



# Skinner Street United Reformed Church Poole

## April 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.



### *The Easter Garden at Salisbury Cathedral*

Since medieval times Christians have created temporary gardens to tell the story of Eastertide. In this Easter Garden at Salisbury Cathedral, Mediterranean plants represent the landscape in which Jesus lived. The sealed tomb is made with the same stone that was used to build the Cathedral. The door is opened on Easter Day to represent the Christian belief that Jesus rose again three days after he was buried.

The garden will remain in place until Pentecost, fifty days after Easter Day when, after Jesus returned to the Father in heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit to continue his mission on earth.

## DEAR FRIENDS

As we find ourselves approaching Easter Day I reflect on the words of John chapter 20 and verse 15 in the Authorised version of the Bible “she supposing Him to be the gardener”.

The context is the story of the garden where Jesus was laid to rest in the tomb. It is early in the morning on Easter Day , Mary Magdalene encounters Jesus but as the words of John tell us she thought He was the gardener. This is understandable for Mary had come to anoint Jesus’ body and had been at the foot of the cross when He had died so who else would it be but the gardener. As the hymn asks “were you there when they crucified my “ Mary had experienced the heart break of watching the person who had transformed her life die in the most evil and wicked of ways. She would have heard that cry “my God, my God ,why hast thou forsaken me?”

Mary had witnessed the life of someone who had done so much good and achieved so much good being harshly treated. No wonder that on this Easter Day when she was making her way to the tomb where Jesus was laid that she should think it was the gardener. There was no mistake she had witnessed along with Mary, His mother, aunt and His friend the dying moments of Jesus.

We have a friend who enjoys sailing and loves in particular to sail among the Greek Islands. A few years ago he took a photograph, which we subsequently framed and has a prominent place in our home, it is a photograph of a sunrise, that magical moment when the birth of a new day begins. The sunrise has been captured in such a way that the sun is behind a cross on a Greek Orthodox church .You can see the cross portrayed against the brightness of the sun.

Mary encounters Jesus who had told her and the disciples many times that on the third day following His death He would be raised . At the time she did not fully comprehend what was being said and she certainly had not believed. So no wonder the reaction “supposing Him to be the gardener”

Yet this is the very heart and centre of the Christian faith. When Mary realised that it was not the gardener, that it was Jesus she ran to tell her friends and the disciples that “The Lord is risen” . .

In order for Mary Magdelene to say “He is risen” she literally had to go through the experience of pain, agony and suffering of her friend but she emerged and was able to say it was no longer the gardener but Jesus. We travel through the intense days of Lent and Holy Week ,as we travel through all the experiences of life day by day , to emerge on Easter Day knowing that the love of this Jesus of Nazareth, crucified, dead, buried but on the third day risen to life everlasting is with us in each moment of our lives .  
Halleluia He is Risen.

A Happy and Blessed Easter to you all

Rev'd Margaret Evans



# Worship and Prayer in April

## **SERVICES** Sundays at 10.30am

5<sup>th</sup> Revd Dave Harkison *Holy Communion for Easter Day*

Servers: Shirley Marden & Chris Proudley

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

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

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

*There will be Coffee and Fellowship after the services*

## **DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER**

5<sup>th</sup> Chris Proudley

12<sup>th</sup> Janice Williams

19<sup>th</sup> Tricia Knapp

26<sup>th</sup> Janice Williams

## **DOOR STEWARDS**

5<sup>th</sup> Vera

12<sup>th</sup> Ross

19<sup>th</sup> Ross

26<sup>th</sup> Ross

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Patricia Arnold

9<sup>th</sup> TBA

16<sup>th</sup> Tricia Knapp

23<sup>rd</sup> Rev Sally Tayllor

30<sup>th</sup> TBA

## **Pastoral Notes**

Last month we had some friends in hospital so it is good to know that they are now home. To all who are experiencing pain and difficulties, remember, you are in our prayers. Life is not easy as we get older but even our children and grandchildren find this sometimes too. So whether you are young or old, each of you is important to the church and you will remain in our prayers

## **APRIL 2026 NOTES FROM THE CHURCH TREASURER**

It is good to start this note off with Good News! Yes, we have been awarded a grant from the BCP CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) through the Poole Quays Forum (the group who decide how to spend the CIL funds) and WORK TO UPGRADE THE HALL, KITCHEN, TOILETS AND PARLOUR can go ahead! As I write we are already in touch with the contractor and sorting out the jobs that have to be sorted before actual work can begin. But it won't be long!

As normal though, I say that the jobs and cost of them will be monitored very closely as the grant is not open ended! There will be some disruption while the work is carried out but it should not be for long and the result will be well worth it.

Many of our groups who use the hall will, during the disruption, use the Church. This may sound 'strange' but we are looking on it very positively as so many more people will actually come into our lovely church!

Parking will be affected but minimally. Please remember this if you come to park in the daytime.

Our own finances are pretty stable(at a quite low level!) and I hope this sunnier, warmer weather may help the utility bills. As we all know, these just keep rising! It is very heartening to see our Sunday morning congregation increasing, albeit slowly. I like to think that the friendly welcome and the good hymns to the pipe organ encourage folk to join us!

Thank you, Gail Nuttall

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## Affirmation of Baptism

Back in January the Revd Sally Taylor, leader of the Garden Church, contacted me to let me know that the church's cleaner, Anne Dryland, had expressed a wish to be baptised at Skinner Street URC.

As a result of that Sally and I met with Anne one Monday morning to have a conversation about it. The first question that Sally and I asked Anne was whether she'd already been baptised and she had. Because of that we both said that we can't re-baptise someone. I suggested that we might be able to have a service where Anne reaffirmed her baptism.

Our conversation that day included the reason's Anne felt called to have such a service and she told us that every time she came to clean the church, she felt a need to sit in the sanctuary and pray.

I therefore prepared a service of Affirmation of Baptism, largely based on the URC's confirmation service without Anne formally coming into Membership. We discussed dates - the next time I am due to be at Skinner Street is Easter Day - so we wondered about doing it at Thursday Prayers. Sally consulted with Chris and we agreed that Sally and I would lead prayers on Thursday March 12 and include the Affirmation.

The service was a joyful one and Anne was delighted to have gone through it and even brought the church a present of a picture she had herself made - I'm sure you will all see it in due course as it will be hung in the small hall once the building works have been completed.

God work in mysterious ways, it was a joy to serve Him in this way.

Revd Dave Harkison



**Open Air Good Friday service  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026  
10 am - Poole Town Square  
(by Sainsburys Supermarket)**

The service is coordinated by Churches Together in Poole. A number of local churches will be involved in the service itself, and the band of the Salvation Army will provide the music.

There will be hymns, prayers, a bible reading and an Easter reflection.

There will be a walk of witness to the service from St George's Church Oakdale and from Parkstone URC on Commercial Road Poole both leaving at 9.00 am.

Hot Cross buns and hot drinks at 8.30am at Parkstone URC

After the service hot drinks and cakes will be provided at The Spire church in the High Street.

*No charge is made but donations welcome.*

churchestogetherinpoole@gmail.com www.  
<https://www.churches-together-in-poole.co.uk/>

**An April Prayer** from the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Argentina and Uruguay

God of life, God of love, God of Creation,  
thank You for all the wonderful creatures You have made.

We thank You for the gift to inhabit and enjoy this world.  
Thank You for forests that provide our air and shade on hot days.

Thank You for the sun's shining energy,  
and the rains that refresh the earth with their fragrance.

Thank You for fertile soil that feeds us and  
sustains many creatures.

Help us recognize the earth's community as a democracy of life,  
rooted in the local economies of those who tend the land.

Give us strength to defend biodiversity and cultural diversity,  
putting the common good first, honouring all beings'  
right to sustenance.



***Deadline for May newsletter Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April***

*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