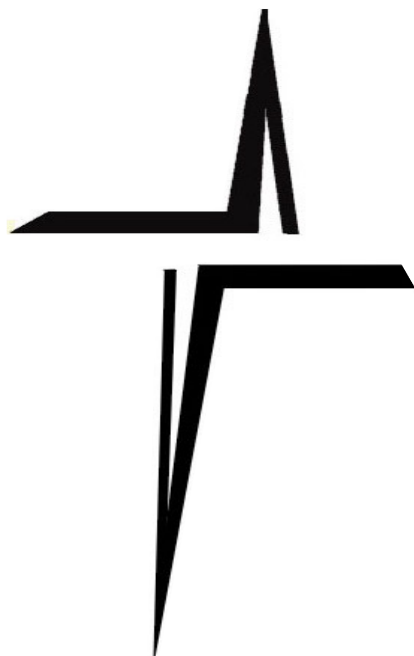


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June — July 2015

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"A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while and you will see me again." (John 16:16)

From Peter, your Bridport-based Minister



Friends,

When I was first introduced to the pastorate, with its 70% : 30% split (i.e. Bridport & Uploders : Dorchester) within my scoping, people wondered what 30% of a Minister would look like? 18 months later I hope we all have a better idea even if we have never scientifically measured the time spent at the various ends of the pastorate. I think, however that I ought to give you fair warning that the percentage is about to drop next month to a mere 0% ... but only for three months. Hence my choice of biblical text this month (I do hope that you won't think I am considering myself in the mould of the Messiah himself!)

For one of the gifts that the churches give their Ministers every so often (10 years in the URC) is to allow us to have a period of up to three months on sabbatical. Slightly overdue by a couple of years, I shall be absent for a two month sabbatical period combined with four weeks of annual leave (to avoid returning and then having to fit in holidays afterwards!)

My focus will be exploring communities of faith. Church life is very much a complex community integrated and intermingling with everyday life and certainly more than fills my life here in the pastorate. I am taking the opportunity to spend some time with rather different communities that I have become aware of over the years but never found the time to connect with - communities that are much more detached from everyday life.

To start with I am spending a week with the Othona Community on the Abbotsbury Road, who are a non-denominational Christian-

(

based community open to exploring spirituality from other faiths. For some that might in itself be a challenge but I will additionally be experiencing a 'Digital Detox.' In other words I will be surrendering my smart phone and tablet computer and spending a period of peace, prayer, contemplation with no digital diversions. Anyone who knows me as both a technophile and, what is more, what St. Paul might describe as a 'clanging cymbal' will understand that this will not be easy for me. But will start the period away with a disciplined period that I trust will do me good.

My second week away will be somewhat farther afield as Sue and I will be driving up to Scotland and spending a whole week living and working with the Iona Community, something that I have wanted to do for more years than I can remember. With its ethos of Celtic Christianity, a focus on justice and peace, wonderful music and fabulous wild scenery, I trust it will be a real spiritual shot in the arm.



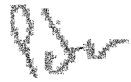
It will be followed by a further week spent on retreat with the Pilsdon Community who work with folk who have had addiction issues and often a period of homelessness and are aiming to put their lives back together. It is in many ways similar to the community I lived and worked with in the USA for a month of my ministerial training - though I suspect rural Dorset will offer a somewhat different experience from downtown Atlanta?

Finally, I will be spending several days visiting the Longmead Farm, also in Dorset, which is a rather different residential community once again. They work with families in danger of splintering (they talk of 'pre-broken' families), aiming to give an opportunity to work together (with the animals plus household chores) plus eat, talk and have fun together. Many in modern family life spend too much time rushing back and forth and never communicating and missing out on the civilising influences of spending time as a family and strengthening relationships.

In addition as I indicated, I will be having four weeks of annual leave and all in all will be completely absent from 'normal' church life and in effect reducing the stipendiary ministerial team from two to one. Steph, the Pastoral Workers and the Church Secretaries will act as a firewall as I will otherwise be uncontactable except via them during this period.

Please be kind to Steph (who will be having her own sabbatical in 2016) and the rest of the church leadership, pastoral teams and worship leaders who will be working extra hard to cover my absence. I trust that the effort will be worthwhile when I return re-invigorated and able hopefully to put some of what I have gained from the experiences into our church communities.

Blessings,



Tel - 01308 425978

e-mail - see web contacts page

PS in relation to the Digital Detox I thought this might raise a smile



New stewards

At the AGM we elected 2 new stewards Alex Reed and Elizabeth Martin. We also thanked retiring stewards Janice Young and Margaret Knighton for all their hard work. Margaret achieved an amazing amount in her time as church secretary.

Thank You

Chaplaincy



Recently preparations and start ups have moved on a pace.

FIRE: Chris has started as Chaplain at Dorchester Fire Station. Firefighters are 'retained'. This is like we think of with lifeboat crew – called out in an emergency. However the 'watches' come in for training and check on 'pumps' (engines) on a weekly basis. At Dorchester there are two. The role is therefore to go in when the crews are there. Initially it is about being recognised and taking any opportunity to chat without interfering with the work! From this trust will be built up.

A visit is being planned to UCD as the service likes to experience interesting buildings and also to help us with our evacuation procedures.

In addition we have recommended someone for a Chaplain in North Dorset (with thanks to Paul Arnold) and have now recommended someone on Portland, who did one of the training days with us.

We are encouraging extension of care to Volunteers (the service has about 100!) and to H Q on the Dorchester site.

RETAIL: A really good commissioning service took place recently for six Chaplains, to visit retail establishments, in the middle of South Street. The Echo put a photo and report in the Dorchester supplement. Brian Savage was away so he was commissioned in our service on 19th. April. As I write this, first contacts are being made and prayers for many positive responses are needed. BID (Business development in Dorchester) is supporting and has circulated material, along with the Town Council. The plan is to visit all the shops in South Street and arcades leaving a leaflet explaining the work then returning a week later to check responses. This will show how far we can cover with existing Chaplains.

To date we only have three churches that have offered a representative for the Management Group with another promising one soon. Work is now needed to confirm which churches will definitely support.

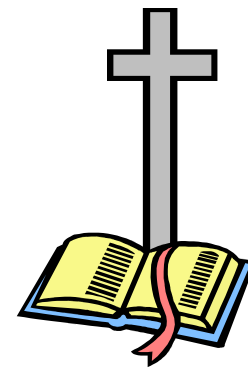
Chris Warren

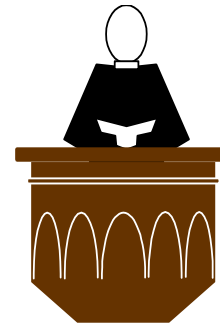
Getting to know you

(removed from web version)

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.





**For information**

Peter Clark will be on sabbatical from 8 June until 7 September. This means that his work will need to be shared by Steph and the teams that support her and Peter.

Dorchester Poverty Action Group (DPAG)

DEBT

How does it happen?

How is it resolved?

Dorchester Poverty Action Group's

next open meeting is about an issue

that should be important to us all: debt .

The meeting is on Monday June 8th at

7pm at the Dorford Centre Coffee

lounge. The speaker will be Keith

Greening from Dorchester Citizens Advice Bureau.

Everyone welcome.



Our next Coffee morning to raise money for the £150 grants given out to local people at points of crisis is **on Saturday 12th July in the church hall from 10am—12 noon.** Stalls include books, bric-a brac, cakes etc. Any donations for stalls can be given to Wendy Hilton.

In the coming year, DPAG is celebrating 25 years of service in Dorchester. Under the auspices of DPAG **a deprivation survey** is going to be undertaken in West Dorset, carried out professionally and with several organisations involved, Watch out for more details.

Remembrance

St Marys Church, Edward Road, Dorchester

Sunday 14 June

Come any time between 2pm and 4pm

**A time to remember children who have died
before, during or after birth**

**Informal occasion with music, candles, a time for
quiet reflection and refreshments**



Outreach slot

With the detailed article on Chaplaincy this means that other outreach info is limited.



The main news is that Paul Field is booked to appear at UCD on Saturday evening October 10th. You may recall he appeared with the Oddments Theatre Co. last year. He was well received and appreciated so we decided to invite him back. He is probably best known for his share in the setting of The Lord's Prayer, which Cliff Richard sang as the Millennium Prayer. However he is widely experienced as an international Christian artist and has appeared with well known artists on both sides of the Atlantic.

To gently reach out to the users of our premises, work continues on sourcing appropriate posters for rooms and prayers for Coffee Shop.

Interestingly the Methodist Synod focused on evangelism this time and Tom Stuckey, a famous name in the denomination, did a study on The Great Commission at the end of Matthew's gospel. He asked us to reflect on the actions in the passage and see which struck us most. For many of us it was 'go'. He then made some radical points.

- ✧ Our policy statements in churches are too complicated and often we cannot remember what they say. He suggested they should have one point and that is 'go make disciples'.
- ✧ 50% of our time in church meetings should be talking about making disciples.
- ✧ Baptism in Matthew is corporate, so when a family comes with a baby to be baptised we should offer it to parents, grandparents etc. **EVEN WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN BAPTISED BEFORE.** (Definitely not current Methodist policy).
- ✧ There is 'cold' theology and 'hot' theology. Cold is when ministerial training is done in the lecture room for say two years followed by going out into the field. Hot theology is when you go out in the field first. This point actually produced the most debate.

There was also a workshop on The Jesus Deck, which is like Christian Tarot cards. and reports on Jazz Church, use of a blog, opening a church to care for Reading Festival goers and our own Jo reporting on the Foyer Project.

It reminds us that much outreach work in being done and we can be open to new ideas and thinking.

Chris Warren

20150 years

**150th Anniversary of
Broadmayne Methodist
Church**

1865 – 2015

During this year, to celebrate our 150th Anniversary, we have three separate events to mark our Past, our Present and our Future and we would very much like to invite you to attend as many of these events as you are able. At each of these events there will be a display of archive material and a souvenir booklet and other commemorative items will be available.

Next event

Saturday 11 July	The Present
7.30 pm	Evening Concert –the Bovington Military Wives Choir and local musical talent. Cost per ticket £4.00, Students £1.00.
Sunday 12 July 3.00pm	Service led by Revd Barrie Snook followed by a cream tea and photo

For catering purposes and for seats at the concert it would help with planning if you would let me know by **Tuesday 16 June**.

Margaret Eaglestone see Contact us page on web (select 'Broadmain 150 Celebrations Margaret Eaglestone')

Mercy Ships trip Jan—March 2015



Most people who have been around UCD over the last few years have heard of Mercy Ships; It was our nominated world charity and we were fortunate to have several inspirational speakers telling us about the charity's work. Last year Colin & Sue Gannaway and my sister and I were privileged to be able to go to visit The Africa Mercy, the charity's hospital ship when it was in Tenerife.

By the time of our visit I had taken early retirement from my post as a Paediatric Ward Sister at Dorset County Hospital and I was keen to see what life on board was really like.

We met some volunteers, including some nurses & were shown the ship including the accommodation for volunteers; we were shown a 6 berth cabin where the bunks were in pairs and the 6 inhabitants shared a bathroom. They looked bleak to me with no natural light, very little space and NO privacy whatsoever. Up until that time I had considered applying but changed my mind. When I returned I was talking to a friend who understood my reluctance but also advised that I did not want to look back in five years time and wish I had applied. After much thought and discussion, I decided to apply and see what happened and said that I could serve at short notice, which was exactly what I got!

The more I thought about it the more anxious I became so having little time to think was a blessing.

I flew from Heathrow to Nairobi and then on to Antananarivo (known as Tana), the capital of Madagascar. Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world with a population of around 23million. It is poor with little spending on health – around \$40 per capita annually. A group of six of us arrived on the same flight and were met by a representative of Mercy Ships and taken to a guest house where we stayed overnight with some other volunteers and we shared a bus journey the following day to the port of Toamasina, (more often called Tamatave) on the East

coast where the Africa Mercy was moored. These people became known as our 'bus family'

The journey gave us the opportunity to get to know one another and put names to faces as well as see the countryside which was a lush green with banana plants and rice fields and lots of water. The bus ride took around nine hours and once on board the Africa Mercy we were given ID badges and shown our accommodation. I was very fortunate to have a two berth cabin to myself for the first week.

On the following day we had a tour of the ship, although it took me about two weeks to stop getting lost, as well as an introduction to the nursing we would be doing. I was allocated to the ward where adults and children had plastic surgery, mainly to restore function to limbs following burn injuries, some of them years before. The extent of the contractures was shocking and unlike anything I had seen before. Most Malagasy people cook on open fires, often inside their houses and it was evident that children had pulled boiling pots of food or water over themselves and some had been involved in house fires. Almost all of the patients had skin grafts to enable them to regain use of hands or arms and many had grafts around their necks. The nursing care was very strictly proscribed and we all followed agreed pathways of care; as such it was not difficult or challenging but not being able to communicate with your patients without an interpreter made it feel quite challenging- it made me realise how much you just 'chatter' to patients and the value of sign language!. As an ex ward sister I often found this frustrating but I came to realise that it was the only safe way to ensure consistency as there were nurses from all over the world; I worked with a South African and a Swiss surgeon and nurses from the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Sweden and Australia; luckily for me the language used on board ship including in the hospital was English. The ward had very few activities for the patients so we played lots of games of Jenga and Connect 4, and tried to stop the little ones cheating at memory game! Balloons and stickers were used as bribes and rewards. The ward, on deck 3 has no natural light, has 20 beds which look

like flimsy metal camp beds, with about 80cms between them; each has a mattress underneath directly on the floor for the care giver to sleep on. All of the surfaces are metallic so magnets are used to hold up the few sets of curtains available if required. The ward has two bathrooms each containing a shower and a toilet which like all the toilets on board worked on a vacuum system which often blocks, the consequences of which are unpleasant.

The patients are all screened prior to their admission and advised that their stay will be lengthy; all patients stay longer than they would do in this country, and for those who have plastic surgery it is imperative that they stay in a clean and air conditioned environment. On my last shift I discharged a patient who had been there for six weeks following a skin graft to her armpit; it made me realise that she and her mother (and the baby brother that Mum was feeding) had been away from their home for a very long time and had spent twenty three hours a day with no natural daylight. The patients and care givers are fed by Mercy Ships and all 'plastics' patients are on dietary supplements and vitamins to aid healing. Even the small children took their medication with little fuss and they all enjoyed their daily 'Mana' – a peanut butter sachet! The ward was visited daily by the hospital chaplaincy team who held a short worship service which involved guitars, singing, clapping and dancing and a Sunday service was held in an empty ward.

Mercy Ships employs local staff to work as 'Day Crew'; these are recruited from local churches, paid at just above the local rate of pay and speak good English. They were invaluable and as well as translating kept the ward clean and tidy. After an agreed period, patients were allowed to go to Deck 7 for an hour in the afternoons with nurses and day crew. This gave them fresh air and the opportunity to exercise and for some to use their mobile phones. During my eight weeks I cared for many patients who stick in my mind.

The first of these was Nina; she had a neurofibroma, a benign tumour of nerve and fibrous tissue at the back of her neck. In the pre-surgery photograph she is standing hunched with an obvious swelling under her t-shirt and the tumour looked like dreadlocks.

When she was admitted to the ward she was very withdrawn and spent her time with her face turned towards the wall. She spoke only if spoken to and did not engage with any of the other patients or staff. Her father was in the bed next to her and he had a similar tumour on his arm removed. Following a visit from the chaplaincy team, both Nina and her father became Christians before their surgery.



Nina, pre-operative

Nina went to the operating theatre and had the large tumour removed; it weighed 4 Kgs!!!. I could not imagine what it must be like to have something like that weighing you down, literally and figuratively, and this was her only opportunity to have this removed as she was unable to afford to pay for the surgery even if there was a surgeon in Madagascar who would have been able to operate. Over the next few days and weeks Nina's personality began to emerge; on her side of the ward a small child with her Mum were next to the bathroom and they started to talk. Within a few weeks a firm friendship had developed and Nina was smiling and much more animated – the transformation was remarkable. It seemed as if one patient was admitted and a completely different one was discharged. Even though I had little direct input I was blown away by the change that I had witnessed and realised what a privilege it was to see this for myself.



A transformed Nina, on her way to her new life.

As a children's nurse I was drawn to the children and there were several who I will remember for a long time. We had a patient called Santa, aged 2; she had sustained a scald to her mouth and neck and the new skin and scar tissue meant that her mouth was pulled down and her chin becoming pulled down also. She had a



skin graft to her neck and wore a sort of bandage balaclava for a while. As any self respecting 2 year old she was often lovely and friendly and sometimes

Before

very cross and always independent! She became very used to being a patient and would only take her medication out of a medicine cup which she had to hold herself and woe betide any of us who tried to help her! She was intrigued by the electric fan and spent many happy times running up to it and giggling and then running away and enjoyed bubbles and balloons. Once the balaclava came off her neck had a dressing and in time that too came off and she was encouraged to dance as her Mum sang



to get her to exercise her neck and ensure that it was stretched to prevent the contractures re-occurring. She had come to the Africa mercy from Tana, the capital and was discharged but needed to be re-admitted following an infection. This meant an overnight bus trip in a crowded local bus. I think it is unlikely that Santa would have been able to access this type of

After

surgery in Madagascar and for Mercy Ships to be able to

provide this type of surgery is life changing. We had been given similar examples by the speakers from Mercy Ships and I felt very fortunate to have been able to witness them for myself.

The trip to Madagascar was not all work and we were able to get off the ship to explore Tamatave; the ship security team deemed it unsafe to be out at night but during the day it felt safe and the locals were friendly if intrigued! We had a couple of excursions (often with other members of our 'bus family') and spent some nights away from the ship. The biggest luxury of those trips away was to wake up and see the daylight and hear birdsong as none of our cabins had any natural light – I had not thought that my bedroom window was so important to me!

On one excursion we travelled along the Pangalese canal which is parallel to the Indian Ocean; our trip was on a beautiful sunny day and the water was clear. Along the canal we could see small communities using the canal for everything – washing, bathing, fishing and saw many dug out canoes or pirogues which were used to fish. When we arrived at our resort we were able to see lemurs - some at close quarters as they stole bananas from our breakfast table getting the sympathy vote by having not one but two babies clinging on to her back!. We also saw the local village and a fishing village and some of the carnivorous plants in the wild. Despite sleeping under mosquito nets we all bore the scars of being bitten by wildlife!

While I was away I felt amazingly supported by my sisters, friends from the United Church and friends from Cornwall. I am grateful for all of that support and feel I could not have done my time on the Africa Mercy without it.

Madagascar is a beautiful country and the people I met were kind and gentle and I found it a privilege to be able to serve on the Africa Mercy and to witness at first hand the work which the charity that the United Church supported continues to offer to the world's poor and needy.

Message from the Treasurer

“The Lent Lunches in the United Church this year raised £1,159.87 for Christian Aid”.

Retiring collection for the Nepal Disaster Fund on Sunday 26 April and May 3rd raised over £1,000

New church address book 2015

The new draft address book 2015 will be available for checking on Sunday 31 May, 7 June and 14 June in the foyer. Please sign against your name after you have checked all the details are correct. If you do not want your details in the address book, please let us know. The new book should be ready in July. This will be available in a printed version as well as electronically for the first time.

Thank you Wendy and John Hilton.

Methodist Homes Sunday is on Sunday 14th June. The theme this year is ‘Who is my older neighbour.’ Envelopes will be on the seats on this date and there is a magazine from Methodist Homes available in the foyer rack to read.



Family News

We give thanks for the lives of Les Belcher, Lillian Jackson, Doris Parkin and Nelson Bainbridge. We remember them and their families in our prayers.

Les Belcher has been a member for many years. As a lay preacher, he conducted the monthly service at Bayeux Court, which was much appreciated. He was also a Junior Church leader and a key member of the property committee.



Volunteers Wanted

Sound desk—volunteers are needed to join the Sunday morning rota on the sound desk. This is an important service for everyone in church, but especially for those who are unable to come to church and receive the service on tape. Full training will be given. Please see David Steel

Churches' Ecology Group representative for the United Church. The group meets every 2 months and the aim is to raise awareness of climate change and the environment and to encourage churches to take action. Please see Wendy for further details

Vision advertising manager. Linda Odhams who has been quietly and efficiently doing this job for 11 years wishes to retire. It is not an onerous job, but involves sending out invoices annually (mostly Nov) collecting the cheques, dealing with new enquiries and delivering a Vision to each advertiser. For further details contact Linda . Thank you Linda for all your hard work over many years.

World Mission Committee treasurer—Colin Gannaway has been looking after this role for 10 years and is retiring (not as church treasurer) and the committee is looking for a replacement. For further details contact Maria Jacobsen . Thank you Colin for all your hard work over many years.

THE MAGAZINE TEAM

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Wendy Hilton
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Dorchester

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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.

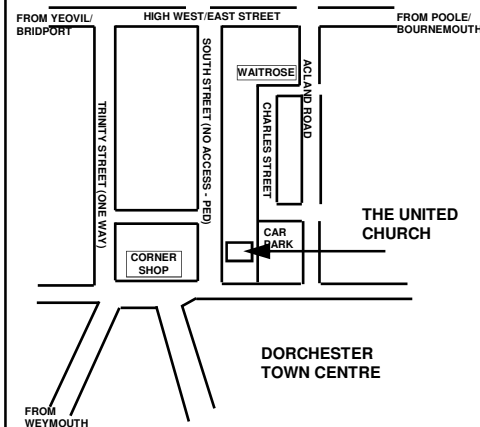
Prayer Groups: Prayer Chain, Prayer & Meditation Meeting.

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, Margaret Knighton (see contact us)

Your Pastoral Visitor:

**United Church
Dorchester,
South Street**

Methodist and United Reform

Reg Ch No 1137996