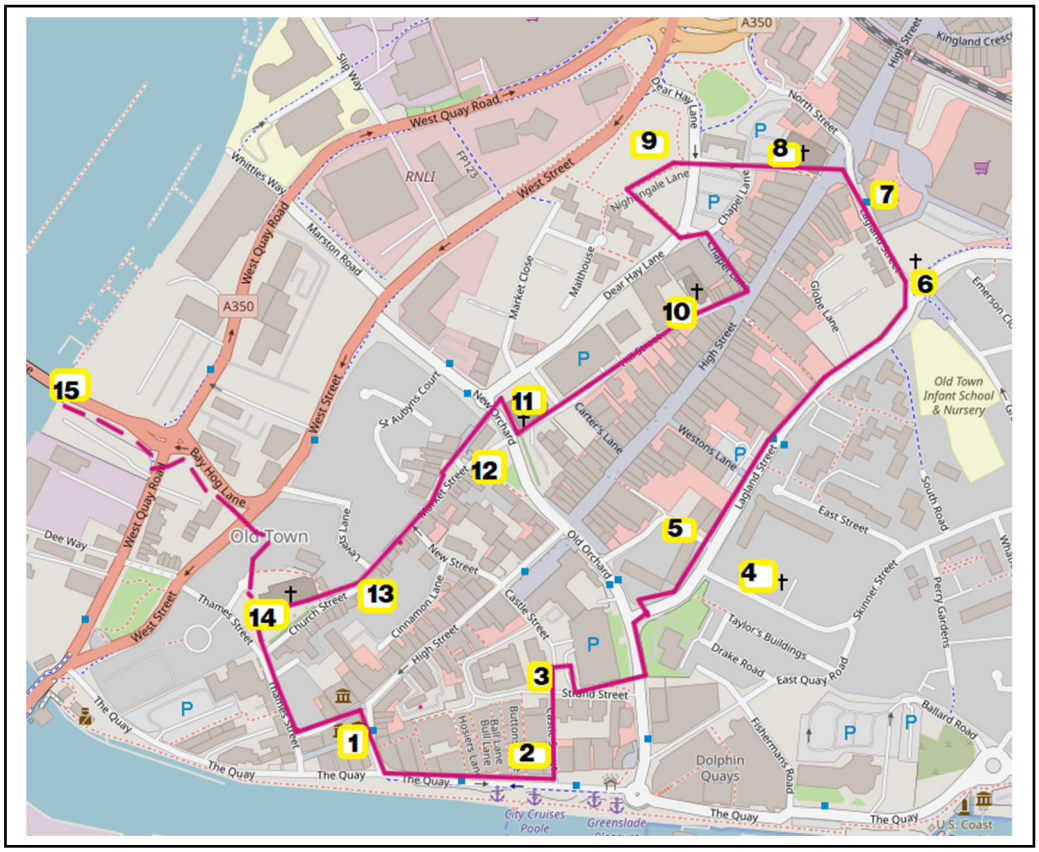


Key

1 Poole Museum
2 Oriel restaurant
3 Wesley plaque
4 Skinner St URC
5 Old Town Community Centre
6 Poole Christian Fellowship
7 Lord Wimborne
8 The Spire
9 Hunger Hill/ Old Cemetery
10 Genesis No. 34 Hill Street
11 Salvation Army Citadel
12 The Guildhall
13 Almshouses
14 St James Church
15 The Twin Sails Bridge

1 **Begin at Poole Museum** at the western end of the High Street.

Walk from there to the quay. Go eastwards along the Quay until you reach the Oriel restaurant

2 On the corner of Castle Street is the Oriel Restaurant where the **Poole's Seaman's Mission** used to be. There is a mural about it on the wall inside the ground floor. Established in Britain in 1856 the **Mission to Seafarers** is a society of the Anglican Communion that still has relevance for seamen in 250 ports around the world today.

Then turn left and walk through the narrow Castle Street to the far side of Strand Street and cross over into the continuing Castle Street.

3 See the **plaque** at first floor level on the wall of the offices on the left and opposite the multi-story car park, referring to members of the **Wesley family**. You are now where the old Prison used to be.

Now go east along Strand Street, turn left on Old Orchard , cross Old Orchard to Lagland St. walk up Lagland St. then turn right into Skinner Street.

The large building on your left is Skinner Street URC which is often open to visitors.

4 **Skinner Street United Reformed Church** is the oldest church building in Poole, built in 1777, and is the motherchurch of several United Reformed and similar churches in the wider area. In the past it has been the home of Routes to Roots a charity helping the homeless and rough sleepers. This moved to Genesis House in Hill Street on the 21st March 2022 (No 10 on the map)

Carry on to the pedestrian crossing, cross and return to:

5 **The Old Town Community Centre** in Prosperous Street, opposite the United Reformed Church. It was the site of a **Quaker** meeting place, possibly since 1655. The main hall of the building dates from 1795-6

Continue along Lagland Street to the mini roundabout and Opposite is:

6 the **Poole Christian Fellowship** building, long a place of worship for various churches of a free evangelical nature. Currently Kings Church and The Vine Church share the building for worship

7 To the left of the Poole Christian Fellowship building on North Street is the **Lord Wimborne** pub. Originally a free Library donated to the Borough of Poole in 1887 by timber merchant John Norton, a teetotaller; quite an irony given its role today. On the wall by the main bar is a tiled illustration of the High Street indicating various historic buildings. This includes St Paul's Church on High Street, looking like a Greek Temple. Dated 1873 it also shows St James' Church

Continue along North Street and cross the High Street to:

8 **The Spire, Home of Poole Methodists** is on the opposite side of the High St.. The whole redevelopment project was celebrated and dedicated in July 2019, and ensures all facilities are accessible and welcoming to all. The work cost around £4m. On the ground floor is a café called "Wesley's" and a small chapel for daily prayers. Sunday worship takes place in the Rose Hall above.

Now walk into Chapel Lane beside the Methodist Church; the lane runs behind the High Street shops, and rejoins High Street on the corner of Hill Street. Walk along Chapel Lane and over Dear Hay Lane to a large green area with some gravestones.

9 This is **Hunger Hill,** with West Street beyond and West Quay Road, where a Roman Catholic Church, demolished years ago, stood near the site of the current RNLI HQ. The replacement is St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, a very modern building, in Wimborne Road. It has a large car park and useful halls and is virtually opposite the Longfleet Baptist Church.

Return to the High Street at it's junction with Hill St. Continue down Hill Street for about 50 yards to:

10 The Baptist Church built in 1815. It is now called the Genesis Centre and is the home to Routes to Roots. This is a charity dedicated to providing a drop in for the homeless. Hot food is offered at lunchtimes 5 days a week with facilities for showers.
The intention is to provide a comprehensive one stop building for the homeless providing for all their needs physical mental and financial. The building is owned and has been refurbished by the Charity and apart from a manager is staffed by volunteers.

Continue on Hill Street past the car park which was the site of the Unitarian Church. Continue along Hill street to the Salvation Army Building

11 The **Salvation Army Citadel** is on the corner of Dear Hay Lane, Hill Street and New Orchard. This new building replaced an older hall in Castle Street.

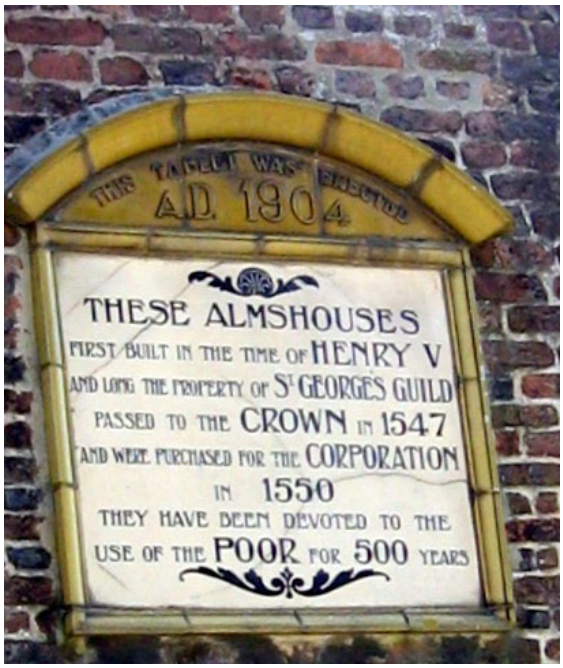
Services are held on Sundays, and the building is used for a wide variety of activities including: craft events, children and young people's meetings and there is the customary band.

Carefully Cross New Orchard and walk down Market Street

12 **The Guildhall,** while not a faith building, is where wedding ceremonies are held and it is the Register Office for all births and deaths in the area and the room upstairs has a venue popular for weddings. It is also the final stop at Christmas time for the Childrens lantern parade

Walk further down into Church Street

13 The St George's Almshouses and the plaque above are of an historic interest. These are now part of the Municipal and Owen Carter Almshouse charity, also responsible for the Old Rope Walk community in Hamworthy.



14 **St James' Church** is on the right, it was erected in 1821 to replace an earlier building, and the site has been one for worship for many centuries. There is a historic connection with Newfoundland and many interesting objects to see inside for instance the pillars are made from Newfoundland trees. Services are held on Sunday mornings. The Church Hall on the opposite side of Church Street is now called Jimmy's and is the base for the Poole Food Bank

A short diversion from the front of the church takes you across West Street and West Quay Road along Bay Hog Lane, to:

15 The iconic **Twin Sails Bridge** – now nominated for a Royal Institution of British Architects Award - the first step to a major regeneration of both banks of the Channel between Old Town, Poole and Hamworthy.

From St James Church walk along Thames Street and Thames Alley to Sarum Street by Poole Museum where you began your trail.

This fine local museum has many interesting exhibits when open

There are also plenty of pubs and restaurants on the Quay nearby to refresh you.

Faith in Poole

This short walk around the Old Town of Poole and area features places of relevance to different faiths in Poole today and in earlier days. It will take you around an hour unless you linger along the way.

Poole was once a point of departure for pilgrims to the shrine of St James in Santiago de Compostela. The Borough of Poole Coat of Arms features the scallop shells of St James. The Parish Church of St James is on this trail.

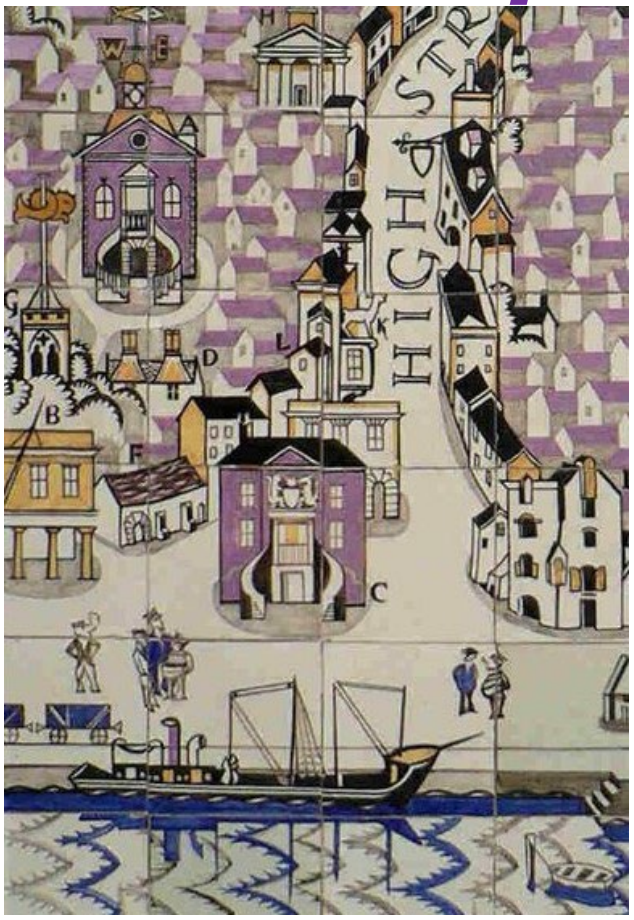
Faith here, once dominated by the Roman Catholic and Anglican denominations, developed from around the time of the Civil War (1642-1651), on a broad non-conformist front. Many people began to follow faiths that emerged with the greater tolerance of the day. Today's churches and buildings reflect their activities, including United Reformed Churches, Baptists, Quakers, Methodists and the Salvation Army.

Many of their buildings are still here, framing the built form of Poole. As you wander, note too how other less well recognised buildings in the town now also illustrate the changing nature and celebration of faith locally:

- the drop-in centre in Hill Street; and
- the one time Quakers' meeting house (since as early as 1655) at the Old Town Community Centre.

Faiths celebrated across Poole today reflect many more beliefs and perspectives than those highlighted in this trail.

PooleTown Heritage & Faith Map



CHURCHES TOGETHER

Rotary Club of Poole

The Faith Trail:

Alison Dalton, of **Faithworks Wessex** and **Bridging Communities** came up with the idea for the faith trail at a community meeting in 2010. The idea was that the trail would help to highlight the network of ancient alleys and paths in central Poole.

The many central area paths were mapped and surveyed by the **Rotary Club of Poole Bay** with a view to seeing the network statutorily protected. The Club, with the help of Penny Elliott, of **Churches Together in Poole**. Brian Galpin, and David Watkins of **Poole Museum**, produced the original leaflet. The document has been updated by John Ainsworth of **Churches Together in Poole** with the help of **Poole Rotary Club.**

The trail is based on the **Poole Town Walking Map**, which identifies the whole network of footpaths,.

To find out more about the history of any buildings or places mentioned, staff at the local history section at Poole Museum will be happy to help you.

The image on the front cover of this leaflet is a close-up from part of the Carters Tiled Map of the High Street of Poole (1873). You can see the full map in the Lord Wimborne Pub (See 7 in leaflet).

Places of worship in the area

United Reformed Church, Skinner Street - Christian

Kings Church, Poole Christian Fellowship Building, Lagland St. - Pentecostal

Poole Christian Fellowship, Lagland St., Evangelical - Charismatic

The Spire, High Street – Home of Poole Methodists

Longfleet Baptist Church, Longfleet Road, Baptist

Salvation Army Citadel, Salvation Army,

St James Church, Thames Steer - Anglican,

Friends Meeting House. Wimborne Road - Quakers,

St Mary's Church, Wimborne Road - Roman Catholic

The Vine Church, Poole Christian Fellowship Building, Lagland St. - Evangelical

See Also:

www.churches-together-in-poole.co.uk

www.faithworkswessex.org.uk

www.reconnect-poole.org.uk

www.routestoroots.org

BCP Council