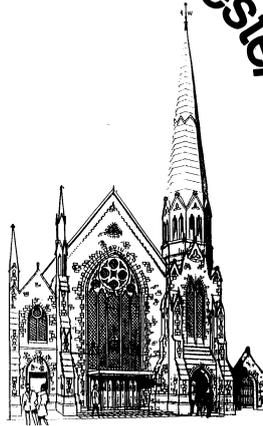


NEWS

United Church Dorchester



AUGUST 2020

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

Church Secretary: John Hilton

Senior Steward: John Parson

Church (general number): 01305 262462

Church office: 01305 457477

Website: unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk

Private Tel & email removed from web version

Lectionary

readings

2nd August

Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

9th August

1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

16th August

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a,
29-32
Matthew 15:(10-
20) 21-28

23rd August

Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

30th August

Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Re-opening the Church

Opening for private prayer has been satisfactory from a safety point of view. Although only a few people have come, people passing on the street have certainly noticed that we are open. We are now going to move on to showing the YouTube service and eventually having live worship again, although without singing.

Starting on Sunday, 26th July, we are going to show the YouTube service on the big screen at 10.00am. All are welcome but this will particularly benefit those who are not online. Because of social distancing, we can have a maximum of about 45 people, so you will have to book. If more than 45 want to come, we will repeat the service at 11.15am. The first service should finish by 10.40am, allowing time for the chairs to be sanitised before the second congregation arrive. People will have to use the hand sanitiser when they arrive, and they will have to wear masks. To book a place, please contact Gillian Daniel by 6pm on the day before.

We hope to start live worship on Sunday, 16th August, with the same arrangements as for the YouTube service, i.e. people have to book for the 10.00am service, which will be repeated at 11.15am if more than 45 want to come. We hope that the service will be live-streamed as well. The service will, like the YouTube and Zoom services, last only about 35-40 minutes. Sadly, there will be no refreshments after the service.

We shall continue opening for private prayer on Wednesdays, but from 10.30am to 11.30am starting on the 29th July.

Wendy will produce a rota for door stewards using existing volunteers to the end of August. Normal rotas for door stewards will commence from the start of September, but only with those who are willing to take part.

Live-streaming our services from mid-August will prepare us for live-streaming the Induction Service on Tuesday, 1st September. With the severe restriction on how many we can accommodate, and 40 places needed for John and Ruth's families and circuit and church representatives, attendance by UCD members will unfortunately be by invitation only.

John Parson and John Hilton

Everyday Prayer

Sustaining God, at this time when we cannot meet together for worship, we thank you for your many gifts to us: for peace and joy in our hearts, for the impulse to love and serve and give, and for your love that surrounds us. Help us to be grateful and to share your gifts with others. Amen

Church Family News

We give thanks for the lives of Sheila Mann, Janet Macrae and Marion Tee and remember their families and friends in our prayers.

Sheila Mann. Following Sheila's death on 28 June, Peter and family would like to say how very much they have appreciated the prayers and loving support of the church including many cards, letters, phone calls and flowers. All will be very welcome at a service of thanksgiving for Sheila's life when that becomes possible.

Rev Steph and Peter Jenner have now moved temporarily to Weymouth. They hope to be back living in Dorchester in September.

Rev Pete and Debs Brazier are moving to Leeds towards the end of July. UCD sent them a cheque and a card of good wishes. We wish them well in their new church. If you would their new address please ask Wendy.

Angela Fisher. You will all have read in the Vision magazine about Angela's retirement as our Pastoral Visitor. The church gave Angela a bouquet of flowers and a Goulds voucher and has received a lovely thank you letter. She says "It has been a privilege to carry out the responsibilities of the role, as I have been welcomed by so many". Unfortunately there is nowhere at the moment we can display the card for you all to read.

Booking procedures for Sunday services from Sunday 26 July

1. To book a place, please contact Gillian Daniel, by 6pm on the day before.
2. Seats will be allocated on a first come first served basis. When the seat allocation is full for the 10am service, and only then, booking for a second service at 11.15 will be opened.
3. Doors will open on South Street at 9.40 for 10am service. You may have to queue. Please do not use the Charles Street entrance.
4. Please put on your mask before entering the church foyer.
5. When requested by the steward please enter the foyer and sanitise your hands.
6. Please maintain social distancing.
7. Please go to your numbered seat using the marked walkways.
8. When it is time to leave please let the buggies and wheelchairs leave first by the South Street entrance.
9. Everyone else please wait until the steward has indicated that your row can leave. Exit via the door to the right hand side of the organ and down the side passage exit back to South Street.

Apologies for all the guidelines, but we are working to keep everyone as safe as possible while the Covid virus is still around.

Support Service

Worried about going out? Finding it hard to cope with queueing? Family too far away to help? Needing to self-isolate?



Please don't struggle on alone and put yourself at risk. Don't forget there is a cheerful and willing band of younger folk from church who are very happy to help out. Lockdown may have eased a little but the future months still seem uncertain. We are happy to continue shopping, collecting prescriptions or other tasks as long as needed so if you, or folk you know, need support then please don't hesitate to make contact.

Support is being coordinated by Gill and Peter Robinson.

Coffee and chat

As part of our continuing efforts to help everyone feel that they are still part of a larger community, we have been investigating how best to create 'virtual' or online meetings for groups of church members. Many of us will be used to using things like Skype or Facetime for one-to-one video calls, and we have now found a way of doing something similar but with larger groups.



So some of us have been meeting in virtual or online 'coffee and chat' sessions – three times a week, at 11.00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Currently, around 20 of us have signed up to join the chats on various days, with somewhere between 10 and 15 people at each session. If you think you might be interested in joining this group (on any of the days), please email coffee.chat@unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk and we'll send you further details. These details will confirm that you only need very basic computer skills.

We will guide you through (either with written instructions or verbally by telephone) exactly what you need to do and you will discover that you have learnt something new at the end, as well as having a good chat, face-to-face, with a group of your friends.

Church Shop

Good News! The church shop has re-opened and we are looking forward to welcoming you again. Currently the shop is open on **Wednesdays only** for the usual hours of **10am -12.30pm**. We have put in place some changes which we hope will help to keep us all as safe as possible from spreading or acquiring covid-19. These include limiting the number of customers in the shop at any one time, providing sanitisers, and suggesting that face coverings be worn. **(Please note: there will be no access to any other part of the building: there will therefore be no access to the toilets.)**

If you do not wish to visit the shop in person, and require Traidcraft food items, Susy is now running a telephone ordering service: items can be delivered to you, or collected from her house. For other enquiries ring (01305) 262462 when the shop is open or call Margaret Knighton.

Not all our volunteers are able to return. I give special mention to Martin Williams, who tells me he is the third longest serving person working in the shop, after Marion and Susy. Martin has taken 'early retirement'; he was previously planning to retire from the shop at the end of the year. We will miss him. (Martin gave me my first training in shop procedures and I still do some things exactly the way he told me to ten years ago. MK)

Do come and see us. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your news.

Zoom service

Join members from across the circuit for a weekly Zoom service every Sunday at 10am led by our local ministers and lay preachers. To receive your first Zoom invitation to this service, e-mail Rev Gwyneth Owen.

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.

Christian Aid

Very many thanks to everyone who has sent donations to Christian Aid. All will go to help deal with Coronavirus in countries which are much less well equipped medically to combat the disease.

Very many thanks too to all those who entered the Quiz and to Mary Martin who set such an enjoyable and challenging paper. The winners were Peter and Gill Robinson with 47 and runner-up Myra Dawson with 43. Many congratulations to all of them.

It has been a difficult time for Christian Aid, as for all other charities, and your support is very much appreciated.
Tony Boyden

Holiday lunch club

The school holiday lunch club is now a registered charity and is called Dorchester Family Support. Even though the Government has decided to continue the voucher scheme during the school holidays, the charity has decided to continue to provide food for families in need through the summer. A £15 Government voucher for food for a week is not a lot to feed a growing child. Currently the charity is expecting to help over 170 families this summer. Please support the charity either financially or with your prayers. Please contact Kath Joslin: email dorchesterhfc@gmail.com.

Food Standards Petition

The Revd Elizabeth Clark, National Rural Officer for the Methodist and United Reformed Churches, is asking people to sign a petition which calls for an amendment to the Agricultural Bill. According to *Farmers Weekly*, the bill is the most important piece of farming legislation to come before parliament in decades. With lots of discussion around future trade, particularly with the US, the aim of the amendment is to protect the UK's high food welfare standards in contrast to other countries. To sign the petition, go to the NFU website - Foods Standards Petition.

Sally's visit

We had an unexpected visitor this week – Rev Sally Spencer popped in. Sally was with us for 6 months at the beginning of 2019, before she moved to a new church in Bristol. Sally was the instigator of all the welcome messages in the foyer. She is busy opening up her group of four churches in Bristol following Covid guidelines and was telling us all about their experiences of streaming services.

Vision magazine

The August/September Vision magazine is currently being distributed in geographical areas. It is not being delivered by your pastoral visitor. If you do not receive your Vision magazine by the end of July please can you let Wendy know.

Questions

Cleaning the church. Our contract cleaners clean the church, but we know some people go in to dust and polish. Are you one of those volunteers? If so can you let John Hilton know.

Kingfisher tapestry. We have been tidying the vestry ready for the welcome and induction of Rev John Yarrien. In the vestry is a tapestry of a kingfisher – Is it yours or do you know anything about it?

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the September news sheet is Sunday 23rd August. Please send notices for inclusion to Myra Dawson.

Church Website

Don't forget to check out the church website (<http://unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk>), which is 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!

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.