



Skinner Street United Reformed Church Poole

May 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.



**St Andrew's parish church
Pirongia New Zealand**

DEAR FRIENDS

Did you know that Easter lasts well into May? 50 days in fact is the time span for the Easter season - it takes us until Pentecost!

Hence I am wanting to share this with you in our May edition of the newsletter.

Easter is a very special season and time for us to reflect on the deeper things of life and we need to take longer than the Easter bank holiday weekend to do this! I spent this Easter in New Zealand visiting my sister and niece and nephew so I experienced it from a very different perspective and was able to reflect quite differently on it as a result. Our Northern hemisphere Easter happens always in Spring - we see Spring all around us - new life bursting forth and expressing the joy and zeal and hope of our Lord Jesus' resurrection. Easter, in particular Easter Sunday, so easily fits within our seasons here.

In the Southern hemisphere however Easter is within the longer nights and wet and decline of autumn. When my son Harry and I went to St Andrew's parish church in Pirongia New Zealand this Easter Sunday we noticed dried, dead leaves on the ground, bright hues of crimson as trees begin to prepare for winter.

How different it felt to be seeing nature not mimicking Jesus' resurrection but rather mirroring what comes before Easter Sunday. Death and loss and winter.

So often in the Easter Triduum (the 3 days leading up to Easter Sunday) we rush to the resurrection, we rush to new life, and spring and want to push past Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. We forget, as Easter people, that so much came before hope, before new life, before solution and redemption. The darkness, the suffering and loss that Jesus faced for us was longer, it was painful, it was autumn and winter.

And I think my experience of Easter in Autumn this year in New Zealand underlined that we worship a God who knows what it is to suffer, to be in the dark, to experience loss and waiting.

We often rush past this part of Easter as we want to focus on the positive and the life Jesus offers us in the redemption He fought, died and rose for. But this is not the whole story; we miss out the journey and the depth of God if we don't know God being with us in our darkness, in the uncertainty of life and the autumn of times in our life. Jesus experienced loss and darkness and He is with us in those times when we are in that place too. And in the darkness we find His love and His compassion and journeying.

So in this 50 day Easter season before we rush onto Pentecost can I encourage you to know and find Jesus in the dark times, He is the treasure to be found there and He will lead us through onwards but with nail holed hands.

ISAIAH 45 V 3 - I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places. That you may know that I the Lord who call you by name, am the God of Israel.

Much blessing Sally (Rev'd Sally Taylor)

Leader of Garden Church and the Community Garden at the URC
Skinner Street, Poole and Associate Pioneer Priest of St James' Church,
Poole
LLM Formation Officer



Autumn at St Andrew's parish church
Pirongia New Zealand

Worship and Prayer in May

SERVICES Sundays at 10.30am

- 3rd Mr Gerwyn Davies
10th Rev Tim Meachin *Holy Communion*
Servers: Shirley Marden & Tricia Knapp
17th Mrs Tricia Knapp
24th Mrs Linda Pain
31st Joint Service at Swanage URC

There will be Coffee and Fellowship after the services

DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER

- 3rd Chris Proudley
10th Shirley Marden
17th Janice Williams
24th Muriel Coombes

DOOR STEWARDS

- 3rd Vera
10th Ross
17th Ross
24th Ross

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

- 7th Tricia Knapp
14th Patricia Arnold
20th Chris Proudley
27th Rev Dave Harkison

Can You Help?

Several of the red pew cushions have gone missing. Chris has asked that if you have borrowed them please would you return them to the sanctuary. Thank you.

MAY 2026
INFORMATION FROM THE CHURCH TREASURER

More good news! The date for work to commence on our hall etc is Monday 11 May. This is very exciting but it will involve some disruption and require cooperation and patience from us all. I am sure we will manage well.

The Parlour, Hall, Office, Kitchen, toilets and the hall entrance will be **OUT OF BOUNDS** from this date (Monday 11 May) until completion. Please respect this. It anticipated completion should be by the end of June.

Some of our groups will be meeting in the Church. A temporary toilet will be provided, outside. Very basic facilities will be set up in the 'choir vestry' so tea and coffee can be made but there is no running water, so bringing our own cups or even takeaway coffee may be best!

The car park will be busy as ever, so again, please only park if really necessary during the daytime. I would like to remind all our friends who use the car park that unless you pay a monthly fee, church members and friends should only use the car park for their social use and not as a place to park if at work in the area.

The main work is covered from the CIL grant, (thank you Poole Quays Forum and BCP) but there will be expenses that the Church have to cover. The increase in fuel is already being felt but thankfully the summer is coming so it is hoped that far less gas will be used! We will be holding some fundraising events after the work is complete so I hope you will support us.

On the 17 June, a Wednesday, the Dorset Historic Churches Trust will come to visit us. This group has helped fund work to repair our Church building in the past. They will be told about the architectural history of the building and hopefully enjoy a coffee. All are welcome, starting from 10.00am with the coffee!

Planning for the celebrations to mark the 250th Anniversary of the church building in 2027 is progressing with some very exciting ideas. We will need help to 'man' the various open days and activities, so I hope many of you will be willing to volunteer. Again, once the refurbishment work is complete, more time will be given to 2027!

Thank you,

Gail Nuttall

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

Gail Nuttall. grn23g@gmail.com 01202 707231 - 07774 283 179
23 Crichel Mount Road, Poole Dorset BH14 8LT

~~~~~

## Pastoral Notes

How the years fly by! We are well aware that our age is not relevant to how we feel but sadly bodies and minds do not always keep up!  
Many of our friends have hospital visits or stays and we remember them in our prayers. Others are moving into care homes. Life changes. Wherever you are and whatever your circumstances, you are in our prayers. We send love and friendship to you. Please call anyone with their contact details in this newsletter as we can listen, visit and offer friendship



**Christian Aid Week 2026 is focusing on supporting families facing poverty and hunger, particularly in Nairobi, Kenya and Burundi.**

**A Daily devotional booklet will be available on the back table.**

**In the meantime - A Christian Aid Quiz to test you on their history and work as well as general knowledge.**

**Answers on page 8.**

1. Christian Aid Week is seven days to make a difference. In which year was it first held?
2. According to the "Monday's Child" rhyme, what is the child born on a Wednesday full of?
3. In which month of the golfing calendar does The Masters week take place in Augusta?
4. In Monopoly, how much do you collect when you pass "Go"?
5. How many countries border Kenya.
6. What is the estimated population of Kenya?
7. Can you name Kenya's big five the safari-goers hope to spot?
8. What is the painting 'La Gioconda' more famously known as?
9. How many eyes does a bee have?
10. Which country has the longest coastline in the world?

If you have enjoyed this quiz and would like to support the work of Christian Aid you can pay any donations at [caweek.org](http://caweek.org), Alternatively, you can send a cheque to Christian Aid, 35-45 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL

Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance. Eng and Wales charity no. 1105851 Scot charity no. SC039150 Company no. 5171525 Christian Aid Ireland: NI charity no. NIC101631 Company no. NI059154 and ROI charity no. 20014162 Company no. 426928 The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid. © Christian Aid January 2026



## **We Give Thanks**

**Poet: Catherine Pulsifer**

God, for the month of May, we give thanks to thee  
For warmth and sunshine so graciously bestowed  
Amid the blooms, in nature's beauty  
We see your hand in every petal that glowed

Renewed by new growth, we humbly pray  
To live a life as vibrant as this day  
With newfound strength and hearts aglow,  
We thank you for this month's gentle flow.

### **Answers to quiz on page 7**

1. 1957 (70th year celebrations next year!!)
2. Woe
3. April
4. £200
5. 5 - Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia
6. 53 million, the 27th most populous in the world and the seventh-most populous in Africa
7. Lion, Leopard, African Elephant, Rhinoceros and Buffalo.
8. The Mona Lisa
9. Five
10. Canada

***Deadline for June newsletter Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May***

*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