



# **Skinner Street United Reformed Church Poole June 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 view of the garden  
from the soon to be replaced/repared  
parlour window**

*Dear friends,*

“I was sick and you took care of me.” With these words in Matthew’s gospel (25:36) Jesus identifies himself with those who find themselves in the care of our hospitals today. Since the creation of the National Health Service in 1948 our publicly funded healthcare system has been available to us all at time of need.

I became interested in healthcare chaplaincy because it gives the opportunity to offer Christian pastoral care to people at some of the most difficult moments in their lives. Michael Wilson described the hospital as a ‘place of truth’; I have had hundreds of privileged encounters with people (usually total strangers) who have permitted me to listen to their story, advise them and pray for them. I am often aware that for some present it will be their first (and sometimes last) encounter with a Christian minister and so I am challenged to be brave and rely on the Holy Spirit.

Today the hospital is increasingly a meeting point of faiths and cultures. Last year we opened a new Chaplaincy Centre at Royal Bournemouth Hospital (which I codesigned) as part of the new BEACH building which forms the new main entrance there. The Chaplaincy Centre includes a Prayer and Reflection space configured for inclusive use, with access to ritual washing facilities which are used by our Muslim staff as part of their daily religious observance on long shifts. When I take a Holy Communion service there it is not unusual for a member of clinical staff to slip in quietly to use Muslim prayer space at the same time. Others of different religions (and no religion) frequent the Chaplaincy Centre looking for quiet, a chance to reflect, or a listening ear. Today’s chaplaincy services in healthcare act more like a spiritual ‘embassy’ on the secular ground of the hospital – so in the words of St. Paul “we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us” (2 Cor 5:20).

When I first joined the hospital chaplaincy team in 2020 I believed myself to be fit and well. In 2021 I was found to have Parkinson's Disease (young onset) and I became a patient of the hospital as well as a chaplain. I rarely discuss my own health with hospital patients, but my own illness has informed the way I act around patients and families, who are frequently hiding their own deep fears and vulnerabilities. I am often reminded that I will likely be where they are at some point in the future. Still, I identify myself imperfectly with those to whom I minister in hospital. With full compassion, Christ identifies himself with all who are sick, vulnerable, or who are in any sort of need. 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25:40).

With every blessing for you and those you love and think of,

James

*James Taylor is Lead Chaplain at University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust, which includes Poole, Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch hospitals.*

### **Pastoral Notes**

Our thoughts are with those in our regular congregation who have worrying health issues and who have lost family members, made harder for those who are on their own. Comfort and support can come through the church but we support you in prayer and company, especially at Thursday Morning Prayers. All are welcome.

Please call anyone, if you need a chat as we can listen, visit and offer friendship.

# Worship and Prayer in June

## SERVICES Sundays at 10.30am

- 7<sup>th</sup> Mrs Mandy Hibbert  
14<sup>th</sup> Mrs Patricia Arnold  
21<sup>st</sup> Mrs Tricia Knapp  
28<sup>th</sup> Revd. Dave Harkison *Holy Communion*

Servers: Chris Proudley & Janice Williams

*There will be Coffee and Fellowship after the services*

## DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER

- 7<sup>th</sup> Muriel Coombes  
14<sup>th</sup> Janice Williams  
21<sup>st</sup> Shirley Marden  
28<sup>th</sup> Chris Proudley

## DOOR STEWARDS

- 7<sup>th</sup> Vera  
14<sup>th</sup> Ross  
21<sup>st</sup> Ross  
28<sup>th</sup> Ross

## THURSDAY PRAYERS 10.15am

*(Followed by coffee and fellowship)*

- 4<sup>th</sup> Cerri  
11<sup>th</sup> Patricia  
18<sup>th</sup> Sally  
25<sup>th</sup> Shirley

**\*Don't forget the church AGM 7.00pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.**



I was able to send £65 to Christian Aid from the pew envelopes. Thank you for your continued support.  
Tricia

## **JUNE 2026**

### **WHAT IS GOING ON FROM THE CHURCH TREASURER**

Welcome to June, but when writing this I cannot say, 'flaming or summer' when looking out of the window while writing this! I am sure we will see more sun and warmth soon though.

The weather has not affected the work to refurbish the hall and other areas. It is going well and should be very near completion by early June. All our groups will be relieved to get back to 'normal' but some are finding using the church for ballet, juggling, music practice or a meeting is actually a good experience. It is often said a change is good! A full report on the work is this newsletter.

We can now look forward to making full use of improved facilities during the summer and plan fully for next year the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of our building. Hopefully the local community will realise this church is for them, as well as those of us who worship here.

We are looking for photos of weddings that have taken place over the years. Do you have one or know of one?? It would be great to hear you have a photo we can display in due course. Another 'project' is to encourage both long term and more current congregation and friends who have a contact with Skinner Street Church over the years. I am looking for about a page of A4 (250 words). I am sure many of you have interesting connections and stories, it would be great to have them 'logged'. If you feel unable to write, we can arrange for someone to visit and chat with you and record your memories.

Back to the opening of the hall and parlour after the refurbishment. We plan to showcase all that goes on here and hope all our groups and ourselves will hold an open weekend soon. We have yet to agree a date! Watch this space.

One event is not actually based at Skinner Street but at St James's, just across the High Street. On Saturday 4 July 11.00am – 2.00pm. It is organised by SMILE, (a group supporting lone parent families in our local area) and supported by Faithworks. We will take our 'retro games' across but also ensure that we publicise our garden! Helpers for the day will be needed, so I will be asking for people to sign up please.

A main event later 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.

On the mundane matter of the Church bank account, I am keeping a very close eye on it as the work has thrown up some 'extra' costs but so far, all is under control and we are managing. As I always say, we cannot be complacent and need to keep looking at raising funds while carrying out the work of the church to our members, friends and local community.

Thank you, Gail Nuttall

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## “Skinner Street URC Community Hall Upgrade Works”

Doesn't the Community Garden look fantastic?!

Sally and the Garden Church who meet here on alternate Sunday afternoons have done a wonderful job in creating this beautiful and peaceful space where formerly there was just a lot of gravel and hard surfaces which Tricia and Alan fought hard to keep looking as good as possible.

The funding for this was provided by BCP Council through Poole Quay Forum and was from Community Infrastructure Levy funds recovered from developers building all the new homes in Old Poole.

When Andy from the Forum came to the Open Day last year to see what had been created he suggested that funds might also be available to upgrade the Hamworthy Hall given its use by so many community groups.

The hall was well built, but that was nearly 50 years ago (!) and it was looking a little tired after extensive use by us and other groups.

We therefore applied for another CIL grant to upgrade it and we have been very fortunate to have been awarded around £70,000 to do this.



### **Briefly the works include**

- New flooring in the main and entrance halls, the office and the storeroom
- Insulation in the roof space of both the community hall and the Parlour
- Repair /replace windows and doors
- Replace worn out sanitary ware in the loos and create a new lavatory in what has been the utility cupboard in the Gents
- New hot water heaters, dishwasher, oven and (vented) hood in the kitchen



Cont'd over

## General redecoration

At this stage there is no allowance for anything further in the kitchen, but as the project progresses we may see if there are sufficient funds to replace the work surfaces and the main sink.



Works commenced on 11/5/26 and after a bit of a delay due to the removal of the inevitable asbestos, are now progressing very well.

For the duration of the works the whole area is out of bounds to everyone so a Portaloos has been installed in the garden and a field kitchen in the Choir Vestry. All users are making use of the Sanctuary (not the Badminton Group) and it's good to see that this is being embraced with good grace.

Without any promises (!) we hope the works will be completed towards the middle/end of June and we will then have a splendid new facility which we must ensure is used by as many local groups as possible as well as by us.

Watch this space!"

Thank you both very much

Christopher Proudley

***Deadline for July newsletter Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
(please note early deadline date.)***

*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

