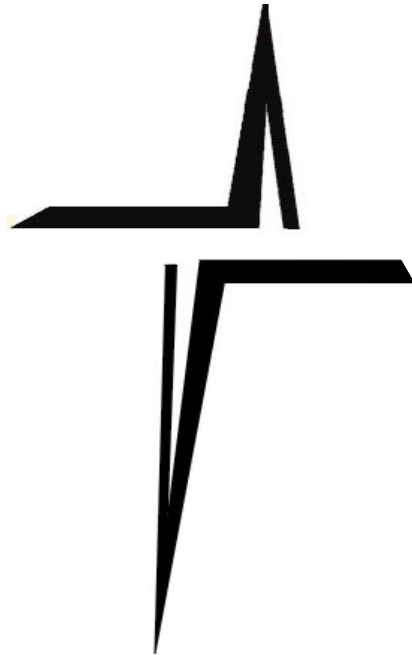


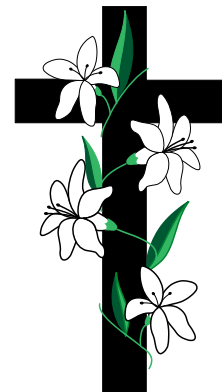
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Vision

Feb — March 2015

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A sepia-toned photograph of a man with glasses, looking towards the camera. Overlaid on the image is a black oval containing the text 'I J BROWN PARTNERSHIP' and a line of asterisks. Below this is a white rectangular box with text about independent eye care specialists, their address, phone number, and slogan. A small illustration of a pair of glasses is also present.

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From your Dorchester based minister,

Dear Friends

As I write this we have just celebrated Christmas and entered into 2015, but as you read it we shall be preparing for Lent and Easter. Time marches on, waits for no-one and flies.



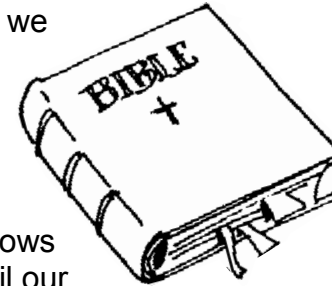
But in January 2015 we shall get a lot done: We will be holding our Covenant services, reminding ourselves that all that we do, whether it is "suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests, or contrary to both" is for God's glory and not our comfort and satisfaction.



So as we launch "Ladies that lunch", try "Sweaty Church" with our young people, make decisions about same sex weddings and blessings, make our property safeguarding compliant, as well as hold our regular services and meetings, sharing fellowship, hospitality, and pastoral care, we start the year under God's guidance, trying to discern the Way for ourselves as individuals and congregation.

This is at the forefront of our minds as church leaders when we examine the vision and mission of the church with the stewards and the church meeting; when we reach out into the community through services in residential homes and the welcome people are given who seek our help and service in our building; when we work with ecumenical partners to set up town centre chaplaincy, and when we speak to, encourage and sympathise with each other. Not to mention stewarding money and property.

But we have to be aware in all this 'doing' that we need to take space to 'be' as well. We take our pattern for Christian living from Christ himself, who spent time with people, taught them, healed them, conversed with them, but who also spent time alone, away from the crowds and in prayer. It is this balance that allows us to grow in our discipleship as well as to fulfil our given mission to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew's Gospel), "preach the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark's Gospel) and "feed my lambs, shepherd my sheep and follow me" (John's Gospel).



I hope that you will sign up to Lent Groups or otherwise study on your own in these coming weeks to enable and equip you for your own commission, as you promised or resolved in January and I pray for the strength of the Holy Spirit for us all to bring glory to God through our words, actions and rest.

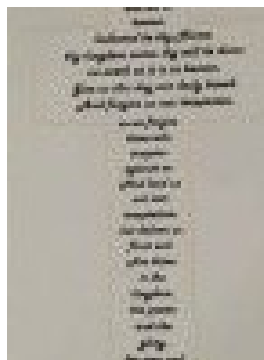
Thank you for all that you have done, do and will do

With every blessing

Steph

Congratulations
to Broadmayne Methodist Church
who will be celebrating their
150th anniversary
in 2015



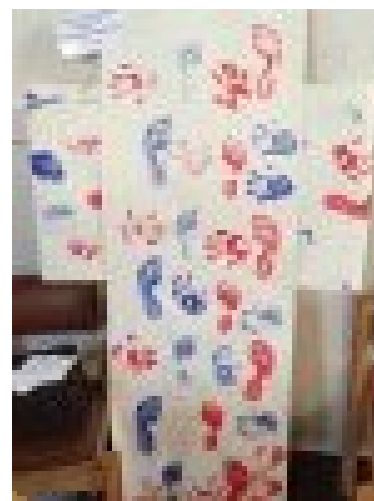


Festival of Crosses

The festival of crosses will be held again this year, but it is expanding. Crosses will be displayed in Bridport from Wednesday 18th to Tuesday 24th March and then at Dorchester Wednesday 25th March until Wednesday 1st April.

If you have a cross that you are willing to lend, or make specifically, out of any material you choose, for either or both display, please can you let Steph have them, or leave them clearly marked in the vestry by Sunday 16th March.

If you belong to a group outside church and would like to contribute that would be wonderful.



Information from our Treasurer



Below are amounts sent to charities in Nov/Dec 2014

Brass Concert retiring collection

Action For Children	367.00
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Christmas Cracker

Dorchester Poverty Action Group	132.81
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Christmas card and services

Christian Aid	268.44
---------------	--------

Action For Children	268.44
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Proceeds from Coffee morning, etc

Mercy Ships	2452.19
-------------	---------

Share of regular giving to mission

MFWM (Methodist)	374.52
------------------	--------

CWM (URC)	374.52
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Support to Bournemouth University Freechurch Chaplaincy

Bournemouth Uni Chaplain	400.00
--------------------------	--------

Pew envelopes

Methodist Homes Association	110.00
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6 month charity share-out (more information on these charities can be found in the hall)

The Hub	200.00
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Dorchester PAG	200.00
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Womens' Refuge	200.00
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URC Retd Ministers Housing	100.00
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Routes	200.00
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Footprints	100.00
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Dorset Race Equality	100.00
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Rethink Café	100.00
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Transition Towns	100.00
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Café on the Green	100.00
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Home Start	200.00
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Food Bank	100.00
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Dorset Nightstop	100.00
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Durnovaria Silver Band	100.00
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Dementia Action Alliance	100.00
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Getting to know you

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Due to not having asked for permission from this months featured members we have (due to it being publicly available on the web) have omitted this article from the web version.

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Journey to the Stable

Thank you to everyone who helped with Journey to the Stable. In previous years we have welcomed about 250 visitors from school parties to individuals. This year we welcomed 400 people. This is an amazing outreach to both young and old. We are already planning next year and how we can reach an ever wider audience including possibly offering visits to the middle schools. This is an opportunity to experience the true meaning of Christmas in quiet reflection, away from the busyness of life.



Outreach slot

As I write this we are just entering 2015. It promises to be a real time of hope for outreach.



By the time you read this we will have had a day of training for chaplains and this has now been well circulated around all the different denominations. This should prepare us to begin our shop chaplaincy on behalf of Churches Together and the other churches in town.

The five chaplains to Dorset Fire and Rescue will meet soon and look at working together and recruitment of further colleagues. We will also look at provision and support for head office staff.

With the New Year we plan to meet with Weymouth and Portland Methodist Circuit reps. to work with the District Councils.

We are keen to present the faith for those who use and visit the premises. This will involve posters in each room and hopefully some items for the table displays in the Coffee Shop.

We are also looking at our programme of events which we expect will include some films and a return visit from Paul Field.

Do keep an eye open for events and be in touch if you feel you may wish to help with any initiative.

Chris Warren



Hope Now – Our World Mission project New for 2015

Hope Now exists to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. A balance of evangelism with social action ensures the message of the Gospel touches the hearts of young and old, rich and poor, healthy and infirm, free and imprisoned. Hope Now works at the moment mainly in Ukraine, with a little work amongst students in South Africa but also in 2014 has been able to extend their work into Moldova, Sri Lanka and Burma.

Hope Now's work in the Ukraine includes providing healthcare for children and adults in need including a sheltered accommodation for the elderly, work in Orphanages, internats, with street children and evangelism.

Overcrowded, run-down, under-funded and decaying are just some of the adjectives that describe the post-Soviet orphanages of Ukraine. These are usually called "internats" and serve for both real orphans and those children who have been taken into the care of the state. Hope Now supports 15 internats and special schools providing medicines, winter clothing, educational materials and computers, additional food and improving the infrastructure by repairing or replacing antiquated buildings, installing indoor toilet and shower facilities, central heating, gymnasiums and much more.

Cottage homes and foster care

Hope Now also provides Christian Cottage Homes and fostering as a family based alternative to State run Institutions.

In 1997 Hope Now established its first cottage Home for abandoned children. It now has more than 50 children in cottage homes and foster care. Some of the original children are now living independent lives either working or in full time education. Some are married. Each child is supported by an overseas sponsor to the tune of £60 per month.

All children are placed in local schools and all show a year on year improvement in both educational attainment and well-being.



Thousands of shoebox gifts head to Northern Iraq

Samaritan's Purse sent 60,000 Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts, at the beginning of 2014 to Iraq for Syrian children fleeing conflict in their homeland. Recently a further 60,000 shoeboxes have been sent some of which are from the UK

In total, Samaritan's Purse internationally collected around 10 million shoeboxes this year

More than 800,000 people are now in northern Iraq seeking refuge in camps. Over the past few months Samaritan's Purse has provided food, water, tents, a power generator, mattresses, playground equipment, kitchen kits, hygiene kits, and other relief. As temperatures fall in areas around Dohuk and Erbil, blankets, coats, children's clothing, plastic insulation, and other items have been distributed to displaced families from Christian, Yazidi, Muslim and other backgrounds.

This year we collected 54 boxes from the United Church and 27 from Milborne St Andrew school. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

STOP PRESS—Traidcraft

If between now and April 5th, you donate to Traidcraft's Fair Necessities Appeal the UK Government will double every pound donated. This appeal will work with many smallholder farmers in areas of real poverty with training, healthcare etc—"a handup not a hand out". **Donate online - traidcraft.org.uk/mag**

Church hall photoboard



Do you look 20 years younger on the church hall photoboard? If so, although none of us want to get older (unless you're under 21) it is probably time to give us a new photo for the board. If you have recently started coming to church we would like your photo as well. Apologies to all those who attended the last new members welcome evening. Although your photos were taken something went wrong, as you all look as though you are very yellow with jaundice. Please could you let us have another picture.

Photos need to be 6x4 to allow for the photo to be attached to the boards. If you have a good photo, but it is not the correct size it can be scanned, resized and you can have the original back. Photos can also be emailed to Susy Rodgers at (*email address removed from web version*) and she will size and print them.

The photoboard is really helpful for new people coming to church. It helps them identify people they want to see, but if you are new it also helps all of us learn your name.

In the past lots of people have ignored this plea. It is really important that everyone's photo is there, to make it a complete church family. However much we don't like having our photo taken, we have all got at least one photo we like.

Thank you Wendy and Susy

Mercy Ships

We have now been raising money for Mercy Ships for 2 years as our world mission project. The final total is an amazing **£7362.21**. In 2013 £3126.14 was raised and in 2014 £4236.07.

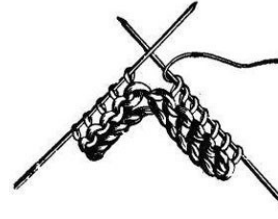
Thank you to everyone, who worked so hard to achieve this amazing total.

Knitting for Romanian orphans

A local group of churches runs a specially built orphanage in Romania and supports needy widows and gypsy children. Tish Roberts is the key person. The winters are very cold and Tish takes out knitted goods several times a year.

Items needed include:-

- Knitted knee blankets for elderly widows made from 5 inch squares 5 inch squares
- Childrens long sleeved jumpers for orphans 11 years and older (chest 30" and 32") using stripes of many coloured wool
- Smaller sized jumpers for poor gypsy children



It is suggested that goods are left at the church shop for collection and that you use the old Oxfam or TWAM patterns.

Contact Mary Brayley *(tel & Address removed from web version)*

Tish gives illustrated talks about the work contact Tish Roberts

www.facebook.com/heartresponseonline

or Tish heartresponse@live.co.uk *(tel removed from web version)*

Library

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the library in the hall over many years. It has now been relocated to the Sydling Room on the top floor.

When not in use for meetings the books will be available to borrow.

However we still have to develop a new system to keep track of the books. If

you would like to borrow a book and are unable to climb the stairs. please let Wendy or Margaret know.



Book review

'The Hiding Place' by Corrie Ten Boom

If you've never read this inspirational story of an ordinary Dutch woman and her family during the Second World War and how they lived out their faith in that dangerous time, I would heartily recommend it. It's a true story of how they offered shelter to Jews in Nazi-occupied Holland, of their betrayal and arrest, and of suffering in a concentration camp.

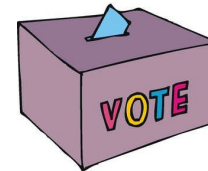


Even in that, the worst of places, Corrie tells how God's love and her trust in Him kept her holding on and brought her through. Post-war, she traveled the world, sharing her experiences and those of family members in terrible circumstances. First published in the 1970s, this book became an international bestseller and was made into a film and is still popular today.

In addition we have in the church shop 'Life Lessons From the Hiding Place' by Pam R. Moore, who was Corrie's constant companion for the last seven years of her life. She shares insights into the life of 'Tante' Corrie, what made her into the example of faith that she became, and how, considering that life, can help us today.

Pat Smith

Keep the date



This year's AGM is on Wed 25 March. We will need to elect 2 new stewards as we are already one steward short and Margaret Knighton is due to retire. Please think carefully about whom you might want to nominate and who also might have the skills to take on the role of secretary.



Churches Together, Praying Together

**There will be half hour quiet meetings, open to all,
followed by coffee
at the Quiet Space on:**

Tuesday February 17th at 2pm

Wednesday March 18th at 6pm

Thursday April 16th at 9am

Friday May 15th at 2pm

Monday June 15th at 6pm



Lübecke Exchange

Between 7th and 12th April our friends from Lübecke, old and new, will be visiting. We have an exciting program of events lined up for our visitors and hosts including a Mayoral reception, fish and chips in West Bay, a day trip to London, a barn dance and possibly beer and hymns (all to be finalised).

If you would like to be involved or can host individuals or couples please contact:

Joy Wallis (hosting) *(tel & email removed from web version)*

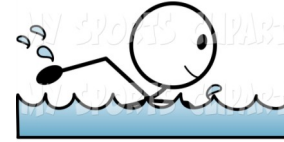
Heather Reed

Huw Thomas

Peter Jenner

Steph Jenner

Rev'd Peter Clark's West Bay Wallow Experience



The day dawned. Not bright, warm and dry as I'd hoped but cold and wet. But I was committed. I had my plan together with towel, dressing gown and anorak and lots of sponsorship (including one of £100 if I did it without a wetsuit - thanks Alby - you're a REAL friend!) So I wasn't going to back out now.

I registered and stood, hunched and miserable, surrounded by jolly, enthusiastic mad people who seemed to be looking forward to entering the grey and clearly freezing water! I am usually a jolly extrovert but this was somehow not me!

And then it all changed in an instant! A cheerful voice suddenly burst through my grumpiness. "Aren't you the Vicar at the United Church? It's me! We met at the Christian Aid Lent Lunches!" And it was Lorna Johnson - someone I knew. And suddenly I wasn't alone. "Quick, quick," she said, "Come and get my husband to take a picture of us. I'm so glad I've got someone to do this with." Which was exactly how I felt. I wasn't alone and I didn't have to do this alone.

Strange that isn't it? Surrounded by a load of people with a common cause and focus and I had, until that moment, felt terribly, terribly alone and desperately lonely. It was supposed to be a bit of fun but it simply wasn't because I felt on my own. It made me wonder, funnily enough if that is what it is like for some folk in church? We assume they're part of the group, one of us, and yet unless they're embraced and have someone to talk and share things with them, they're just as alone as I felt on that West Bay slipway (though in truth not quite so ridiculously dressed!) Think about that next time you see a solitary person in church - it's possible they might feel more included if you 'do a Lorna!'

Anyway, with mood lightened and wonderfully enthused, we shuffled down the slope and, with much squealing and groaning, we were in

the freezing cold water. Except 'freezing cold' fails completely to describe it. It was appalling, it was dreadful it was ... the coldest I've ever felt!

My arms and legs went numb despite my fast strokes to acclimatise to the temperature ... and just got worse. I turned around and found to my horror that my fast strokes had taken me what seemed like miles away from the slipway. Every ounce of my energy was then expended swimming back with my brain full of panicky (and cold) thoughts.

When finally I could stand it was like heaven. The exhilaration of success flushed me and warmed me and re-enthused me. I had done it and, as I looked around so had over 100 mad crazy folks including mad, crazy Lorna (not as crazy as me as she had a wetsuit!!) who had been helping wetsuit-less folk out of the water. At least I hadn't suffered that indignity and more than that, I had done it! I may have mentioned that before but it did feel good! Also I had raised over £400 for Stepping Stones Preschool! So a big thanks to so many generous folk who have just kept slipping fivers and more into my hands!

"See you next year," said Lorna.

"Never, never, never!" I replied. And I mean it ... probably anyway

URC HOLIDAY FORUM
Sat 22nd – Fri 28th August 2015

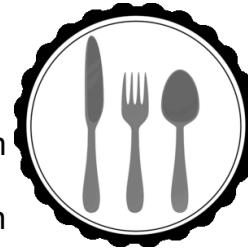


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Book via bookings@urcholidayforum.org.uk or direct to Colin Ferguson, 20 Matlock Road, Caversham, RG4 7BS. Main cost is £440 (all meals etc) but we do have a bursary fund to help and children are on a sliding scale. There is an early booking discount of 5% for bookings and full payment received before the end of January 2015.

LADIES WHO LUNCH

This is the provisional title for the new look Ladies afternoon Fellowship. Instead of 3 pm on a Friday we will now meet at 12.30 pm on a Wednesday in the Coffee Lounge for an informal get together .



Bring lunch (tea/coffee provided) and enjoy a relaxed hour exchanging news and views. This will still be part of Methodist Women in Britain, itself part of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

The first lunch was held on January 21st. Watch out for more details. Open to all – Duchess or Dinner Lady... and men – just turn up.

A notice about notices!



If you have a **notice** you want publicised, do please use the board by the hatch in the hall. Please keep the size to A5 maximum.

Posters advertising events should go to Peter Mann for the Charles Street foyer boards. An A5 sized 'notice' directing people to the poster can be put up in the hall, but no duplicate posters please. It would be especially good to have notes giving the result of fundraising activities so that the information reaches more people than the Sunday morning congregation.

The right hand board will have on it information about regular activities and we hope there will be room there for additional information about group programmes. It is work in progress! Please speak to Church Secretary, or one of the other Stewards, if you have suggestions or material for the boards.

Family News

We give thanks for the lives of Ken Newton and Enid Treneer. Enid was a stalwart of next door's Oxfam shop and was still volunteering on the till at the age of 94. Our thoughts are with their families and friends.

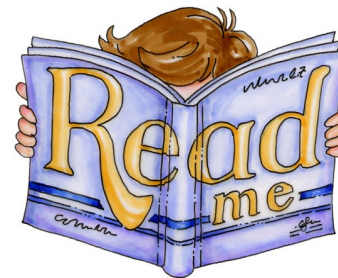


Congratulation to Kath and Lloyd Thomas on the birth of their first grandchild Penny.

We remember in our prayers Mary Martin, who is volunteering as a nurse on the Mercy Ship in Madagascar from mid January for 8 weeks.

STOP PRESS!

Ruth Archer's new book, *DELTA ECHO! Experiences in a Bush Hospital in Papua*, describing her first three years working as a missionary nurse/midwife in Papua New Guinea, is now available price £9.99 from the church shop.
Ruth Archer



THE MAGAZINE TEAM

Editor
Wendy Hilton
See Web Contact
Us page

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Linda Odams (

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Shirley Hood

**Deadline for April/May
edition is
Sunday 1st March
Please e-mail to Wendy
See Church Contact Us page
or leave in post box in
Charles Street entrance
Thank you**

Rev Steph Jenner

7 Capitol Close
Dorchester
Tel. 262421

MINISTERS

Rev Peter Clark

Bridport
01308 425978

SERVICES

Holy Communion (2nd Sunday in the month)	Sunday	9.00am
Morning Worship (Junior Church, Crèche, Coffee)	Sunday	10.30am
Evening Worship	Sunday	6.30pm
Alive @ 5 - Contemporary Worship on the last Sunday of the month	at 5pm	
Shoppers ☐ Service	Wednesday	10.30 - 10.45am

NUMBER FIFTY ONE

Church shop	Mon to Sat	10 - 12.30pm
Coffee Lounge / Hall	Tues to Sat	10 - 12.30pm
Quiet Room	"	"

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Worship Groups: Church Choir, Instrumental Group, Informal Singing Group, Brass Ensemble, Drama Group.

Bible Study/Discussion Groups: Ministers Bible Class, Fellowship Groups.

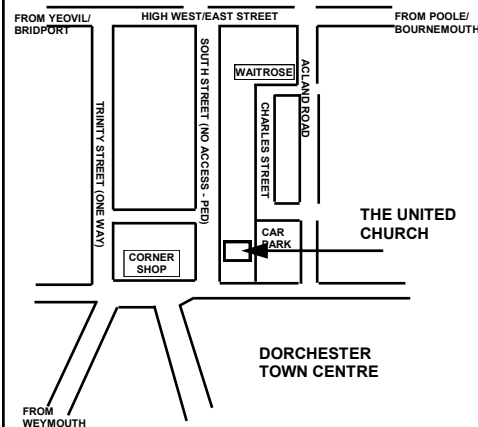
Prayer Groups: Prayer Chain, Prayer & Meditation Meeting.

Children's/ Youth Groups: Junior Church and Crèche, DUC Club Youth Meeting, Friday DUC Club.

Social Groups: Thursday Night Out, Women's Meetings, Coffee Mornings, Art Group, Badminton Club, Country Dancing, Cricket Team, Book Circle.

Christian Activity Groups: Overseas and Home Missions, Methodist Homes for the Aged, Christian Aid, Bible Society, NCH Action for Children, Poverty Action Group.

How To Find Us



For more information about the Church or any of its activities please contact either Minister or the Church Secretary,

Your Pastoral Visitor:

**United Church
Dorchester,
South Street**

Methodist and United Reform

Reg Ch No 1137996