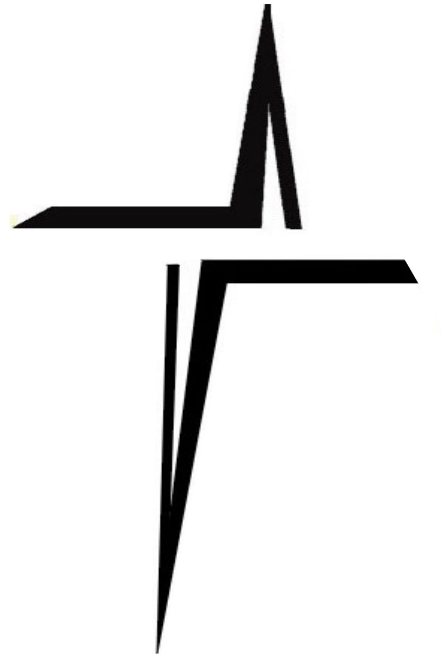


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
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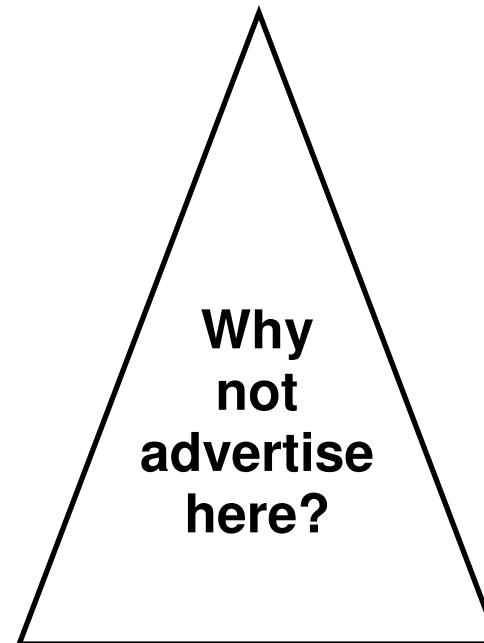
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"While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognising him." (Luke 24:15)

From Peter, your Bridport-based Minister



Friends,

I remember well a book I used to 'read' with my son called 'Where's Wally' and imagine many others will know it.

Actually, it had very few words but, rather, a complicated scene in which Wally, wearing his easily-identifiable striped top and bobbly hat, was cleverly hidden. Somehow, even without any camouflage in his get-up, he was always very, very difficult to see. Which of course was the point of this highly successful set of books. Not only that, but if you put the book down for a few weeks, you never seemed to remember where he was in any particular scene and so the search started off afresh.

I was told the other day by Clare Downing, the URC Moderator, that some enterprising Christian has produced a parody of it called, 'Where's Jesus?' in which the equally iconic image of Christ is just as difficult to find. She was reminding us at the AGM of Churches Together in Dorset that the shops



were selling easter eggs at less than half price by that point and yet, we need often to be reminded that, not only was it still the Easter Season, but we are still the Easter People. We are the Easter People **all year round** in fact and should not forget that!

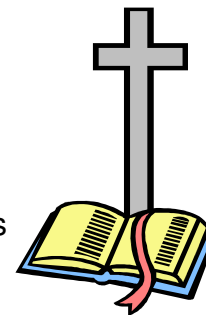
Not only should we not forget it, our role as Easter People is to remind others as well as ourselves. Because, though we might think it's obvious that the church is here and the faith is witnessing in our town, it is not so obvious to the town around us. You'd think that something as big and impressive as the United Church, positioned so favourably and visibly on a main shopping street, might be hard to miss. And yet, like Wally's distinctive stripy jersey, strangely, it is entirely possible for it to merely blend into the background (apart that is from the occasional love-struck couple who might think, "Hey, that would be a lovely church for our wedding!")

Christian witness in Bridport and Dorchester is widespread - Foodbank service, Good Neighbours Scheme, venues for coffee and fellowship, Christmas Tree Festival, Journey to the Stable and a Nativity drama to name but a few. Bridport, like Dorchester held a Walk of Witness this year with its stunning Bridport Stations of the Cross and all of these were successful in raising the profile and making us less invisible.

When Jesus reappeared, three days after his followers believed that it was all over and the dream bubble had burst, it was a massive and complete surprise to them. So much so that it is widely reported that they didn't recognise him! Cleopas and his companion walked miles without doing so, Peter and his fishing associates took some time to realise who was shouting from the shore, and Mary thought he was the gardener! Even then, Jesus was hard to spot in the midst of a busy, complex world.

But as the series of texts from the Book of Acts that we have been following in the Lectionary since Easter have shown, the Disciples worked hard at telling the story and spreading the message of the Risen One who death could not defeat.

Interestingly, one of the speakers at that AGM told how she was hugely sceptical about the initiative to offer Town Centre Chaplaincy in Dorchester. She thought it sounded a bit unlikely to be welcomed or effective, but, nevertheless



offered to join in, undergo training and was amongst those in the first batch of Chaplains. And she reported how, a year on in, she is bowled over by how welcomed they have been by shop staff and shoppers alike, and how effective they are in raising the profile of the faith. I was pretty impressed that, despite her cynicism, she had joined in and wondered how many of us would have that courage?

Jesus might be hard to see sometimes and maybe we have to keep having the courage to raise our heads above the parapet, swallow our embarrassment and tell folk that we do what we do and we believe what we believe. And we do so because we are the Easter People, followers of Christ and called to tell folk, "There's Jesus!"

Peter



BOOK REVIEW

The Shack by Wm. Paul Young

I have recently re-read this. It really is gripping, but remember, it is a novel. It gives tremendous insight into many key issues of life. It is about a man who took his children away for a weekend and while saving one in trouble another is abducted and killed. He of course feels profound guilty and becomes very down. He finds a note in his mailbox which appears to be from God inviting him to meet at The Shack where his daughter was murdered. He goes and meets God as Father, Son and Spirit in different human figures (so he can relate). His experience of the relationship between the three is profound in its expression of oneness. Other great themes are tackled such as guilt, forgiveness, love and relationships all set against the stunning background of glorious wilderness countryside.

In parts it lifts the reader wonderfully in others they are stopped to think and reflect. Do try it -copies from the Church Shop.

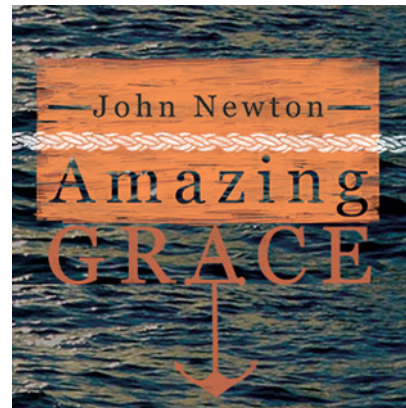
John Newton – Amazing Grace

Thurs 16th June at 7.30pm in Ocean Room, Weymouth.
Tickets available from 07809 467 717
anni.refresh@gmail.com

Press-ganged into the navy at nineteen, flogged for desertion and torn from the girl he loves, John Newton feels he has nothing to live for. Making his way into the harsh world of the eighteenth century transatlantic slave trade, he makes his living as an abusive slave trafficker of human flesh. He is a man beyond redemption, making enemies of all he meets, on his way to hell. Then one stormy night, with his ship going down, he faces certain deathand nothing is the same again. This is a powerfully moving story of slavery, freedom and the remarkable power of love and grace to transform a life.

This production is presented by Saltmine. Rachael Orrell, CEO of Saltmine says *"We aim to bring faith through the arts to life and we believe theatre is an incredible medium – both to creatively communicate God's story and to spark hope and purpose. We aim for excellence and believe in the power of story, and use it to make a real difference for the good."*

John Newton became ordained as an evangelical Anglican cleric, served Olney, Buckinghamshire for two decades, and also wrote hymns, such as "Amazing Grace" and "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken". He became a prominent supporter of abolitionism, living to see Britain's abolition of the African slave trade in 1807.



Getting to know you

Not Included in the Web edition





Where did your harvest gifts go?

Last year at the harvest festival we collected for Tools with a Mission. Individuals brought sewing machines to saws, buttons to spanners. There was also a collection to help transport the tools to Africa.

In 2015, a container was sent every 2-3 weeks to Africa. Over the year this included the following - 824 manual sewing machines and 1274 electric machines, 366 carpentry kits (which contain over 30 individual items each), 351 motor mechanics kits, 766 computers and 110 laptops, 121 boxes of material, 137 plumbers kits, 190 knitting machines and 101 boxes of bibles. If you would like to see the full list see Wendy or John or look at www.twam.co.uk.

Two of the projects which received tools are Mechanics for Africa and Mindset.

Mechanics for Africa is a training college which teaches under-privileged young Zambians in motor mechanics. 70 students from around the country train to achieve the City and Guilds International Diploma in Motor Vehicle Engineering. Alongside the technical training, the students undertake a 'life skills' course encompassing professional training relating to HIV/Aids, first aid, nutrition, interview and leadership skills and other personal welfare issues. The students are also taught computer skills and agricultural skills together with some bible study.

Mindset Development Organisation (MSD Org)

commenced operations in 2005 with the aim of empowering vulnerable girls and teenage mothers with practical economic and social life skills. The girls undergo practical training in general tailoring, knitting sweaters and craft work. In 2010 MSD sought out and secured an internship arrangement with Phoenix logistics a clothing company in Kampala, for the girls who attend the Tailoring class. At the end of training TWAM gives each girl a startup kit of a sewing or knitting machine.



TWAM gets many letters and emails of thanks from the recipients of these tools. This came from a student at Mkwabene High School in Zimbabwe. Her letter was written spontaneously and given to a TWAM supporter when she visited the school. This is what Precious wrote.

"As Mkwabene High School students we are over the moon because of the fabulous donations we received from Tools with a Mission. When burdens were heavy to carry, you stretched out your hand and gave us numerous sources of education including computers, textbooks, sewing machines, and many other useful materials. We really appreciate your aid which has transformed our studies. Each day God sends his angels to assist us. We do not expect to see them with wings or with halo flying above their head. Instead, they come in disguise and we call them friends. Thank you Tools with a

Some local Methodist history

We received an enquiry from Robert Wright in respect of a plaque concerning his Great Grandfather Gideon Denner Wright, which used to be in the old Methodist Church in South Street (site of The Works). Gideon Wright and Gideon Wright the younger were among the first Trustees of the Wesleyan Chapel in Durngate Street in the mid 1870s.

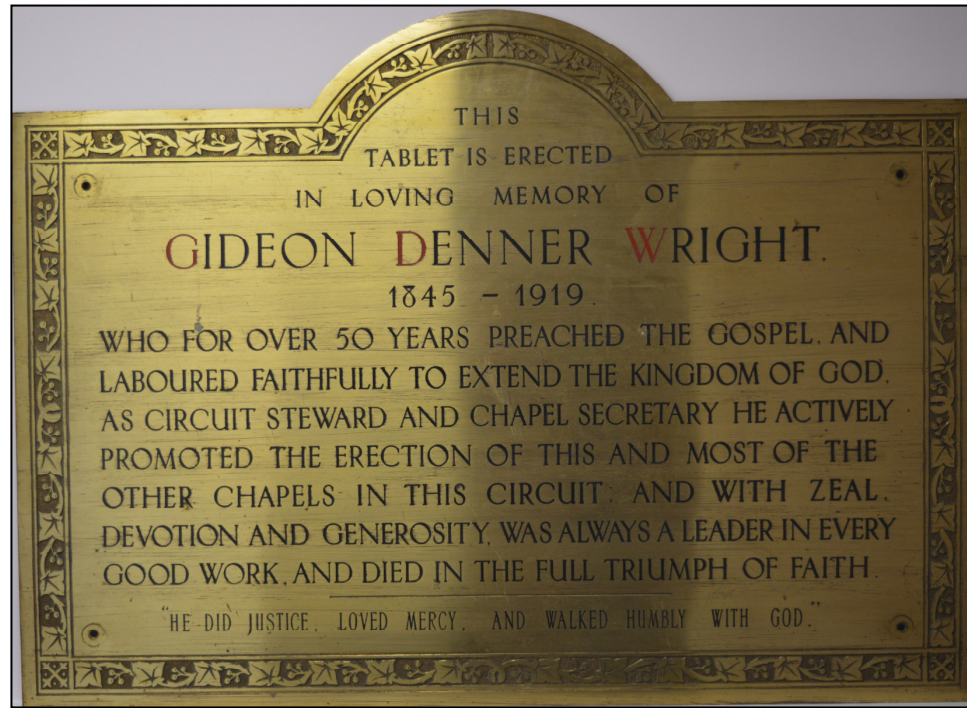
Below are a few paragraphs from an 8 page account sent to us by Robert Wright. Unfortunately the article is too long to reproduce the full version. If you would like to see a copy of the complete account see Wendy or Janet Kennewell.

Wesleyanism in Dorset in the late 1800s

In the early 1800s, most Methodist congregations met in private houses, invited by individual members. Ministers were itinerant, moving from parish to parish to preach on request, often travelling long distances on a Sunday from a meeting early in the day in one village to another village for a midday meeting, and yet another village for an evening service.

Eventually, local congregations started to pull together the funds to build permanent churches. In the Dorchester area (known as a "Circuit"), the first significant chapel was completed in Bere Regis in 1828 for a sum of £120. This was followed by Kingston (1839, £120), Dorchester (1840, £728), Whitchurch (1846, £246), Bere Heath (1850, £121), Piddletrenthide (1857, £276), Dewlish (1859, £140), Charminster (1860, £105), Tolpuddle (1862, £212), Broadmayne (1865, £309), Milton Abbey (1865, £236), Sydling (1867, £390) and Milbourne (presumably Milborne St Andrew, 1867, £360). By 1870, the church had the capacity to hold services for more than 1800 people in permanent buildings, including a rented chapel in Cerne Abbas.

The Dorchester Chapel was built in Durngate Street



(previously known as Wood and Stone Street, named after a pub called the Wood and Stone Inn on the corner with South Street that was knocked down for the building of the church - another triumph for temperance!).

Levi Riggs, a farmer from Piddletrenthide, was a leading influence in much of this building work, alongside Gideon Wright and his son Gideon Denner Wright, both grocers from Dorchester. Gideon Denner Wright was married to Levi Riggs's daughter, Susanna.

In Methodism in Dorset, John Simon describes a series of visits to Dorset chapels which must have been taken in the late 1860s. Levi Riggs gets many mentions, including:

"The cause here [in Hilton] is very primitive; it was commenced in the year 1865. Officiating in the

evening, we rode from Hartfoot Lane and speedily found ourselves under the comfortable roof tree of **Mr Levi Riggs** of Chessilbourne (sic) where we spent the night. This gentleman has been Circuit Steward for about 37 years and his name is inseparably connected with Methodism in this part of Dorset. His house is the young preachers' home, and a more pleasant one it would be hard to find ...

The chapel in Dorchester is the result of the continuous toils of the Mr Mason before mentioned. In Durngate Street the chapel stands. This was the best site obtainable.

"On the morning of the 22nd December, 1840, that earnest minister was discovered, pick-axe in hand, levelling the ground in front of the door and thus forming a footpath for the coming congregation. On being made aware of the presence of a spectator in the person of **Mr Riggs**, he very truthfully assigned this reason for his exertions, "We Dorchester men must work for our living!" a sentence which has received plenteous illustration since its utterance ... From the circular issued on the occasion of the opening services we learn that the managing committee consisted of Messrs Thomas Atherton, Henry Raggett, Levi Riggs, George Cole and W Bartlett."

Deeds relating to the sale of the land for the Dorchester chapel refer to a number of members of the family. A deed of 1873 makes reference to "Gideon Wright and Gideon Denner Wright of Dorchester, grocers" together with "Levi Riggs and Joseph Adams Riggs of Cheselbourne, yeomen". A deed of 1875 refers to "Levi

Riggs of Dewlish, miller" and "George Riggs late of Dewlish but now of Cattistock, baker" and others as "trustees of the Wesleyan Chapel". A deed of 1876 refers to Levi "of Dewlish, miller" and George and others as being "trustees of the **Old** Wesleyan Chapel in Durngate Street"; and in the same document "Levi Riggs of Cheselbourne, farmer, Joseph Adams Riggs of

The Earth: Our home

All things were created by God, who delights in all that he has made. Gen 1.



This is leaflet produced by the Dorchester Churches' Ecology Group . Have you picked up a copy and read the six callings to faith communities, how we can challenge our church and how we can challenge ourselves. This includes:-

Lifestyle choices

- ✧ Have I done all possible to reduce my energy consumption?
- ✧ Do I value water as the precious life giving commodity it is?
- ✧ Do I keep waste to a minimum and recycle as much as possible? Is the food I eat either local, organic, animal friendly or fairtrade?
- ✧ Do I know exactly how my finances are being used?
- ✧ Do I pray as a steward of God's creation?

"Let us be protectors of creation, protectors of God's plan in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment "

Pope Francis

What are you going to Try ... this year?

Try This ... Dorchester is back at an earlier date this year – 2-10 July.

Now in its 4th year this unique local festival goes from strength to strength, offering residents the opportunity to try something new or to learn more about a subject that interests them. It is organised and coordinated by a group of volunteers. The aim of the project is not just to allow people to try something new but to pave the way for the development of new hobbies, skills, interests, even careers.

Benefits of the project include skills and confidence building, the reduction of social isolation and helping people to develop a more positive sense of their local community. The project is very low cost and sustainable and has the potential to create a lasting legacy.

Here are some of the heart-warming comments received about last year's event:

"The Try This event is a brilliant idea - long may it continue. The enthusiasm and sense of achievement that was apparent at yesterday's session was palpable. Many thanks to all concerned."

"I just think it is a brilliant idea and well put together with a highly efficient, and easy to use, website. There was such a wide range of activities that there has to have been something there for everybody."

"It's a wonderful festival. Having been a leader and a session participant I thought every aspect was very well organised and the festival is a credit to those who run it and a real asset to Dorchester."

For 2016 the "Try This" committee have put together an even more varied programme with over 30 different sessions that are guaranteed to have something that will appeal to the



young and the not so young. There are some old favourites from last year: Bell Ringing for Beginners, Nordic Walking, Cryptic Crosswords, Tai Chi for Beginners and Reading Old Handwriting and there are some intriguing new sessions including: Walking Football, Hypnobirthing, Crowdfunding, Top 10 Apps for 2016 and last but not least Singing with a Rubbish band!!

The sessions are led by local people who have volunteered their time, skills and knowledge. All the sessions are FREE but booking is essential as only a finite number of places are available for each session. **Booking commences 1 June.** Printed programmes will be available at many locations around the town including the Tourist Information Centre, the Library and the Plaza cinema.

To book visit: www.dorchestertrythis.org.uk or call 07880 823801 (6-8pm weekdays). For further information please

New research

Researchers at the University of Queensland, Australia tracked the health of 400 over –fifties living in England for 6 years after they retired, and compared this with people of a similar age still working. They discovered that taking part in social activities such as a book group or **church groups** makes people live longer and is as important as regular exercise.



**Christian Aid week
15-21 May 2016**

**Christian Aid and
Refugees
What we do**

It is not a new phenomenon - Christian Aid was founded 70 years ago to assist refugees and the displaced in Europe following the Second World War.

Today we support those affected by war and violence in numerous countries, including Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Colombia, providing practical assistance through local organisations embedded in their communities.

Through their aid budgets, the UK, Ireland and other governments are also contributing significantly to help refugees and the displaced in various parts of the world.

But the need to address the root causes of refugee flows and the migration of the desperate - conflict, inequality and the impacts of climate change, to name but three – has never been greater.

Many of our local partners are working to tackle violence, build peace and improve governance in the communities where they are based. We support them too in campaigning for justice in areas such as climate change and tax abuse, which exacerbate poverty and require political will to tackle.

While the main focus of our work is in developing countries, we recognise this is not the whole picture, and stand in solidarity with churches and others providing practical support for refugees and migrants in the UK and Ireland.

Jenny Brown, Senior EU Relations Advisor at Christian Aid

People are leaving out of desperation and because they've lost hope. No-one would undertake such dangerous journeys if they felt they had other options. So it's totally unacceptable that when they reach European shores – often having risked their lives to do

Prayer from Trefoil Guild booklet

Voice Mail



Be grateful God doesn't have voice mail.
Imagine praying and hearing the following:
Thank you for calling heaven. Please select
one of the following options:

Press 1 for Requests

Press 2 for Thanksgiving

Press 3 for Complaints

Press 4 for all other enquiries

I am sorry, all our angels and saints are busy helping other sinners
right now. However, your prayer is important to us and we will answer
it in the order it was received. Please stay on the line.

If you would like to speak to:

God press 1

Jesus press 2

For the Holy Spirit press 3

To hear King David sing a psalm while you are holding press 4

To find a loved one who has been assigned to Heaven press 5

Then enter their Social Security number followed by the pound sign (if
you get a negative response, please hang up and try area code 666)

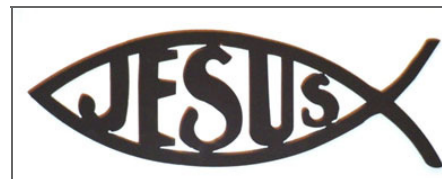
For reservations in Heaven, please enter J-O-H-N-3-1-6

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the
earth, life on other planets and where Noah's Ark is, please wait until
you arrive.

Our computers show that you have already prayed once today, please
hang up and try again tomorrow.

The office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious
holiday. Please pray again on Monday after 9.30am.

If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please
contact your local Pastor.



How a £5 voucher can make a real difference

In 2000, Dorchester Poverty Action group decided to give out supermarket market vouchers of £5 and £10 over Christmas to local individuals, who were struggling to help with food or for toys for the children. This was facilitated through a variety of agencies including health visitors, district nurses, social workers, youth workers and housing support officers. Since the year 2000, £46,000 worth of vouchers have been given out to local people. Just a small gift such as this, can make all the difference, especially when a crisis arises, but it also shows that people care. This can be so important when you feel you are alone.

Dorchester Poverty Action Group

Annual coffee morning

Sat 9th July 10am – 12 noon

in United Church hall

Refreshments and stalls

Donations for stalls can be given to Wendy Hilton

New Methodist magazine— the connexion

Last year the Methodist church launched a new quarterly magazine. Copies of it are freely available in the foyer.

The spring edition has an article by Jo Simpson about infectious enthusiasm. As District Evangelism Enabler for the Plymouth and Exeter district she works with churches to be better at mission. She does not bring ready-made answers, but challenges churches, like the grit in the oyster, to hold honest, gut wrenching conversations to help those involved, to realise they had the answers all along. She knows the process of change is painful, but she believes that faith is a gift, which is about questions not answers.

Volunteers needed

Women's World Day of Prayer

Committee member needed which includes 3 committee meetings and 3 mornings and 1 optional evening each year. Please see Alison Pople for further details

Sound desk

Family News

We give thanks for the life of Doug Bowring. Doug was an active member of the local community. He served as mayor and was very involved with the local Lions group. He was on the fundraising group for our church's Jubilee project, which led to the opening of the coffee shop and church shop.



We send congratulations to Eric and Julia Young who celebrated their golden wedding, to Laurie and Betty Skinner who celebrated 65 years together and in July, Pat and Paul Smith celebrate their Ruby wedding. We also celebrate with Josie Edwards, who was 90 in May.

Congratulations to Peter Archer and Maggie Granlund on gaining distinctions in their music exams. We also pray for all our young people taking exams and thinking about their

THE MAGAZINE TEAM

Editor Wendy Hilton 33c London Road Dorchester e mail address: Removed from web edition	Advertising Manager Ronnie Boyden Removed from web edition Photocopying Shirley Hood
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**Deadline for June/July
edition is
Thursday 30 June
Please e-mail to Wendy
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leave in post box in
Charles Street entrance
Thank you**

Rev Steph Jenner

7 Capitol Close
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Tel. 262421

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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
Shoppers Service	Wednesday	10.30 - 10.45am

NUMBER FIFTY ONE

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

Bible Study/Discussion Groups: Fellowship Groups.

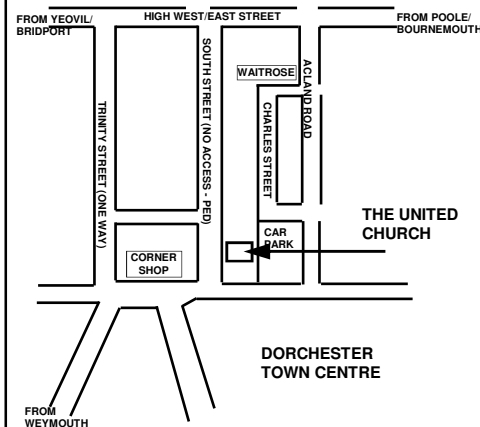
Prayer Groups: Prayer Chain, Prayer & Meditation Meetings.

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, Book Circle, Solos, Men's Group

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

How To Find Us



For more information about the Church or any of its activities please contact either Minister or the Senior Steward, Penny Fennell pennymf65@gmail.com

Your Pastoral Visitor:

**United Church
Dorchester,
South Street**

Methodist and United Reform

Reg Ch No 1137996