing, it just let out a little wine.
5. What kind of lights did Noah have on the ark? Flood lights.
6. What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire? Frostbite.
7. What did the beaver say to the tree? "It's been nice gnawing you!"



A Community Garden is the new nightclub!
A place to socialise and meet friends



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



Deadline for October newsletter Thursday 25th September
Contributions to Tricia: hp.knapp@ntlworld.com