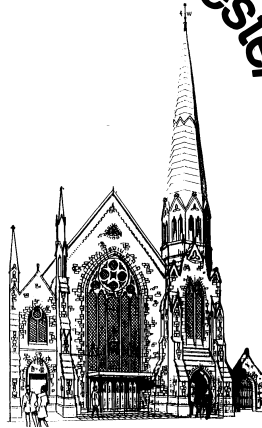


# NEWS

## United Church Dorchester



**DECEMBER 2019**

Registered Charity No: 1137996

**Methodist and United Reformed**  
Part of Churches Together in Dorchester

**Minister:**

**Rev Peter Clark** 01308 425978  
Please contact one of the Church Stewards if necessary

**Pastoral Visitor:** Angela Fisher

**Church Secretary:** John Hilton

**Senior Steward:** John Parson

**Church** (general number): 01305 262462

**Church office:** 01305 457477

**Website:** [unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk](http://unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk)

Private Tel & email removed from web version

### Sunday Worship

**1<sup>st</sup> December**

10.30am Mrs D Brazier  
Holy Communion

5.30pm Advent carol service  
Rev G Owen/Rev P Clark

**8<sup>th</sup> December**

9.00am Mrs P Fennell  
Holy Communion

10.30am Mr P Jenner

6.30pm Mr A Boyden/Mr C Smith

**15<sup>th</sup> December**

10.30am Rev P Clark

6.30pm Rev P Brazier  
Holy Communion

**22<sup>nd</sup> December**

10.30am Rev D Cuckson

6.30pm Rev P Clark  
Carol Service

**Christmas Eve**

4.00pm Christingle Service  
11.30pm Midnight Communion  
Rev P Clark

**Christmas Day**

10.30am Mrs D Brazier

**29<sup>th</sup> December**

10.30am Rev B Stephenson

### Lectionary readings

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Psalm 122  
Romans 13:11-14  
Matthew 24:36-44

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12

Isaiah 35:1-10  
Psalm 146:5-10 *or*  
*Canticle: Magnificat*  
(Luke 1:46b-55)  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm  
98, Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-  
12), John 1:1-14

Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm  
148, Hebrews 2:10-18  
Matthew 2:13-23

### Market Day services

(Wednesdays at 10.30am)

4<sup>th</sup> December Mr A Boyden

11<sup>th</sup> December Rev J Walker

18<sup>th</sup> December Mrs D Brazier

### Church Family News

We pray for the families and friends of Elsie Rawlings and Dorothy Eynon, who both died in November.

Sadly, June Faulkner, our admin assistant, has decided to retire. We wish her well for a continuing recovery. Di Lawrence will gradually take over her work.

### Holy Communion

Holy Communion is regularly taken to residential homes we support in Dorchester. However if you can't get to church and live at home, please ask if you would like Holy Communion brought to you. Contact Penny Fennell or Ruth Archer.

### Everyday Prayer

Lord God, as once again we await the birth of your Son may we celebrate joyfully. Help us to open our hearts to you and to each other, and as we count our many blessings may we remember those for whom Christmas is a time of sadness, loneliness or anxiety. Amen


What's On in December		
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	4.00pm	Tea and farewell to Rev Steph Jenner **
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Men's meeting
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup>	6.30-8.30pm	Christmas Cracker. Refreshments, communal carol singing and children's Christmas crafts.
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Quiet Christmas service: a short, quiet, traditional service. Refreshments afterwards. Everyone welcome.
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Flutecakes concert **
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	12.15pm	Christmas Spuds and Puds **
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup>	8.00pm	New Year's Eve party and short watch night service **

\*\* Please see separate notices for details

The <b>Monday Fellowship Group</b> meets twice a month at 7.30 p.m. in members' homes. Further information from Mary Lucraft.	The <b>Tuesday Home Group</b> meets at the home of Elizabeth and Paul Haynes, 6 Powys Close, on alternate weeks at 7.30 p.m. Further information from Chris Warren.
The <b>Monday Home Group</b> meets fortnightly in members' homes. Further information from Shirley and Denys Hood.	The <b>Friday morning Bible study group</b> meets every Friday from 10.00 – 11.00am in the Quiet Room. New friends are always welcome.
<b>Prayer and meditation.</b> Every Tuesday from 12-12.30 p.m. in the church.	<b>Prayer Chain.</b> If you would like prayer for yourself or others at any time, please contact Penny Fennell. Details can be given anonymously, and confidentiality within the prayer chain is absolute unless there is a safeguarding risk.

<b>Flutecakes</b>	<b>Christmas Parking</b>
present a concert of festive and flutey favourites at the United Church on Saturday 14th December at 6pm followed by drinks and cake. Retiring collection for Dorchester Child Contact Centre.	Dorset Council car parks in Dorchester will be providing free parking on all Saturdays in December, as well as Christmas Eve.

**The true meaning of Christmas**



**Journey to the stable** is an interactive experience helping to explain the true meaning of Christmas. This is ideal for adults and children alike. The journey takes 20 - 30 minutes. There are seven stations focusing on a person or a part of the Christmas story with readings and reflections. At each there is a small activity or object for you to take away, so you leave with a bag of reflections and goodies.

Open at the United Church, South Street, Dorchester, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 11am-3pm (Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 11-2). The Stable only will be open from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> and Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> 10am-12.30pm. In the busyness of all the Christmas shopping, writing the cards and icing the cake take a few minutes to be still and reflect on what Christmas is all about.

We will need help to set up the Journey to the Stable from 2 pm on Sunday December 1st, and help to cover the rota for the sessions for the public opening. Look out for the rota in the hall at the end of November.

**Revd Steph Jenner**

Because of her illness, Revd Steph Jenner has now, very sadly, officially left the circuit. We shall be making a presentation to Steph on behalf of UCD. If you would like to contribute, please put your donation in an envelope and hand it to John Hilton, Colin Gannaway or John Parson by Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December: Tea at 4pm, Circuit Service at 5.30pm**

There will be a formal church and circuit farewell at United Church Dorchester on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, with a tea at 4pm followed by a circuit service at 5.30pm. Please join us for the tea and the special Advent Carol Service, which will also give us an opportunity to thank Steph for her work in the circuit and wish her well for the future. The service will be led by Revd Gwyneth Owen and Revd Peter Clark.

For the tea at 4 pm we will need helpers to set up, serve and tidy away, and also donations of cakes and biscuits. If you can help with any of this please speak to Janice Young.

**Christmas Spuds and Puds**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 12.15 pm

Jacket potatoes with a variety of hot and cold fillings, Christmas pudding or trifle. Adults £5, children £3. Please sign up on the list on the notice board in the hall.

**Dorset Historic Churches Ride and Stride**

Many thanks are extended to Paul Wallis, Barbara Coe, Enid and John Parson, Ruth Archer, Margaret Knighton and Julia Young who very kindly volunteered to help with staffing the church for the Ride and Stride event. It was most appreciated. In all, we welcomed a total of 38 Riders & Striders to the church.

Finally, and by certainly no means the least, thanks to Eric Young for riding for us and to those who sponsored him. He covered 30 churches and rode 50 miles, and raised a total of £175 which will be shared between our church and the Dorset Historic Churches Trust. A great effort and well done. Once again, many thanks and God bless you all.

Shawn Board  
Ride & Stride Organiser

**Prayer in the Community**

*These prayer groups around Dorchester – intended for local residents – are open to Christians from all churches. The next meetings are as follows:*

Poundbury – 7:15pm on Monday 2nd December at Flat 3, 5 Widcombe Street (Mike and Angie Stear).

Castle Park – 2:30pm on Wednesday 4th December at 26 Hillfort Close (Audrey Scammell).

Brewery Square – 10:00am on Friday 13th December at 22 Hop House (Dick and Jane Howard).

*If you live in one of these localities, then do go along and receive a warm welcome.*

**Fancy a coffee and toasted tea cake?**

The Chapel Café at Broadmayne Methodist Church will be OPEN on Friday morning 27<sup>th</sup> December from 10am to 12 noon.

Everyone is welcome so why not have a ride or drive across and have a relaxing morning after your festivities.

Peter Jenner

**Feed me, Change Me, Love Me**

United Church Dorchester will also be open for free baby changing, with a private feeding area and games for the older children during the last few shopping days to Christmas. Open Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December and Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 11am to 3pm. If you feel rushed off your feet come and sit quietly and enjoy the peace of Christmas, while the children are kept occupied.

### Carol Singing for Action for Children

Meet at 6.15 each evening ready to start at 6.30.  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December: Old Poundbury. Meet near 142 Poundbury Road.  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December: Fordington Fields. Meet at the bus stop outside Sandringham Court (opposite the Trumpet Major restaurant).  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December: Monmouth Road area. Meet at South Court Avenue roundabout.  
For more details, contact Janice Young or Diana Leeming.



### New Year's Eve party from 8.00pm and short watch night service

Games and country dancing. Bring and share supper. Tea and coffee provided. Please bring your own soft drinks for the evening. Sign-up list on the notice board in the hall. Donations for Dorchester Child Contact Centre.

### Art in the coffee shop

The paintings in the coffee shop have been changed and the present display is the work of Mary Lucraft. Come in and enjoy a coffee, a cup of tea, or a slice of home made cake, meet friends, and take in at the art work on the walls. If you are an artist and would like to exhibit your work in the coffee shop, please talk to Mary. There are some slots available during the year.

### Forest Praise

There will be another Forest Praise session at the Sure Start Children's Centre, Middle Farm Way, Poundbury on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January from 10.30am to 11.45am. We need people to come and help us with the activities, make refreshments, chat to the parents and be round and about. Please see Janice Young, Lynne Antell, Heather Reed, Diana Leeming or Peter Jenner.

### Hampers for families on free school meals

The school holiday lunch club for families on free school meals are planning for their Christmas hamper distribution. They do this in conjunction with Hardye's School, but due to the increase in numbers (over 80 families), more contributions are needed. The following are wanted: mince pies, Christmas puddings, cake, biscuits, large bags of crisps, coffee/hot chocolate, small boxes of chocolates/selection box. The hampers are put together and distributed on Saturday 21st December at Hardye's. If you are able to help please leave your contributions in the marked box, which will be in the church shop on Mondays to Saturdays and in the hall on Sunday mornings, by Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at the latest. Thank you. Wendy & Margaret

### Church Website

Don't forget to check out the church website (<http://unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk>), which is now being managed by Susy and Kevin Rogers. As well as a downloadable version of the news sheet, it also gives information about the church and its various groups, events, reports and how to contact specific members/groups. The website belongs to the church as a whole so you are encouraged to contribute. Where possible, go, discover and explore!

### Notices for order of service and news sheet

Please send notices for inclusion on each Sunday's order of service (space permitting) to Marion Cox by the previous Wednesday at 6pm.  
The deadline for the January news sheet will be 10.30am on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Please send notices for inclusion to Myra Dawson. Hard copy items can be given to her in person or left in the Internal Mail basket in the Charles Street foyer. Unfortunately, anything received after the deadline will not be included.

### Data Protection Act

In common with most other churches and organisations, the United Church Dorchester keeps pastoral records of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of regular worshippers and friends. The information is used for church purposes only, is never communicated to any other body and is held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Please notify us in writing if you do not wish your data to be held by us in this way.

**Booking rooms for church and circuit use**

Di Lawrence, our clerical assistant, is taking over bookings for UCD, circuit and related room bookings. Please either leave a message on the church phone (457477) or e-mail [office@unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk](mailto:office@unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk) with details.

**Encore Singers**

present their Christmas concert In aid of Action for Children  
Saturday 7th December at 7.30 pm at the United Church

Musical Director: Julia McFarlane

Accompanist: John Walker

Guest artists: Crossways Village Handbell Ringers

Admission free. Retiring collection for Action for Children. Refreshments during the interval.

**Circuit Event 'A Chinese Banquet'**

Featuring 'Dragon of the South', a Lion & Dragon Dance Troupe from Poole and a Chinese meal  
**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 6 pm at Weymouth Bay Methodist Church, Tickets: £10**

All money raised will go to supporting a young family from our church community who are in China, learning the language and supporting an orphanage there.

I have 20 tickets for Dorchester and area, so if you would like one please let me know as soon as possible. With many thanks. Maria Jacobson, Circuit Administrator.

**Winter warmer**



Bere Heath Methodist church January coffee morning

Join us for hot chocolate and chat and dispel the winter blues. Nearly new items, cakes, marmalade, and preserves. Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 10 - 12.30, in aid of Weldmar Hospicecare Trust.

**Green Group meeting**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am.

Topic – Carbon Neutral?

