



Skinner Street United Reformed Church Poole February 2026

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,

As a church we do not tend to celebrate the Saints days, though they do enter our lives as we go through the year.

As a child I remember my mum telling me that if it rained on St Swithin's day (15th July) we could expect damp weather for the next 40 days. When she began to get forgetful it was to St Anthony, the patron saint of lost things, that she turned.

I wore a St Christopher, the patron saint of travellers for many years.

This month it is St Valentine who comes to mind.

But who was Valentine and why is he associated with love?

Well some say that the St. Valentine celebrated today may have been two different people.

One account holds that St. Valentine was a priest in Rome (born 225 and died 14th February 273) and the other says he was a bishop of Interamna (modern-day Terni). Both of these men were persecuted and ultimately killed for their faith, and buried somewhere along the Flaminian Way.

It is also possible that they were the same person and stories have become confused over the years.

Whichever is correct local devotion to him spread, because of the love and care he showed to others.

No sooner were the Christmas Cards removed from the shelves than Valentine cards and gifts were there and some Valentine's Day traditions can be associated with St. Valentine's life, such as the exchanging of cards.

"One account was that he had befriended the jailer's daughter, where he was being imprisoned, and when he died, he left her a note inscribed with 'From your Valentine,'" Other accounts say that exchanging cards on Valentine's Day recalls how St. Valentine would send notes to fellow Christians from prison

“Another story is that Claudius the Goth actually had prohibited marriage amongst soldiers. He felt that if soldiers were married, they’d be less devoted to the army, especially at that time, and they needed as many troops as possible. So it is believed that Valentine had married soldiers in secret,”.

Another way St. Valentine’s Day may have come to be celebrated as a day of love was because it was thought that it was the season when birds began looking for a mate!

The love St Valentine spread was the love that Jesus spoke about. The love that we read of in our bibles and depending on which version you read is between 442 & 759 times.

Here are just four:

John 13: 34-35

A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.’

John 3:16

⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1 John 4:19

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

1 Corinthians 13:13

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

May the God of love and peace will be with you and those you love each and every day.

Tricia Knapp

Worship and Prayer in February

SERVICES Sundays at 10.30am

1 st	Revd Sally Taylor
8 th	Mrs Linda Pain
15 th	Mrs Tricia Knapp
22 nd	Martin Ambler <i>Holy Communion</i>

Servers: Shirley Marden & Tricia Knapp

There will be Coffee and Fellowship after the services

DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER

1 st	Chris Proudley
8 th	Muriel Coombes
15 th	Janice Williams
22 nd	Shirley Marden

DOOR STEWARDS

1 st	Vera
8 th	Ross
15 th	Ross
22 nd	Ross

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

5 th	TBC
12 ^h	TBC
19 th	TBC
26 th	TBC

Diary For February

Saturday 14 th	3.00pm	Beetle Drive (details on page 8)
Thursday 18 th	3.00pm	Group 27 meeting in the parlour



Shrove Tuesday	16 th
Ash Wednesday	17 th
1 st day of Lent	18 th

FEBRUARY 2026

NOTES FROM THE CHURCH TREASURER

Well, let's hope the cold, rainy, blustery season is coming to an end and we can soon enjoy more, sunny days!!

But as someone said to me, 'this is the time of year so we just have to get on with it'. I am certainly trying too as there is plenty to do for and at the church.

The many groups who use the Hall, Garden, Parlour are back in full swing. Our congregations on Sundays have been most encouraging.

The bank account is stable and we have increased the amount we give to the Ministry and Mission Fund to help Church House ensure that Ministry is supported. The 2025 accounts will be inspected by the accountant and reported at the 2026 AGM.

We have not heard about the submitted Grant Application yet but are hopeful.

The car park is still a beneficial source of income for us. Those of you who occasionally use the car park and are registered, unless you change your car, no action is needed. Of course, should you wish to make a small donation for this, it would be very welcome. Bank details are at the end of this note!

We have not made any big fundraising plans as we need to know when the upgrading work will take place.

We have planned a BEETLE DRIVE though for 14 February 3.00pm. This is a social game and we hope will be fun for all.

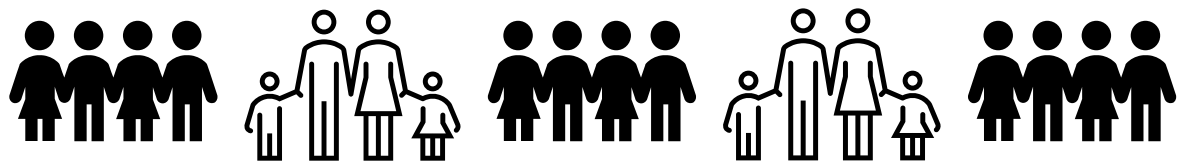
Experience is certainly not required but you and friends are. Just let us know if you hope to join as Tea and Cake will be served. I have some tickets if you would like to hand them to friends.

I said last month that we are ramping up planning for the 2027 Church 250th Anniversary events. I am going to suggest a Group 27 get together on Wednesday 18 February 2026 at 3.00pm in the Parlour for anyone who would like to be part of this planning group. Please let me know if you can come along.

Thanks again to you all for your support,
My best wishes,
Gail Nuttall

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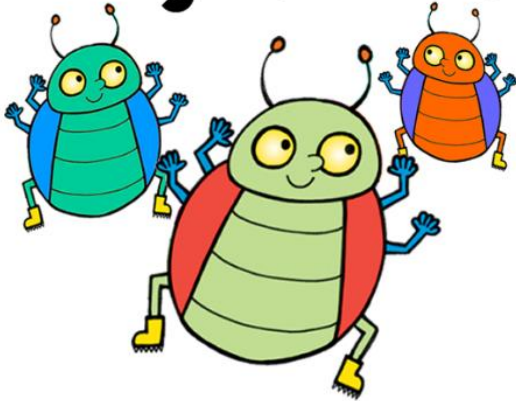


Pastoral Notes

We give thanks that one member's husband has received positive health news after a difficult few months.

We remember those who are experiencing problems and pray that their carers feel supported and they return to health soon. We all know that moving into eighth and ninth decades of life has mixed blessings. Not being able to 'do what I used to do' is a hard concept to accept but we will all do what we are able to and within our limitations, pray for all and remember that there is always someone looking out for and listening to you.

Beetle Drive Family Fun Game



Skinner Street URC
Saturday 14th February
3.00pm to 5.00pm
Tea and Cake
Everyone Welcome
No experience needed!

A Creepy Crawly Quiz!

1. How many species of insect have been identified in the world?

a) 565,000 b) 925,000 c) 1,200,000

2. How many days (on average) does a bumblebee live for?

a) 19 b) 28 c) 36

3. Which beetle is the strongest insect on the planet?

a) Rhinoceros beetle b) Bull-headed dung beetle c) Hercules beetle

4. What insect was the first living creature to be sent into space?

a) Soldier ant b) Cockroach c) Fruit fly

5. Insects have structures known as simple eyes, in addition to the compound eyes they use to see. But what do they use these simple eyes for?

a) Detecting colours b) Magnifying images c) Detecting light

9. What is the loudest insect in the world?

a) Cicada b) Cricket c) Bee

answers on the page 8

PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

As the new month of February
dawns, I come before You,
Almighty God, with a heart full of
gratitude and expectation.

This month, known for love,
warmth, and renewal, is a
reminder of Your constant care
and unchanging love for me.

I ask for Your blessings, guidance,
and protection over every aspect
of my life and loved ones.

In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen!

Read the full prayer at ChristiansTT.com

Answers to quiz on page 7:

Q1: b) 925,000 **Q2:** b) 28 **Q3:** b) Bull-headed dung Beetle
Q4: c) Fruit fly **Q5:** c) Detecting light **Q6:** a) Cicada

Deadline for March newsletter Thursday 19th February

Contributions to Tricia: 01202 632399

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

