



Skinner Street United Reformed Church Poole

October 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.



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The Lord God says: I will send you the seasonal rains. The land will then yield its crops, and the trees of the field will produce their fruit. Your threshing season will overlap with the grape harvest, and your grape harvest will overlap with the season of planting grain.

Leviticus 26: 4-5a

Dear Friends

The reality of being a fellowship of Christians in a secular world is more and more being brought home to me by the questions and observations of people who are not regularly involved in the worship life of our Church. When I was teaching, & often since, I found myself fielding questions about matters of faith & belief especially where there is an apparent conflict with our scientific understanding of the world around. Many people have a real interest in the relationship between belief & ethics, science, decision-making and the 'big questions' we face especially at times of personal crisis or when considering what is going on in the world around. I am also aware of the gap in general knowledge of the Christian faith that exists between those who are involved and those who (for several generations) have had no contact with the Church together with considerable variability in the public understanding of science.

It could be easy to look at the complications & give up. I am utterly convinced that Jesus' way of working was finely tuned to our human nature & the potential pitfalls of challenges such as those I have just mentioned. His approach was both simple & straightforward to emulate. He did not say 'go and learn all about it, understand it &, when you have done this, come back and I will consider your involvement'. Rather he invited, shared meals, spent time, listened, forgave & healed.

I asked artificial intelligence to comment on the phrase 'go and do likewise'.

Here is what it replied: *"Go and do likewise" is a phrase Jesus says at the end of the parable of the Good Samaritan, found in the Bible (Luke 10:37), instructing everyone to show compassion and mercy to neighbours in need, even those from different backgrounds. This biblical command emphasizes practical, selfless action and extends Jesus' message of love to be a call to actively care for others, challenging individuals and churches to embody these principles in their daily lives.*

Much of what Skinner Street URC does & is involved with is rooted in this way of living & serving.

God bless all that you do in His name.

Tim



Pastoral Notes

This is a very hard time for some of our loyal members and we constantly remember them in our prayers. We pray that their lives will be calm and peaceful.

We also remember all our older friends who, for whatever reason, are not out and about as they were in past years. We wish them peace and calm also.

The Elders are always here to visit or chat or if we can help in any other way, please, do get in touch.

Contact details are in this newsletter.

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER Sundays at 10.30am

5th Mr Andrew Hurst
12th Rev Jonathon Martin
19th Mrs Tricia Knapp **Harvest & Holy Communion**
Servers: Chris Proudley & Janice Williams
26th Mrs Patricia Arnold Café Style Songs of Praise
There will Coffee and Fellowship after the services

DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER

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

DOOR STEWARDS

5th Vera
12th Ross
19th Ross
26th Ross

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

2nd Vera Brown
9th Tricia Knapp
16th Rev Sally Taylor
23rd Chris Proudley
30th Patricia Arnold

✳️ Looking ahead to our joint service with Wareham and Swanage at Swanage URC on November 30th. Revd. Tim Meachin is leading worship and has offered a lift to anyone who would like to go. If you let me know I can let Tim know. Tricia

The Church Windows

I hope you have taken the opportunity to look at our church windows in September. We will be changing them on October 16th ready for our Harvest service on October 19th. We will be accepting your non-perishable food donations for The Poole Foodbank from Thursday 9th.

OCTOBER (Autumn!!) NEWS FROM THE TREASURER 2025

Thank you to all who have supported myself, Patricia and Christopher with our 'walks' for the Dorset Historic Churches Ride and Stride fundraising event. We all enjoyed our walks, as you will see from the pictures! Patricia and I walked from the water obelisk at Ulwell, over the ridge in beautiful weather with stunning views to the harbour, Isle of Wight and Swanage before dropping down into Swanage where we enjoyed a good lunch before riding the open top bus back home. Christopher and I joined our friends at Wareham for their Sunday service but then set off to 'walk the walls' for our Stride! Again it was a good day and we enjoyed some great views of the water meadows and lovely gardens! Then, a great roast lunch in the Bear! I do not have the total raised just yet (it's not too late to make a donation!) but you have all been most generous.

We held an Open Day on two Thursday's and the Saturday, with all donations for great cakes and tea and coffee going to Ride and Stride. Skinner Street will have 50% of raised funds returned in due course. The R&S coincided with the Dorset Architectural Heritage Week and this brought a good number of visitors to us as well. We are working on material to tell of the great and interesting history of our Church and building and would be delighted to share it with you at any time. Watch out for a date to meet and chat over an afternoon tea!

For these Open Days, Tricia has designed great displays for the windows. With our 250 Anniversary (of the building) fast approaching in 2027, this historical information covering all aspects of life over the time of Skinner Street, is well worth a visit. We are always open on a Thursday morning 10.00-11.30am (for Prayers and then coffee), as well as for our Sunday Service, 10.30-12.00.

Our financial position, thankfully, is stabilising but we now need to do some forward planning and budgeting to keep it that way. Please let me know if you have ideas or information that could help us or ask if you have any queries.

My thanks to all who support me and Skinner Street.
Gail Nuttall



Diary for October

Monday 6th 7pm Salisbury Cathedral Choir in Concert at St. Aldhem's Church Branksome. A retiring collection in aid of the upkeep and maintenance of the church building

Wednesday 8th 7pm to 9pm at St. Edwards School Julia Doxat-Purser will be giving a lecture on 'Threats to Religious Liberty.'

For more information email:

deacons@bucklandroadbaptist.church or phone: 01202 716214

Sunday 12th 6.30pm at St Mary's Church, Longfleet - an Evening with Andrew Palue (details at the back of the church)

Thursday 16th after prayers and coffee we are decorating the windows for Harvest – any help appreciate



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John 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world.' Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Dear Lord, help us to remember that your light is so much brighter than the darkness we sense in this season of ghosts and ghoulies.

Our Father, as the leaves change and darkness encroaches, we seek Your light to guide us through the festivities of Halloween. Protect us from fear and negativity, filling our hearts with joy and love.

Psalm 121:7-8

The Lord will keep you from all harm, he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.



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Deadline for November newsletter Thursday 23rd October
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 Nuttal | 07774 283179

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