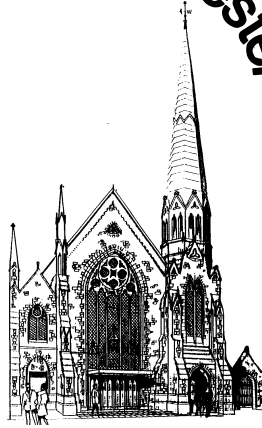


NEWS

United Church Dorchester



FEBRUARY 2019

Registered Charity No: 1137996

Methodist and United Reformed

Part of Churches Together in Dorchester

Minister

Rev Stephanie Jenner
(not currently available)

Minister

Rev Peter Clark
01308 425978

Day off Friday

Please contact one of the Church Stewards if necessary

Pastoral Visitor: Angela Fisher

Church Secretary: John Hilton

Senior Steward: Mary Martin

Church (general number): 01305 262462

Church office: 01305 457477

Website: unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk

Private Tel & email removed from web version

Sunday Worship

3rd February

10.30am Rev B Stephenson
Holy Communion

6.30pm United Service at
Weymouth Bay

10th February **Racial Justice Sunday**

9.00am Rev P Clark
Holy Communion

10.30am Mr L van Damme

6.30pm Mr T Wells

17th February

10.30am Rev P Clark

6.30pm Rev G Owen
Holy Communion

24th February

10.30am Mr P Jenner

6.30pm Rev P Clark

Lectionary readings

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

Market Day services

(Wednesdays at 10.30am)

6th February Mrs D Brazier
13th February Rev J Walker
20th February Mr C Warren
27th February Rev D Reep

Church Family News

Margaret and Laurence Merry would like to thank everyone for the cards and messages and prayers and for the support they have received following Margaret's stroke.

A number of people in our congregation have recently had hospital treatment and we pray for their continuing recovery.

We welcome Joy Parkhurst, Suzanne Bareham, Joan Pruden and Anna Newbury, whom we recently received into membership.

First Steps Worship

Sunday 17th February, 10.30-11.30am
Worship/activity time for younger children, parents and carers in the Cerne Abbas Room

Everyday Prayer

Lord God, we thank you for the grace, light and life we find in the church community. Set us free from complacency and narrow-mindedness, and enable us to recognise the work of your Spirit among us. Amen

What's On in February

Sat 2 nd	10.30am	Green Group
Sat 2 nd	10.00am	Women's World Day of Prayer coffee morning **
Mon 4 th	7.30pm	Men's meeting
Tues 26 th	12.30pm	Solos **
Wed 27 th	2.30pm	Games afternoon in the Coffee Lounge. £1 to include refreshments.

** Please see separate notice for details

The next pastoral visitors' meeting is on **Wednesday 6 March at 2.30pm** in the coffee lounge, when Rev Gwyneth Owen will be leading part of the afternoon on "supporting pastoral visitors in their role".

Death Café: Saturday 16 March from 10 – 12 noon. here

The **Monday Fellowship Group** meets twice a month at 7.30 p.m. in members' homes. Further information from Mary Lucraft.

The **Tuesday Home Group** 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 **Wednesday Home Group** meets fortnightly in members' homes. Forthcoming meetings are on February 6th, February 18th and March 6th. Further information from Shirley and Denys Hood.

The **Friday morning Bible study group** meets every Friday from 10.00 – 11.00am in the Quiet Room. New friends are always welcome.

Prayer and meditation. Every Tuesday from 12-12.30 p.m. in the church.

Prayer Chain. 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.

SOLOS

Tuesday 26th February: lunch at the Walnut Grove at 12.30pm

Cost depending on items ordered. We will pay individually. Please let Angela know if you are attending by Thursday 21st February.

Picnic People

Picnic People will not meet in February nor during Lent. We hope to meet with friends at the Lent lunches, so do please join us there.

Women's World Day of Prayer

The country that has written the service this year is Slovenia. The two services will be on Friday 1st March. The morning service will be at St Peter's Church at 10:30am and the evening service will be at the Quaker Meeting House in Holloway Road at 7 pm. The coffee morning will be in the United Church hall on Saturday 2nd February, 10am-12 noon.

Message from Rev Gwyneth Owen and circuit stewards

We welcome the Revd Sally Spencer, a Methodist Minister who is based in Dorset for the next few months and is able to offer 1½ days a week of short term additional ministerial support to the Circuit, but especially at UCD. She will be with us from mid-January to August 2019 when she will leave us for a Church appointment elsewhere.

For the present, Steph remains on long term sick leave and we have no definite news on when she will be able to return to work. Steph and Peter value the concern and understanding shown by the Churches at this difficult time. Please do continue to respect their privacy while upholding them, and their family, in your prayers.

New stewards

The AGM is on Wednesday 3rd April. We will need to elect at least one new steward, so please be thinking and praying about this and also approaching anyone who you feel would be suitable. They need to be a member of the United Church. John Hilton has a list of all members and a description of the role. Mary Martin has completed her two years as Senior Steward, so a new Senior Steward needs to be chosen from amongst the elected stewards.

Lent study groups

During Lent there will be an opportunity to join in a Bible Society study called Jesus the Jew. It aims to help us see Jesus more clearly and will lead into our worship during Holy Week and Easter. Present housegroups will be invited to join in and one or two new ones will be formed. They will start in the week beginning 11th March. We will also be offering an email group for those unable to commit to a regular weekly time or who would like to try this. Look out for further information. Brenda Stephenson

Support for Outreach

At the end of St Matthew’s gospel, Jesus tells the disciples not to keep their faith and belief to themselves, but to share it with others. At the United Church, we call it Outreach, and two of our principal ways of doing this collectively are Journey to the Stable and Journey to the Empty Tomb. Consequently, it was disappointing that so few people volunteered to help as stewards for Journey to the Stable last December. It is not onerous; you have to welcome people, give them a little bag, and show them where to start. It was very rewarding to see parents and grandparents bringing their children and grandchildren to learn the real meaning of Christmas. We hope that there will be more support for Journey to the Empty Tomb this Easter. The Stewards

Dorchester Child Contact Centre

We are looking for a volunteer to take on the role of Secretary for the Centre and to the Trustees. If you feel you would be happy to take on this role, please talk to Alison Cocks who is the present secretary.

Church Safeguarding Officer

We need to appoint a second Safeguarding Officer for United Church Dorchester as soon as possible. If you have some experience of working with safeguarding policies and procedures and would be interested in taking on this role please have a word with Janice Young. There are guidelines available on what the role entails and, whilst being a very important role, it does not involve a lot of work.

Trip to Lubbecke in 2019

As you know, we have had a longstanding link with sister churches in Lubbecke and Blasheim in Germany. In 2019 it is our turn for people from our church to visit Lubbecke. However, for a number of reasons we have no one who is currently able to organise a visit. We need three volunteers to, jointly, liaise with counterparts in Lubbecke and organise a trip. Would any of you be willing to take on the task with two others? If no one steps forward then there will be no trip in 2019 and the link may break altogether.

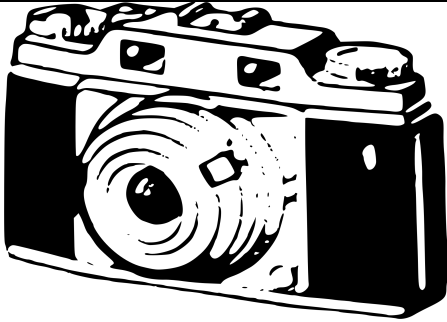


Photo Board

At Easter I shall be updating the photo board in the Church Hall. If you have recently become a member or would like to update your current photo, please send me a photo electronically or give me a hard copy (no smaller than 6x4). I will be around on Sunday mornings with my camera if you would like a photo taken after Morning Worship. Photos currently on the board which are very out of date will be removed. Thanks! Susy

Volunteers needed for Wednesday morning coffee

The Wednesday morning coffee has been going for many years and is much appreciated and welcome. It is a tremendous outreach and it would be disappointing if it folded through lack of volunteers. Please consider helping for the morning once every 6 weeks. See Sue or Sheila if you are interested.

Forest Praise

Thursday February 21st, 10.30-11.30am
at Sure Start Children's Centre, Middle Farm Way, Poundbury (next to Sunny Days Nursery). Fun, outdoor play, praise and activities for all ages. Everyone welcome. Please wear warm clothing as we will be outside in the garden. Contact Janice Young.

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 March news sheet will be 10.30am on Sunday 17th February. 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.