

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.



## *The church ready for the Candlelight Carol service in December*

## Dear Friends

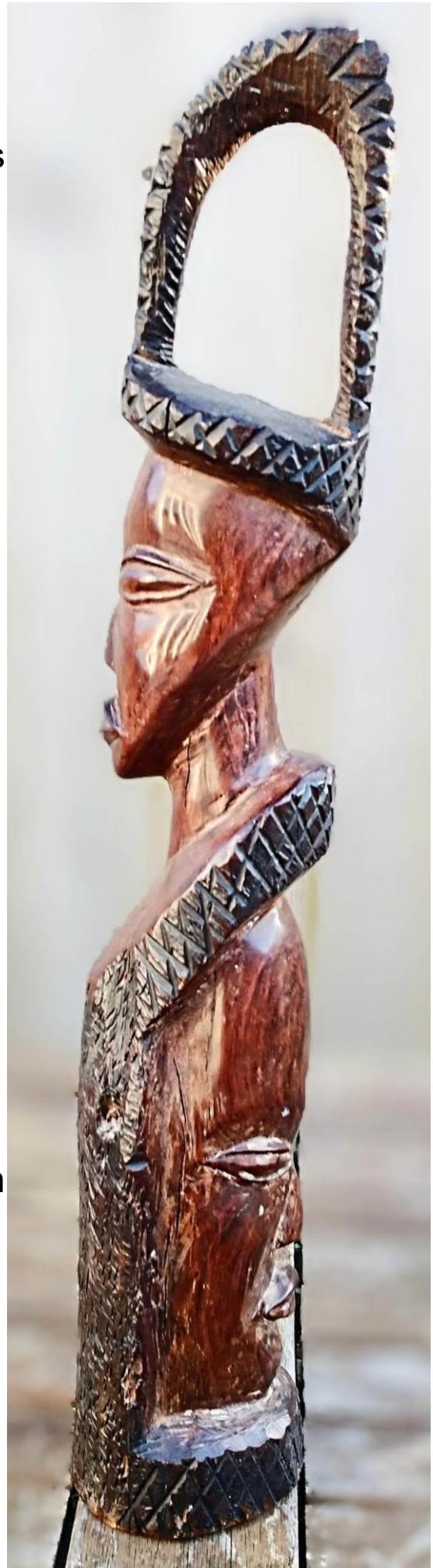
Over forty years ago Janet and Tim returned home from Zambia after their period of service as Missionaries of the London Missionary Society. Included in the locally carved and fashioned items they brought for us, was a single carving of two African heads, back to back. One head facing forward and the other backwards! Symbolic of our minds ability to look Forward in the context of the Past?

January is a month of 'new year resolutions' and old TV programs of the 'good old days'!

The Roman religious god of Janus depicted as having a doubled sided head, in Latin meaning 'arched passage, doorway', the god of beginnings, transitions, time, doorways, paths and endings.

Janus symbolised change and transition, the progress of past and future. He could see into the past with one face and into the future with the other.

Janus gives us January introduced in the Julian calendar(superseded by the Gregorian calendar in 1582?).



JANUARY gives us the opportunity to look back and reflect on the year gone by and to look forward in hope to the year ahead. We can recall memories, good happy fulfilling memories along with painful sad times.

Thankful memories of those whose lives touched ours and made us 'better' human beings. Savouring those memories we look forward to the year ahead.

King George VI ended his 1939 Christmas broadcast with the poem.

' And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: " Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put Your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.' (M I Hask)

We hope and pray that humankind individually and collectively might resolve in 2026 to hold the hand of God and gladly strive for.

'Peace on Earth goodwill to all Creation'.

*Charles Meachin*

# Worship and Prayer in January

## **SERVICES Sundays at 10.30am**

4<sup>th</sup> Revd Sally Taylor

11<sup>th</sup> Revd Dave Harkison *Holy Communion*

Servers: Shirley Marden & Janice Williams

18<sup>th</sup> Mrs Tricia Knapp

25<sup>th</sup> Mrs Linda Pain

*There will be Coffee and Fellowship after the services*

## **DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER**

4<sup>th</sup> Chris Proudley

11<sup>th</sup> Shirley Marden

18<sup>th</sup> Muriel Coombes

25<sup>th</sup> Janice Williams

## **DOOR STEWARDS**

4<sup>th</sup> Vera

11<sup>th</sup> Ross

18<sup>th</sup> Ross

25<sup>th</sup> Ross

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

8<sup>th</sup> Mrs Vera Brown

11<sup>th</sup> Revd Dave Harkison

22<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Patricia Arnold

29<sup>th</sup> Shirley Marden

### *A prayer for the New Year*

*Lord, whether we're leaving behind a year of joy and blessing or trials and difficulties, we pause to give thanks.*

*We thank you that you are always with us*

*every single day of the year.*

*Please remind us of your presence in the year ahead,  
even when life is busy.*

*We are thankful that we serve a God who makes things new  
and gives us the grace of fresh starts and new beginnings.*

*In Jesus name, Amen*

## **WELCOME TO JANUARY 2026 NOTES FROM THE CHURCH TREASURER**

I give you all my very best wishes for this coming New Year 2026!

Looking back on 2025, from my perspective, it has been a good one. Due to you, our loyal members and friends, giving generously on a regular basis, together with our community groups in the hall and the car park, the bank account has recovered to a safer level. Thank you all.

We have carried out the necessary repairs and renewals to keep the building fit for our use, including the new boiler for the Church. We are cosy again for services!

There is still work to do ensure the building complies with the growing rules and regulations but we are working on getting all ‘the boxes ticked’!

If our application for a CIL grant is successful, further great improvements will be made to the hall and kitchen etc. Watch this space!

The donations received at the Carols with Candlelight, for the Community Garden to hold an event, amounted to £191.00. Thank you to our own Tricia for leading such a good service and to John W for making sure we sang well!

As we move into 2026, it has reminded us that our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, 2027 will be upon us only to quickly, so we will be stepping up our preparations to ensure not only those of us involved in the church but the local community and visitors can learn of the history of Skinner Street and how it has played a very important part in the development and history of Poole. All ideas, suggestions, are most welcome, and to attend the Group 27 meeting. A date for which will be shared soon!

I do hope that this New Year has started on a positive note and look forward to seeing you soon.

Gail Nuttall

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

Gail Nuttall. [grn23g@gmail.com](mailto:grn23g@gmail.com) 01202 707231 - 07774 283 179  
23 Crichel Mount Road, Poole Dorset BH14 8LT

### **Pastoral Notes**

The Christmas and New Year time can be a lovely family time but for some it can be lonely, especially for those who have recently lost loved ones. Please know, that no one should feel alone as we, at Skinner Street, remember you in our prayers. Age, illnesses and mobility problems creep us on us all, but we all try to be who we feel. We send our very best wishes to those who cannot join us, as I hope you know, you are loved, valued and not forgotten



CCL544280

I'm sure we have all done or said, '*Something Stupid*' but maybe not as bad as these I found in a book titled 'the 100 stupidest things ever done!'

- A Texan woman was thrilled with her new car and wanted to test every aspect of it – including the capacity of the trunk. So she got her family members to shut her in it. That's when she realised she had the keys in her pocket.
- In 1976, a hijacker got up from his airline seat. He took out his gun and held up a stewardess. 'Take me to Detroit,' he said. 'But we're going to Detroit already,' said the stewardess. 'Oh good,' said the hijacker and sat back down.
- In 1980, the Wyoming legislature banned the photographing of rabbits from January through to April without written permission.

Well, that's America you may say so here are a couple nearer to home.

- A British law makes it illegal for lorries to drive under bridges that are too low for them to drive under.
- Passengers waiting for the train at a station in Hampshire saw their train pull in – but instead of letting them on, they heard an announcement. 'You are not to board this train which has only stopped to let you know that it does not stop here on Sundays.' The train then pulled out. A British Rail spokesman explained that this was an 'economy measure' to save power. Passengers walked to the next station, where they were let on.

## New Year's Resolutions for 2026

For those looking to make a fresh start in 2026, here are some New Year's resolution ideas to consider:

- **Start a new hobby:** Whether it's painting, knitting, or learning a new language, finding something new can be a great way to explore your interests and make new friends. Many groups meet at Skinner Street and there is also the Community Garden.
- **Give one compliment a day:** Small acts of kindness can go a long way in improving relationships and spreading positivity.
- **Go a whole day without checking your email:** This can help reduce stress and improve focus by disconnecting from digital distractions.
- **Do random acts of kindness:** Small gestures can make a big difference in the lives of others.
- **Come along to Church,** help out on open days, join a worship group or read a lesson. Write an article for the newsletter!



***Deadline for February newsletter Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January***  
*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