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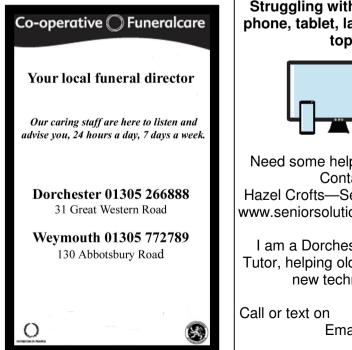


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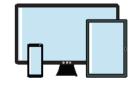


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### From the Manse .....

<sup>a</sup>From your Dorchester based minister...

Dear Friends,

I write this just as we turn into 2016, but by the time you read this we shall be preparing for Lent and Easter – the year inevitably marches on, and time waits for no-one.



While we must prepare we are too often looking ahead to enjoy the present, we have done that one thing and now we must prepare for the next.

I had an interesting conversation over Christmas as to why we celebrate Jesus' birth every year when he was (so far) born only once and why we commemorate his death every year when he died once when he was approximately 33 years old – should we not do it each perhaps once every 33 years?

His birth was decided as a birthday and quite legitimate to celebrate every year as we all do, and his death was a remembrance as we too remember the death of a loved one each year. Resurrection wasn't part of this conversation, because it is not as human an experience as birth and death.

And so our Christian year roles inevitably round as we move from Advent to Christmas to Epiphany to Lent to Easter to Ascension to Pentecost. We add in Harvest, Remembrance and all sorts of charity days and other special Sundays.

But are there too many? Does our year get crowded? Do we move too quickly from one thing to another but get stuck in a rut whilst doing so? Should we just be concentrating on just the things that mean the most to us? Birth and Death. As the old year dies and the New Year comes in we have the chance to be reborn, New Year's resolutions help us with this (are you still keeping yours?), baptism reminds us of this, but Lent and Easter give us the time and space to think about how we can be spiritually reborn, how we can put past wrongdoings, wrong thinkings, wrong attitudes behind us and not only allow them to die on Good Friday as Christ takes all our sins on his shoulders but allow us to be resurrected, reborn into peace on Easter Sunday.

So again, death brings life, as in nature so in our Christian lives, not just at the big festivals but every day as we forgive one another and love one another and keep the world turning.

And an interesting thought – this year Good Friday falls on 25<sup>th</sup> March, so the day that we remember Jesus dying is exactly 9 months before we celebrate his birth.

Let us remember to be present in our preparation, enjoy every day, the highs and the lows, whatever our year may bring.

With every blessing

Steph



On Easter Sunday we shall be again

meeting at 6.30 am at Maumbury Rings for an early celebration of Easter Sunday Sonrise – all are welcome.

Please note this is half an hour later than previous years due to Easter Sunday being the day that the clocks change and sunrise is at approximately 6.45 am

### The woild of Businessit Meets the Ohunche see

monthly and weekly sheets and posters on the notice board for details'

details' One of the biggest words that you'll hear in church at the moment is 'change' – often in a positive light, but occasionally with a slightly hesitant undertone. When I think of change the first thing that springs to mind is my workplace. I work in the head office of a High-Street Retailer, where the ability to adapt to the market and be forward thinking is essential if we are to be successful and grow. The same goes for the church – if a church is unable to adapt to its surroundings and look to the future then it too will struggle to sustain itself and excel in doing God's work.

This got me thinking about the various values, by-words and phrases that are used in the working environment, some of which have really interesting implications when you apply them to the world of the Church.

**Take Responsibility** – This is all about taking responsibility not only for yourself, but also for what's going on around you and for all those

little jobs that haven't been covered by someone else yet. If you spot a task that needs doing or something that needs changing then do it, or take it to someone who can help. You are responsible for your own growth as well as that of those around you.

**Have Courage** – Whether that's pushing yourself to do something outside of your comfort zone, trying

YOU CAN DO IT

do something outside of your comfort zone, trying something new, or just having the conviction to express an idea that may not be everyone's cup of tea. This is one I think we can often struggle with as a church. It can be all too easy to shrink away from

things that require you to be brave, but sometimes you've just got to close your eyes, take a deep breath, trust that what you are doing is part of God's plan and go for it!

**Take Pride in What You Do** – This is an easy one, but oh so easily forgotten. Take pride in



what you yourself do, but also in what we do as a church. Don't be afraid to sing someone's praises – thank the person that's made the coffee, or did a good reading. Complement the flowers and thank those on communion duty. If you have a talent that could be put to good use, then come forward and offer to help.

**The Customer Comes First** – This is a funny one. If you have to put your customer first then first you have to think who your customer is, and the more I think about it the more it seems to me that our customers are infinite. Our customers include the congregation, the wider commu-

nity, those who use our building or receive support from us, and so the list goes on. Ultimately it's anyone that we can serve as individuals or as a church, which effectively means anyone and everyone, including God.



Act with Pace (Less Haste More Speed) – Again this is one the church can struggle with. It's about seeing a solution or having an idea and going for it. You won't always hit the mark right the first

time, but at least you tried. However, this doesn't mean blindly blustering forward and forgetting to plan or be respectful of the way things are now or have always been.

**Don't Overcomplicate** – Some of the best things in life are the simple things.



Why use 100 complicated words when you can use 10 in plain English. Keeping it simple means keeping it accessible for all, and failing to keep it simple can often mean getting so wrapped up in the extras that you forget what's at the heart of what you are doing, and if that happens as a church then where does that leave us?

The more I think about it the more applications I can find for phrases like these. So next time you see a set of rules for 'Best Practice', a list of 'Key Performance Indicators' or even a list of

# Getting to know you

## David and Audrey Reep

Removed from Web copy Only available in paper copy







# The Church and the Environment

Thurs Feb 11th 7.30 pm

in the Dorford Centre

Speaker The Bishop of Salisbury

The Church of England's spokesman on the environment

# Fordington Methodist Chapel 1887 - 2012

When Fordington Methodist Chapel was about to close, it became my responsibility to find appropriate places, for the now redundant items. I first approached the other Churches in the Circuit and then Organisations which had expressed an interest in specific pieces. Everything of either monetary or Christian value was found a home, with the exception of the wooden cross (made and presented to the



Chapel by Mr. Stanley Board, Father of Shawn Board).

On my way to the Chapel for the Closing Service, I met Revd. Fiona Hall, the newly appointed Vicar for St. George's Church, Fordington. Together, we walked down Fordington High Street and in the course of our conversation, I asked her if she would be willing to accept the Cross. It had meant a great deal to the members of the Chapel being the focus of our attention on the wall above the Communion Table. The offer was graciously accepted and in due course the Cross was taken to St. George's to await a suitable use or position in the Church buildings. It has now been placed on the wall with the plaque below, at the entrance to the Hall and will act as a focal point for those entering

Look up. The Cross which you see was for many years above the Communion Table in Fordington Methodist Chapel in Kings Road. It was made by Mr. Stanley Board, whose parents worshipped at and were married in St. George's by Revd. G. Bartelot on Christmas Day 1914.

When the Chapel closed, it was accepted by Rev Fiona Hall for safe keeping and was placed here on All Saints' Day 2015.

Pause to say a prayer for all who use this Church and Hall, that

### Some thoughts on death and Death Cafes from Peter, your Bridport-based Minister

Many of us will remember the rather successful film 'Four Weddings and a Funeral,' one of those feel-good stories that can't help but make you smile.



Earlier in the year, I noticed that, since I number all the files in my computer, including services, chronologically, I know at a glance how many funerals and weddings I have conducted since commencing in Ministry in 2003. It adds up to 119 funerals and 27 weddings - so closer to a ratio of Five Funerals and a Wedding, as it turns out.

Which was no surprise to me bearing in mind the average ages in the churches I have served and still serve in. Not that I am complaining, as personally I believe not only is a funeral a hugely important rite to carry out, it is also a huge privilege to be a part of at such a difficult time for the relatives of the loved one who has died.

I've been prompted by the upcoming 'Death Cafe' to write this before I revert to the British norm of avoiding all talk of death! Because as the old saying goes, two things are inevitable, namely death and taxes. We will all eventually need therefore a funeral - and no amount of denial will hide that fact.

Which makes me want to suggest that we plan for it and indeed for our end of life preferences. Of course you might genuinely not care what happens at your own funeral, but I think, even then, you should. That is because your relatives will be left with difficult decisions and, frankly it is rather inconsiderate to leave them flailing and uncertain. It is particularly hard on them when they are actually not regular church-goers when it comes to hymn choices for instance. 'All things bright and beautiful' has been chosen completely appropriately by some relatives as a favourite hymn but I have more often had it chosen because the relatives think they know it (though frequently they can't sing it!) and I'm not convinced it would've been the preferred choice of the deceased.

I used to visit an elderly lady who regularly told me her hymns, reading and preferences were in a Bible on the top shelf of her bookcase. "So's you know when the time comes," she used to say. Though ironically she is as tough as old boots and I left the pastorate before having to 'benefit' from her advance planning.

Last year a member who realised his death was approaching very bravely told me of his wishes and the two hymns he would like sung, not to mention his plan to be carried into the church by his golfing mates (prompting his son to tell them in the service that this was because he had been carrying them on the course for years). It was particularly meaningful to know that we were honouring his own wishes.

That being the case, can I encourage you all to have a thought about what you want your funeral to be like, what music means something to you, which hymns and readings and what if anything you wish to say to those left behind? And if you think I'm only talking to older people, can I say that I have my choices all written down and sitting with my will. And yes - get a will done. Do you know that a huge proportion of Brits die intestate and cause their relatives massive problems, so please do that too!

Which brings me to one other practical suggestion. Earlier in 2015 I was in a right old quandary after the sudden death of another of our folk. The problem was that none of us knew any contact details for her next-of-kin. Adding to the sadness and



shock, we encountered a disturbing level of uncertainty and inertia. People kept asking me questions that frankly I had no idea the answer to. Fortunately her concerned niece managed to contact us and the service was arranged, but it was a very frustrating and disconcerting ten days or so. Hence I would like to request that if you have no obvious next-of-kin (such as a spouse or you're living very near relatives), that you give to someone else in the church the details of who might be contacted if you died unexpectedly, please?

Death remains a remarkably taboo subject, even in Christian circles where we believe ourselves to be the Easter Resurrection People and yet still approach death with trepidation. That is no surprise but we can still make sensible plans I believe. One way is to attend the upcoming "Death Cafe" - and there is an in-your-face 'taboo-busting' title if ever I saw one! But it is an event when all sorts of aspects including the ones mentioned above can be explored and thought about. I heartily recommend the opportunity to reinforce your ability to plan and think about what can a very difficult area.



# Festival of Crosses comes to Broadmayne

After two successful years in Dorchester, the Festival of Crosses is coming to Broadmayne. The Broadmayne churches (Methodist and Anglican) are planning their display from Thursday 17 to Tuesday 22 March at the Methodist Church. The exhibition will be open for two hours at various times each day, with



the exception of Palm Sunday, for you to view the crosses.

Dates and times are

- Thursday 17 March 10 am 12 noon
- Friday 18 March 5 7 pm
- Saturday 19 March 10 am 12 noon
- Monday 21 March 2 4 pm
- Tuesday 22 March 10 am 12 noon

Each group within Broadmayne has been contacted and invited to exhibit a cross.

Refreshments will also be available. Entry is free.

The churches do hope that you will support us.

Margaret Eaglestone

## **Good Friday Walk of Witness**

From United Church Dorchester to Holy Trinity RC church. Last year walking through South Street encouraged several people to join the walk, while others asked what was going on. This is a different type of outreach.

### .Adventures of a street pastor- Mike Jacobsen

As a street pastor I usually work on Saturday nights. Other Street Pastors have told me that there's a big difference between working on a Saturday night and working on a Friday night; Friday nights were much quieter. Last night was my first experience of working on a Friday night and I noticed the difference. It was unusually quiet, with very few people about, but it was still a night of learning for me: learning about my new team members, learning about people and learning about myself.

I arrived early and was let in to our base by the Narcotics Anonymous team who were just leaving. I was on my own in the building for a while until the rest of the team arrived. We greeted each other, talked, prayed, set up for the evening, and then went out on the streets.

It was obvious from the outset that it was going to be a very quiet night as the bars and restaurants were fairly empty and the clubs had few customers. This gave us the opportunity to talk with the people we met, and gave some the chance to talk with us on a more in-depth level. We



walked around a little bit and chatted with the few people we found. We gave Kit Kats out to the doormen of various clubs and chatted about how things were, and how the town was looking at night. We dealt with a few drunken people, gave out a few lollies and wandered around our usual 'haunts'. There was really not much going on. We walked up to the seafront and saw it was deserted, and then back down to the centre of town. As we came onto the main street, we noticed an older couple having some difficulty standing. They looked as if they had too much to drink. From a distance it was quite comical, a bit like a Laurel and Hardy show. She was sitting on her backside and he attempted to lift her up. He then fell on his backside and she fell on top of him. As we approached them, they eventually managed to brace themselves against each other and started to stagger off along the street, arms around each other. Slowly they fell over again and then fell over again and this time, as he tried to pick her up he fell on top of her, but hit the pavement with his head before he landed on her. As we arrived, they were both standing, pulling each other in opposite directions, trying to decide which way was the best way to get home. He had a small wound to his forehead, just a scratch, and we offered first aid, but it was declined. They eventually walked off, arms around each other, swaying in time and fairly stable. We carried on.

As we came around the corner by the cash machine, we saw a few homeless, rough sleepers. Two were fast asleep wrapped in sleeping bags, whilst a third, a little the worse for wear was fast asleep half in, half out his sleeping bag. The team leader Richard recognised him as Steve. We checked everyone was alright and headed onto the main street.

Outside Tesco Express, near the other cash machine, I saw a young woman standing by her possessions, wearing a hat and wrapped in a sleeping bag. Richard recognized her as Sally. He began talking with her. He said he hadn't seen her there for a while, and she explained how she had been in Dorchester, and after following Richard's advice, from an earlier conversation, she had now had an appointment with the mental health team who were working on getting her accommodation for the winter. She talked about Steve, the homeless man around the corner and how he had given up hope. "You just can't do that she said, without hope you've got nothing". As she had ran out of conversation, Richard asked if it was ok if he prayed for her, and she said she's like it. Prayer is not my strongpoint, and I don't find it easy praying with a stranger in the street, but Richard was good at it. He laid his hand on her shoulder and said a simple prayer, blessing her and asking that she find a home for the winter. I looked on in an awkward silence. I looked at Sally, she shrugged up her shoulders under her sleeping bag, smiled a lovely smile, and

screwed her eyes up, and yes, there were tears. Her eyes filed up, but she held the tears back. Under the grime and the muck, hidden under a bobble hat and a sleeping bag, there were tears. She had been touched. So had I. I knew there was a lesson for me there.

We left Sally and carried on walking, there was still not really very much going on. I stopped to talk to some doormen, and mentioned that it was a quiet night "Not if you are living in France!" he said, pulled out his smartphone and showed me the breaking news of the massacres in Paris. We talked a while and went on our way. The night ended much as it had started, quietly, and that was my first 'Street Pastor Friday night.' Nothing much had happened but I'd learned a bit about me. I didn't like praying on the streets, I think it was a 'pride thing', I was awkward, perhaps embarrassed, and a bit ashamed, ashamed of looking a bit daft, bit 'uncool'.

I got home, went to bed, slept a few hours, woke up and thought about what had happened, with Sally. How she had been so deeply touched by Richard's prayer, by his humility in asking for help for her from his heavenly father, and I looked at me, all selfsufficient and awkward, relying on my own strength, worried about

what people might think or people might say, and I cried, and prayed; "Help me Lord, help me to be humble, I saw last night someone who relied on You, and someone who needed You, and someone who had the humility to bring You without any thought for themselves, and I was all about me, I'm sorry, help me to be humble enough to rely on You." Amen. It reminded me of the old Country and



### More than just a church service

The Women's World Day of Prayer started in America in the mid 1800's, organised by individual denominations. It has now become a truly international and ecumenical World day of Prayer, uniting folk from over 150 countries.



On the first Friday in March every year Christian churches of many denominations hold the same service, prepared each time by the women of a different country- translated into 60 languages and 1000 dialects.

Cuba has provided the material for 2016, the theme being "Receive children. Receive me".

Not only prayer but action as well. Many, many thousands of pounds are raised worldwide and distributed to over 50 projects and charities.

The Day of Prayer begins as the sun rises in Samoa. It circles the earth with the sun until the last service of the day is held in American Samoa. 170 countries and islands, 3 million men, women and children will have prayed with and for Cuba. It will be a colourful affair, a sort of armchair guide to that country. Dorchester Churches are planning:

Sat Feb 6<sup>th</sup> – Coffee morning at United Church Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Service at Holy Trinity Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Service at the Quiet Space, Poundbury

Everyone is welcome – men, women and children to come and be part of this great wave of Prayer Alison Pople and Dorothy Smith – WWDP committee

Ed – This is an incredibly powerful service, as you join 3 million other people across the world all participating in the same service over 24 hours. If you have never been come along this

### Make a positive difference to people's lives directly in Dorchester – Volunteer opportunities at 'Dorset Learning Disability Services'

- Befriender for a woman who uses our services to help with activities such as cooking and outings; Training given just patience and caring attitude required.
- Monthly evening befrienders required to assist service users with their trips to local friendship clubs; Training given, minimal commitment so could suit those in employment who want to give something to help others in the community.

Awareness of learning disabilities preferred but not essential. Please contact Hilary Campbell, Volunteer Coordinator on 01305 213815 or hilary.campbell @ leonardcheshire.org

## **Outreach slot**

Outreach Ministry/

On your next visit to the Coffee Shop do notice the new holders which are now in place, with lots of

### Welcome to new roles

We welcome our first church administrator June Faulkner. She will be working closely with our new church secretary Janet Kennewell and the Senior Steward, Wendy Hilton. Working closely with the stewards and ministers they will initially prioritise her work. If you need work doing, please contact Janet or Wendy first.



### Holiday Home to let in Torrevieja, Spain

Swimming pool, air-conditioned, close to beaches and shopping centre 3 bedrooms, 2 bath/shower rooms, sleeps 6 Prices from £300/week For further details telephone 01305269209

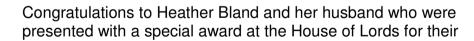
## **Congratulations to the Coffee Lounge**

They have been awarded 5 stars by the Environmental Health Department. This is the highest award that can be achieved and is very difficult to gain in a business with full time employees let alone a church coffee shop.

## **Family News**

We give thanks for the life of Pam Baker and we remember her and her family in our prayers.

Many of our members have moved over the last few weeks or are in the process of moving. We wish them all our best wishes in their new homes.



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THE MAGAZINE TEAM		
<b>Editor</b> Wendy Hilton	Advertising Manager	
33c London Road	Ronnie Boyden	
Dorchester e mail address: Removed from	Tel no removed from web version	
web version	<b>Photocopying</b> Shirley Hood	

Deadline for April/May edition is Sunday 28 February Please e-mail to Wendy (Email removed from web version) or leave in post box in Charles Street entrance Thank you



#### **Rev Steph Jenner** 7 Capitol Close

Dorchester Tel. 262421



Rev Peter Clark Bridport 01308 425978

### SERVICES

Holy Communion (2nd Sunday in the month)	Sunday	9.00am
Morning Worship (Junior Church, Crèche, Coffe	ee) Sunday 1	0.30am
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 Boom	"	"

#### **REGULAR ACTIVITIES**

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

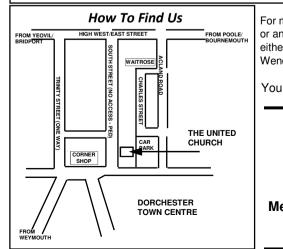
Bible Study/Discussion Groups: Fellowship Groups.

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.



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

Your Pastoral Visitor:

# United Church Dorchester, South Street

Methodist and United Reform

Reg Ch No 1137996