



Skinner Street United Reformed Church Poole

October 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.



Autumn in the New Forest

Dear Friends

For the past 2 years I start and end my day with prayers from “The Celtic Wheel of the year” by Tess Ward. I have found these prayers a really beautiful and connected way to mark the seasons in prayer and to help me to really take in and realise that God is a God of all seasons too. What has struck me recently however is the way our seasons are changing and so the prayers around October and going into winter seem off even though the book was only written 19 years ago. Our seasons are changing. Our climate is warming and we face, going towards the end of this year, predictions of storms and very wet weather which is a mad contrast from the recent dustbowl, fire filled summer.

In our community Garden at Skinner Street, we have really grappled with the summer of drought and will have to rethink what crops and flowers can flourish with little water and full strong sunshine and heat next year. I don't think God however is surprised by the state of our climate and our world. He is, as Hagar proclaims after great suffering, “you are the God who sees me” (Genesis 16 v13). God sees our world and weeps. He is our God who knows what suffering is, knows what death and loss and cost looks and feels like, who died and rose again but with nail holes still in His wrists. He is with us in the uncertainty of these times of climate change and disaster. He also however is our God who created all of the world and created us in His image to be carers for our planet. Not for us to lord over it and control and make it suffer for our own ends but to care, to see as He does.

We have a calling to steward, to care, to be as God is to us to the environment and all around us. And if we just look to people and practises of old such as the Celtic way of Christian life and prayer we realise we are totally dependent and intertwined with nature.

So, thinking of and being inspired by St Francis and closer to home St Cuthbert we need to learn to care for our planet, to take stock of our impact on the environment, to do as many small and big things to make a difference to our warming planet. So I offer you here a few ideas to ponder on as you head into winter and to see if you could act upon any of them as we look to a future so very uncertain with weather and yet certain in the truth that God sees us and is with us and journeys with us into the unknown.

Could you?

- Switch to use ecologically neutral washing power and washing up liquid?
- Could you move your money to an ethical bank like Nationwide, Co-Op or Monzo and away from banks that invest in war, arms, fossil fuels like Barclays, Lloyds, HSBC and NatWest?
- Buy second hand or ethical clothes – not fast fashion brands who exploit their workers like Primark?
- Use the bus more than taking the car?
- Choose to take the train rather than fly?
- Buy less meat and eat more vegetarian meals?
- Shop locally supporting local butchers, bakers, grocers?

An October blessing from “The Celtic Wheel of the year” by Tess Ward (p.218 2007)

“Beloved One, my Beginning and End,
For every season I have journeyed, gratitude;
And for those that are to come, I trust,
Bless the time that I spend now in this turning world
Until I reach the place where there are no seasons
but only your peace”

With every blessing Sally Taylor

Worship and Prayer in October

SERVICES Sundays at 10.30am

4th Mrs Mandy Hibbert

11th Mrs Tricia Knapp *Harvest Festival*

18th Mrs Tricia Knapp *Holy Communion*

Servers: Chris Proudley & Patricia Arnold

25th Revd. Margaret Evans

There will be Coffee and Fellowship after the services

DUTY ELDER and VESTRY PRAYER

4th Janice Williams

11th Shirley Marden

18th Patricia Arnold

25th Chris Proudley

DOOR STEWARDS

4th Vera

11th Ross

18th Ross

25th Ross

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

1st Chris

8th Shirley

15th Sally

22nd Patricia

29th Dave



Please bring your gifts of Non-Perishable food for the Poole Food Bank to the harvest service or earlier if more convenient and place them in the windows. Thank you.



HARVEST LUNCH: After the Service on Sunday 11th October there will be a Ploughman's Lunch. Tea & Coffee will be provided but please feel free to bring your favourite 'tipple'! Everyone is invited. There is no charge but if you would like to give a monetary donation this will go to Christian Aid.

Pastoral Notes

Sadly over the past few weeks we have seen two loyal members pass. Frank Stewart who had worshiped with us until health prevented, will have his life celebrated at a Thanksgiving Service on Friday 2 October 2.00pm at the Halo Ceremony Hall (former Poole Crematorium). Sadly Jill Campbell-Dykes, who had been a member for many, many years, lost her battle with cancer and is now at peace. She and Frank are remembered in our prayers.

We have a number of members and friends who are finding that older age is no fun. Rev Charles Meachin has had a short spell in hospital recently and other of our congregation have to make frequent hospital and doctor's visits. You are all in our prayers.

OCTOBER 2026

FROM THE CHURCH TREASURER

It was all happening in September! The Open Weekend 12/13 September was a great success with a number of visitors coming to learn about and admire our 250 year old building. Thank you to all who helped over this weekend and especially to Tricia and Alan Knapp who did the majority of work to showcase the history of both the church and what was happening in the local and national news. All very fascinating. If you have not visited, the window displays will be up until the Harvest week 11 October.

Patricia and I did a walk for Dorset Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride annual fundraising event and have raised a total of £435, a great sum. 50% comes back to us and we are still able to accept sponsorship donations!!(Full story in next newsletter).

My details are later in this newsletter together with the church bank account details!

There is a separate article about our the Open Weekend.

The fair weather continues to keep the utility bills very reasonable and now we have the refurbishment complete and our loyal groups returning, the bank account is holding up.

The car park is not only helpful to local residents and those who work in the area, but make a big contribution to our income. Please can I remind all who come into the car park to either have registered with us as a church member or friend or enter your number into the hall IPad for a 4 hour stay. I cannot keep requesting parking charge tickets to be cancelled, sorry!

A fairly brief report this month but it was busy and we are looking forward to events in October and in the run up to Christmas!!

We are also working on plans for next year 2027! Have you written about 'How I am associated with Skinner Street'?

Gail Nuttall

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**OPEN WEEKEND AT SKINNER STREET FOR
DORSET HISTORIC CHURCHES
RIDE AND STRIDE FUNDRAISER
DORSET ARCHECTURAL HERITAGE WEEK
12 and 13 SEPTEMBER 2026**

This was a busy weekend at Skinner Street Church. We have opened for these events in past years and will be doing so next year, the 250th anniversary of our church building.

Saturday was the Ride and Stride day and we welcomed 4 visitors on their fundraising walk or cycle ride. The Bishop of Sherborne, Karen, called in to us mid-afternoon as she was 'striding', ending up at St James. Her walk was rather further than the one Patricia and I completed but then she is considerably younger! It was great to see her.

Many visitors came to find out about the architectural history as Skinner Street is an important religious building and features in many architectural references as well as religious.

Patricia and Ross and others, did an amazing job as 'tour guides' and were kept busy most of the day. We saw fewer visitors on Sunday but one person joined in our service before his tour! We were very pleased that Sarah, Jo and Margaret joined us for Saturday morning as 'meeting and greeting' was very important. A loyal supporter Tom also gave his time on Saturday. We all enjoyed speaking to those who came in, many local folk, 'have passed by many times but never stepped in'. It is always fun to chat to these people as so many discover some kind of connection! Sally was with us on Sunday and thanks to her (and again Ross) for taking down the bunting etc which we had put out on Saturday.

Chris did a super job organising refreshments for our visitors as well as keeping the volunteers fed and watered. Thank you to all who contributed cakes, biscuits and sausage rolls.

A star attraction was the superb display of our history and the events of the years 1787 to 1918 that our church has seen. Tricia has made a very comprehensive story around both the life of the church, the local area and national events. Of course some of our archives were available too. If you could not visit during the weekend, the window displays will be in place until just before our Harvest Service, Sunday 11 October 10.30am. A huge vote of thanks must be given to Tricia and Alan for all the hard work they do in not only creating the displays but for keeping the archives in order too. Sadly now most things have become 'digital' meeting notes and pictures will not be so available to future generations to explore!

This is not a fundraising weekend though perhaps we should encourage more donations but the teas and coffee have contributed some £55.00 to the overall total of sponsorship for DHCT.

Thank you again to all who supported over the weekend or at other times. We will be having a 'debrief' in order to do even better next year.

Gail

Making full use of our newly refurbished hall and kitchen



After our joint service at Skinner Street with Wareham and Swanage Churches on Sunday 30th August we hosted a “hot” lunch for everybody.

It was a great event and all could experience the newly refurbished hall. We quickly got to grips with our new oven!

We are planning another lunch on Saturday 5th December at 12.30 with turkey and Christmas pudding on the menu with a suggested donation of £5 each. Please let Christopher Proudley (my email address?) know if you plan to attend.”

For church matters or to discuss arrangements for a Baptism,
Wedding or Funeral: Shirley Marden 07980 923217
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Contributions to Tricia: 01202 632399

