



**Skinner Street
United Reformed Church
Poole**

July 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.



*A Beautiful Mistbow on the English Channel
Taken on the Morning of 21st June 2026
by Gail's daughter Storm.*

Dear friends,

The Church with a pointed roof!

I would like to introduce you to a 10 year old girl named Yvonne, a member of my Guide Company based within the inner city area of industrial Sheffield, the “City of Steel”, also surrounded on all sides by the Coal Mines of the early 1970s.

The day Yvonne joined the company, she was very shy, she was the youngest child of a Jamaican family, and unfortunately she only had one arm. During the weeks that followed, I noticed she would regularly take out of her pocket a “Picture Postcard”. As her confidence grew, I asked her to show me the card. As she gave this to me she said very quietly, “this is my church with the pointed roof and one day I am going to see it” it was surrounded by grass and many flowers. It was indeed a lovely church with a steeple.

On discussing this with her mother, it was revealed, before moving to this country, Yvonne had been given the postcard by her grandmother whom she loved dearly, telling her, once in England, she would see this church one day. However, living within the city centre, the only church Yvonne would see was Sheffield Cathedral, which unfortunately had a tower, not a steeple.

As time passed, Yvonne became a very active helpful Guide, despite her disability, she would always wear a smile, forever keen to help others. Needless to say, she always carried the “postcard” with her, hoping against hope, one day, she would see her church with the pointed roof and be able to write to her grandmother with the wonderful news.

The following summer we arranged to take the Guides to camp at the Sheffield County Camp site at "Whiteley Woods" on the outskirts of the city very close to the pretty village of Fulwood. Luckily, it was close enough to take a very scenic walk to morning service at Fulwood Parish Church, which I knew very well had a grassy area with flowers and a beautiful Steeple.

As Yvonne was coming to camp with us, I decided not to say anything to her regarding the church, but I did confide in her mother, who was delighted, and promised to keep the secret.

The day we arrived at camp, was very very special, amidst great excitement, as many of the children were seeing the lovely countryside for the first time. On the Sunday morning we prepared to make our way to church at Fulwood, all looking very smart in uniform. I did discreetly check Yvonne was indeed carrying her postcard, safely in her pocket. On our way down to the village, the Church bells began their Sunday welcome. Before we actually came within sight of the Church, I made sure Yvonne was in the front of our group. What happened next, will stay with me always.

As we rounded the corner, the Church with the Steeple came into view - Yvonne stopped in her tracks, let out a huge shout of joy, bursting into tears, she grabbed my hand and said through her tears "My Church with the pointed roof" There were quite a few tears shed by everyone of us in the next few minutes. Before the Service, we met the vicar, I introduced Yvonne, she then produced her "postcard", telling her story, beaming from ear to ear. As I already knew, the vicar was very good with children, and led the Guides into the Belfry to say hello to the Bellringers. Yvonne could hardly believe what had happened, the sheer joy on her face said it all, at last - she had found her church with the pointed roof.....

Patricia.

Worship and Prayer in July

SERVICES Sundays at 10.30am

- 5th Mrs Tricia Knapp
- 12th Mrs Tricia Knapp
- 19th Rev. Dr. Michael Hopkins – Moderator Wessex Synod URC

Holy Communion

Servers: Janice Williams & Tricia Knapp

- 26th Mr Ian Pethick

There will be Coffee and Fellowship after the services

DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER

- 5th Shirley Marden
- 12th Chris Proudley
- 19th Janice Williams
- 26th Chris Proudley

DOOR STEWARDS

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

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

- 2nd Patricia
- 7th Chris
- 14th Sally
- 21st Shirley
- 28th TBA



Michael Hopkins Synod Moderator will be leading worship on 19th July. It would be nice if as many as possible could come.

Michael's role is to lead the whole work of the Synod, as Minister to Ministers, and friend of churches

JULY 2026 - WHAT IS GOING ON and WHAT IS TO COME FROM THE CHURCH TREASURER

It appears that my thoughts about 'summer coming sometime' last month have proved correct, with this heat wave at the end of June. Thankfully, the Church remains a cool, calm place, to welcome us all. The refurbishment work to the hall etc has 'hotted up' though and by the time you read this, may be complete.

The budget for the work is tight but we knew this before we started. It will be great to have our faithful groups back to their regular activities and the income that brings. I thank them all for their patience.

Moving now to the 250th Anniversary of the Church building, next year, 2027. With the hall and community areas all up together, we hope to have more local residents making use of them. The 'Group 27' Planning Group are finalising ideas that will, we hope, give a picture of the life of the church, the building and all the many connections it has to the history of this area and to non-conformism.

To show all this off we will need to open our doors as much as possible to visitors. This will need volunteers, so when we have dates etc, I do hope you can 'sign up'!

We are asking all members, friends and local folk if they, their parents, relatives, or any local person who was married or christened at Skinner Street if they have a photograph of the event. We would love to display the local family connections. Please let me know if you have a connection and photograph. I would love the photos with names and dates please, BUT NOT ORIGINALS, as they could be lost!

We also would love to receive a written history of YOUR CONNECTION with Skinner Street, in about 500 words. Could you tell us how you are connected, when, what part, if any, you have played in the life of the church? I would be happy to come and chat with you to make the notes if that would help.

But coming back to our current financial position, once all the bills for the work has been paid, we know the bank balance will be quite low but I have every faith that within a few months, it will look healthier.

Now for a repeat of some information that I gave last month. On the Saturday 4 July, 11.00am – 2.00pm, it is the Fun Day organised by SMILE, (a group supporting lone parent families in our local area) and supported by Faithworks. We will take our 'retro games' across. This is at St James's, across the High Street.

A further event will be on the weekend of 12 and 13 September, a busy time for old town Poole! It is the Dorset Historic Ride and Stride annual fund raising sponsored event. It is never too soon to pledge some sponsorship to me and others who will either walk, bike or an alternative activity. This weekend coincides with Dorset Historic Architectural fortnight which always brings visitors to our church. There is also a festival programme on the Quay and lower High Street.

Take care in this heat but enjoy the Dorset sunshine.

Thank you,

Gail Nuttall

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Update on the “Skinner Street URC Community Hall Upgrade Works”

The update on renovation project for the community hall is that it has progressed well, the results are looking good and we are hoping to have full access in the first couple of weeks in July.

Chris



Pastoral Notes

We have recently lost Dorothy Gardener, who had been ill for some time. She was an active and cheerful member with us for a number of years, having moved to Poole after the death of her husband. Our thoughts are with her daughter Janet and the wider family.

We also remember the brother of Carol.

Held also in our prayers are those with different health issues. Older age is not the easy life dreamed of when one is younger!

Our thoughts are also with those in our regular congregation who are experiencing temporary problems.

We support you in prayer at Thursday Morning Prayers. All are welcome. Please call anyone, if you need a chat as we can listen, visit and offer friendship.



Wessex Synod



The area of the Wessex Synod covers all or part of seven counties: Dorset, Hampshire, Surrey, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire, together with the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands.

Not surprisingly, this geographical spread provides a wide variety of communities, from inner-city to small villages.

The Synod has around 4,000 members in 108 local churches, many of which are shared with ecumenical partners.

Deadline for August newsletter Thursday 28th July

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

