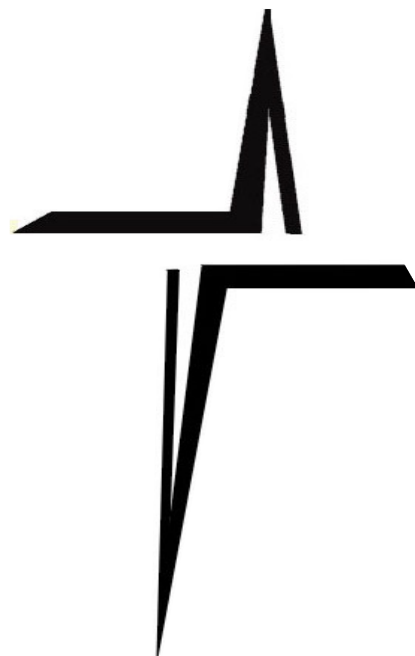


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From your Dorchester based minister...

Dear friends,

In this summer season, when we have visitors from all parts of the country and even the world, we are starting to look at Radical Hospitality as one of Robert Schnase's five practices of fruitful congregations (the others – passionate worship; intentional faith development; risk taking mission and service; extravagant generosity – will also be looked at in the coming year).



Why? Because if we don't grow, we cannot be fruitful; if we stay still and don't move, we cannot be fruitful; if we do things that we've always done, just because we've always done them, we cannot be fruitful; if we don't listen to and try new ideas, we cannot be fruitful. Bishop Schnase starts his chapter on Radical Hospitality by quoting Romans chapter 15 verse 7:

'Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ welcomed you,
for the glory of God'

and we have recently read Matthew chapter 25 – the sheep and the goats – as part of our lectionary.

So there is Biblical precedence for not just hospitality, but going above and beyond.

Now don't get me wrong, we do hospitality well at United Church Dorchester. Peter and I experienced this first hand when we came in as mystery worshippers on the Wednesday before my interview on the Thursday in November 2012 and again in August 2013 when we came incognito into the coffee shop. But there is more that we can do, in practical ways, as well as prayerful ways.

Adaptions to the building, such as making the single door into a double door in the hallway, and looking at the installation of a lift can make a huge difference to people who have mobility problems.



And we will be encouraging people who are church representatives (i.e. stewards and people performing specific roles on the premises) to wear their badges or some other form of identification so that our visitors know who they can ask questions of, and find answers from.

And we are pleased to hear your suggestions, we may not be able to take them all up, but we can consider them.

We hope that as individuals and in all your groups, committees and social groups, you will help us as a whole church, to show that radical hospitality that Jesus showed to all whom he met, feeding and healing strangers, taking time to stop and talk even to women and children, helping whoever he could and teaching his followers to do the same. If we are disciples, followers of Jesus Christ, we need to do our best for him by doing our best for others and being the best selves we can.

We will work together ask God's blessings on our endeavours.

Steph

Email removed from web version
Tel No. Removed from web version

New co-opted steward

Janet Kennewell has agreed to be a co-opted steward until the next AGM. Janet has a wealth of experience in the voluntary sector and she and husband Peter are always willing to roll up their sleeves.

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

By Bishop Robert Schnase

Focus on the Five Practices

The purpose of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. But how do we do that? The most visible way God knits people into the community of Christ and draws people into the relationship with God is through congregations that fulfill the ministry of Christ in the world. Fruitful congregations repeat and improve on these five basic practices: **Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity.**

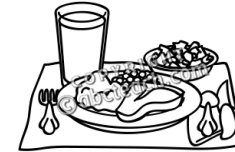
The practices are basic and fundamental. But it's the adjectives that make these words come alive, because they stretch us and cause us to ask ourselves, "How are we doing in practicing these qualities of ministry in our congregation? How might we do better?"

Now these are practices—they're not qualities that some churches have and some don't. They're not phases that, once we get them done, we can move on to something else. These are practices that we have to learn and improve upon constantly. These are the activities that are so critical to the mission of the church, that failure to perform them in an exemplary way leads to congregational decline and deterioration. Here's a look at the first of five practices used in fruitful congregations.

Radical Hospitality. (Romans 12:9-21)

Congregations offer the invitation and embrace of Jesus Christ, the gracious welcome that creates genuine belonging that brings people together in the Christian community. Churches characterized by radical hospitality are not just friendly and courteous. Instead, they exhibit restlessness because they realize so many people do not have a relationship to a faith community. They sense a calling and responsibility to pray and work to invite

others and to help them feel welcome and supported in their faith journeys. Congregations surprise newcomers with a glimpse of the unmerited gracious love of God that they see in Christ. Our Radical Hospitality goes to the extremes, and we do it joyfully, not superficially, because we know our invitation is the invitation of Christ.



Dorchester Lunch club for children

Dorchester Lunch Club was set up in 2012 to offer a midday meal each day (Mon –Fri) to school age children who are entitled to free school meals. The venue is the Thomas Hardy School and it is run by volunteers drawn from several churches in the Dorchester area. The club is affiliated to Makelunch, a part of the Cinnamon Network ,which exists to encourage churches to engage within their local community to provide practical support where it is needed. Donations of food have been provided by Dorchester Food Bank, Waitrose and Tesco, whilst donations of money have come from many sources including the Dorchester Poverty Action group. We try to have 3-4 volunteers each day between 11am – 2pm. The cooking itself isn't complicated but we like to have one person available should any of the Mums feel like talking. We would also like to provide some physical activities for the children, so if you know of any teenagers who might like to be involved in this area of work, we would be very grateful.

In the past, I have asked my own congregation for offers of cake/ biscuits for the children after their meal. If anyone feels they could help in this way I would love to hear from you.

Equally, if you feel you would like to volunteer please let me know. We don't get as many children as we would like – the average is about 20 a day. No-one expects you to do every day. If you wanted to volunteer for just one day or within a particular week, we would love to see you.

This year the Club is running from Tuesday 21st July (to allow us to set up on the Monday) to Friday 21st August.

If anyone would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kath Joslin Email removed from web version, Tel No. Removed from web version

Getting to know you

Susy Rogers

Removed from web version—
available on the paper copy only

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What is Fairtrade

With Fairtrade you have the power to change the world every day. With one simple choice you can get farmers a better deal. And that means they can make their own decisions, control their futures and lead the dignified life everyone deserves.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers.

It's about supporting the development of thriving farming and worker communities that have more control over their futures and protecting the environment in which they live and work.

And it's your opportunity to connect with the people who grow the produce that we all depend on.

What does the Fairtrade mark mean

When you buy products with the FAIRTRADE Mark, you support farmers and workers as they work to improve their lives and their communities. The Mark means that the Fairtrade ingredients in the product have been produced by small-scale farmer organisations or plantations that meet Fairtrade social, economic and environmental [standards](#). The standards include protection of workers' rights and the environment, payment of the Fairtrade Minimum Price and an additional Fairtrade Premium to invest in business or community projects.



Fairtrade works to benefit small-scale farmers and workers, who are amongst the most marginalised groups globally, through trade rather than aid to enable them to maintain their livelihoods and reach their potential.

For certain products, such as coffee, cocoa, cotton and rice, Fairtrade only certifies small-scale farmer organisations. Working through democratic organisations of small-scale farmers, Fairtrade offers rural families the stability of income which enables them to plan for the future.



The producers themselves decide how the Fairtrade Premium should be invested. The premium is the additional sum of money paid on top of the Fairtrade minimum price that farmers and workers receive which can be invested in social, environmental and economic developmental projects to improve their businesses and their communities. In real terms, it means investment in schools, transport, health care, sanitation, an improved environment and better business equipment and practices.

What is a Fairtrade Church?

At the last church meeting there was an overwhelming commitment to continue as a Fairtrade church. This means we commit to

- ✧ Use Fairtrade tea and coffee after services and in all meetings for which we have responsibility
- ✧ Move forward on using other Fairtrade products such as sugar, biscuits and fruit
- ✧ Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and during the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible

Fairtrade Coffee tasting by Margaret Knighton

Our Fairtrade coffee tasting session following the bring and share lunch at the end of June came out with a close result. Co-op's Fairtrade Gold Roast coffee just beat Traidcraft's Medium Roast coffee.

The other coffees came from Clipper and Cafedirect. (These were all instant coffees as that is what we use on Sundays.). Now that we have chosen a new coffee we are back on track to maintain our **Fairtrade Church** status – hooray! Maybe there is more we can do – any ideas?



Maureen busy scoring the coffees, while others are busy enjoying the company.



Ed—Following the church meeting it was decided to buy Traidcraft coffee as it provides a better income to those in greatest need.

Dorset County Show 2015

After the success, positive feedback & not least the enjoyment of volunteers at last years show we have been again asked to have a presence at this year's Dorset County Show.



Our stand last year consisted of free baby feeding & changing facilities, free children's craft activities & people available to lend a listening ear & a warm welcome.

This was truly an amazing piece of outreach and was very warmly welcomed by both the show organisers & visitors.

As you can imagine maintaining this type of presence at such a large show took a lot of organising & required an awful lot of volunteer support!

Therefore we are asking **in advance** for volunteer commitment.

We would like volunteers to offer to cover at a minimum a 2 hourly slot, more if they feel able. We can help with ticket entry if needed.



The show dates are 5th & 6th September.

If you feel able to help in any way please email Lynne Antell or Peter Jenner Email & Tel No.s removed from web version

Ed– These 2014 County Show photos were taken after all the hard work of setting up and before the public arrived.

Outreach slot

The most exciting development recently has been the start up of retail chaplaincy. Following training and recommendation from their own churches, Chaplains were commissioned in South Street. The Echo took a photo and included it with an article in the DT1 supplement the following week. The Chaplains went out in pairs starting in South Street and adjacent arcades. A lot of prayer accompanied this. Then the news came in: of the first 100 shops and firms visited over 90% asked for the contact! This was a great encouragement to us all including the Chaplains who began to gain considerable confidence.



We had hoped to move on to Trinity Street next, but because of the amazing response, we need more people to train as Chaplains! If you feel this may be something you sense a call to, please speak to myself or one of the Chaplains e.g. Peter Jenner, John Saunders or Brian Savage.

Fire Chaplaincy continues and recently the Wednesday Watch visited our church as they like to experience 'complicated buildings'. They were so impressed that they asked to do an exercise to help them. We hope to host the Monday Watch in the near future. I also had my first ride in a Fire Engine going round to Dorset County Council offices for an exercise.

On Saturday October 10th. We have a return visit from Paul Field, International musician, who came to us last year with Oddments Theatre Co. This is an opportunity to think who we might invite. As usual there is no charge, but donations towards costs on the evening, will be very welcome.

We are continuing to look at ways in which we can assist our welcome to those who use the premises, so please look out for any ideas we may share.

We are also trying to find the best way to have film evenings including reflective discussion, to which we can invite people. A major and longer term project is the consideration of putting on the musical play 'Ride! Ride!' This is a great true story about an incident in the life of John Wesley and is also great fun to be in and to see. This will need a lot of putting together and will need a number of partners.

The Dorchester Child Contact Centre

The Dorchester Child Contact Centre is a neutral place where children of separated families can enjoy contact with their non-resident parent and sometimes other family members, in a comfortable and safe environment.



Could you be a Volunteer?

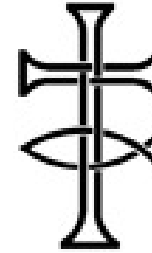
We are always pleased to hear from prospective volunteers. The main tasks are assisting families using the Centre, ensuring safety and security and keeping attendance records. Volunteers work either in the 'playroom' (where the Contact session takes place) or by the external door to maintain security and provide a welcome and reassurance to families. Volunteers commit themselves to approximately six Contact sessions and two training events a year.

We are currently looking for Committee members and someone to help us with fundraising, as we are a voluntary organisation and rely on donations to be able to offer this service. Could this be you? (voluntary basis).

If you are interested in volunteering please call Kelly Strange Tel No Removed from web version

Reform Magazine

- ✧ Ever looked at Reform magazine?
- ✧ Ever wanted the chance to dip into Reform?
- ✧ Ever seen an article you would really like to read in detail?



Well, now the opportunity is coming for you to do just that! There is a specially labelled wall pocket in the Church Foyer with back copies of Reform for you to borrow. Our regular subscribers are kindly loaning out some of their back copies of the magazine for others to share. I hope that when you do borrow a copy or two that you will be stimulated and surprised by some of the articles you read.

Reform is becoming, even more, a very up-to-date and topical magazine and definitely is a good read. Articles are often short and bite-sized but nevertheless can be deeply challenging, for example the letter from a Christian Pastor in Pakistan living under the threat of violence to his Church and to his person; or another one from the Pastor of a Christian Church in Bethlehem writing about life in an occupied country. There have been short pieces focussing on Art works, Church music, and Christian attitudes to money or to voting in the recent May elections this year. Food banks and Street Pastors have been featured too, so you will see the wide variety in the topics included. There are regular articles such as excellent book reviews with one entitled 'Diary of a missionary nurse', celebrating 'Delta Echo' the book written by our own Ruth Archer, and I agree with the reviewer, one I could not put down.

Over the last year or so there has been an interesting series entitled 'We ask one question and get four answers.' Questions cover some very challenging subjects including the purpose of Worship, Divine Healing, Abortion, Equality in the Church and do Miracles really happen? Just at the time that we were debating

and voting on same-sex marriage, this was presented as one of the questions asked. The four answers always come from very differing quarters, are reasoned and thoughtful, this promotes insight and understanding or may cause us to rethink our own viewpoint on the subject.

So! You really must see for yourself!

And if you like what you see, then why not consider subscribing to your own copy of Reform? There are ten copies per year for £25. Now our regular subscribers are being encouraged to order their copies individually, and you can do likewise. The price is exactly the same as a group order and there is the advantage that your copy is delivered directly to your own home.

For more information or for a subscription form please do come and speak to me.

Mary Lucraft.



Knitting for Romania (Heart Response)

Many thanks from Mary Brayley for well over 60 jumpers, some knee blankets for needy widows and other items. The widows are surprisingly large due to a poor diet.

Suggestions for Sept—Oct Collection for the bitter winter

- ✧ Jazzy knitted scarf and hat sets for teenage orphans in homes
- ✧ Knee blankets (squares)
- ✧ Jumpers for 11-16 year olds

Collections points include the church shop, Mary Brayley on a Sunday or Tish Roberts at Tourist Information Centre, Antelope Walk.

Further information at www.heart-response.org.uk

Mass Climate Change Lobby

Over 9,000 people from all over the UK converged on Westminster on 17th June in what is thought to be the biggest ever UK lobby on climate change. It was organised by the Climate Coalition, which spans over 100 organisations, from environment and development charities to unions, faith, community and women's groups.

From West Dorset members of the Dorchester Churches' Ecology Group joined representatives of Christian Aid, CAFOD and Transition Towns to lobby our MP, Oliver Letwin, about action on Climate Change. Among them were Tony Boyden, currently chair of the local Christian Aid Committee, and Susy Rogers and Margaret Knighton from UCD.

Some of us attended a service in Westminster at which the Bishop of Salisbury, Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, (lead Bishop on the environment) said: "This is not just our individual concern. It is our Christian concern together as the church. It is the concern of people of all faiths. It is our human concern in solidarity with all people. The world is our home."

We then moved to Lambeth Bridge to take our allocated space in a long line of constituency groups stretching along the river



from the House of Commons to Lambeth Palace. The MPs were brought from the House of Commons in a fleet of bicycle rickshaws. Oliver Letwin was received by a group of about twenty constituents who questioned him on government policy and action. As he could only spare a short time he committed himself to a future longer meeting in Dorset for further conversations.

Support the vulnerable

Leaders from four major UK Churches have signed an open letter to the re-appointed Prime Minister, David Cameron, encouraging him to hold 'truth, justice, peace and wellbeing' at the heart of the government.



With a focus on 'loving our neighbour', the letter reminds the Prime Minister that a wholesome society should be concerned for the weakest and most vulnerable, both locally and globally.

The letter, signed by leaders of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, highlights several of the key concerns that the Churches believe should be high on the agenda of the new government, calling for:

- a full review of the impact of the benefits sanctions system
- a postponement of further spending on Trident and a serious re-assessment of the need for nuclear weapons
- assertive international action to uphold human rights and deliver humanitarian assistance in Syria
- action to make freedom of religion a human rights priority in all aspects of foreign policy.

"Remembering our neighbours is vital for a healthy society," said Rachel Lampard, leader of the Joint Public Issues Team, which works on behalf of the Churches. "Whilst policies protecting the most weak and vulnerable of society may not always be the most popular, they are necessary to live out the common good, regardless of political perspective."

Methodists for World Mission

MWM (*Methodists for World Mission*) is an organisation now linked with wider ecumenical projects. Its present chairman is an Anglican, Margaret Butler, wife of Bishop Tom Butler, well known to Radio 4 listeners as a regular contributor on *"Thought for the Day"*. She herself is much involved with *"Christians Aware"* an inter-denominational charity which arranges church exchanges visits across the world for mutual education and support. Other similar groups actively involved include *"Anglicans in World Mission"*, *Christian Aid*, *The Queen's Foundation* (Birmingham) and *"Grassroots"*.



MWM holds three conferences each year (one national and two regional) on themes related to the World Church. For some years several from our church have attended the South West gathering, which meets at Ammerdown Conference Centre, Radstock near Bath. This year (30th Oct to 1st Nov) is on the subject of HAITI led by the Rev Marcus Torchon, a Haitian minister at present working in the UK on the Wirral. There will also be one session on Christian work in North India, plus the usual contributions from overseas students in this country, who tell us something of their background and aspirations.

The feedback from our folk who have attended has invariably been good. The charges for the weekend are set just to cover the cost of the Conference, and we share transport arrangements. David Reep (Tel 261419) has full details and booking forms. He has also ascertained that there can be some financial help (in strict confidence) for those who may find the cost a problem.



New church address book 2015

The new address book will be available to purchase price £2 from Sheila Mann from the end of July. For the first time, there will also be an electronic pdf version available for personal use only, Please e-mail John Hilton email removed from we version

Family News

We give thanks for the life of Pat Upshall, who worshipped at Broadmayne for many years. We remember her and her family in our prayers.



On Sat Jun 27th Susan Cawley (who will often greet you at the door) and Andrew Wilson were married. We wish them every blessing in their new life together.

We pray for all our young people as they receive their exam results and plan for the next stage of their future.

Editorial for Vision

Recently there have been several articles left in the Charles Street post box for Vision. I will not print anything, which does not have a name attached to it. If you are also able to e-mail your contribution, it makes the production of each Vision much easier and quicker. Thank you

THE MAGAZINE TEAM

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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
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	"	"

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

Bible Study/Discussion Groups: Fellowship Groups.

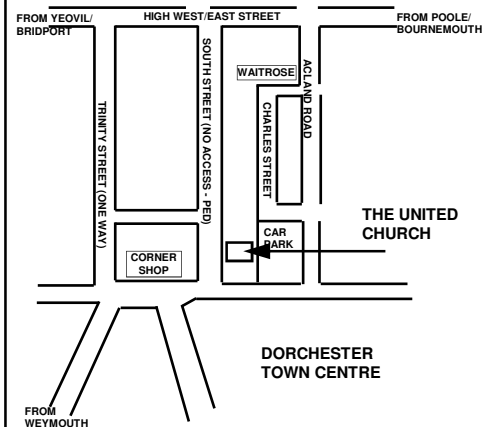
Prayer Groups: Prayer Chain, Prayer & Meditation Meeting.

Children's/ Youth Groups: Junior Church and Crèche, Antics youth group, Storytots

Social Groups: Thursday Night Out, **Picnic** People, Solos, Knit and Natter, 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, Dorchester Poverty Action Group.

How To Find Us



For more information about the Church or any of its activities please contact either Minister or the Senior Steward, Wendy Hilton (tel 267098).

Your Pastoral Visitor:

**United Church
Dorchester,
South Street**

Methodist and United Reform

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