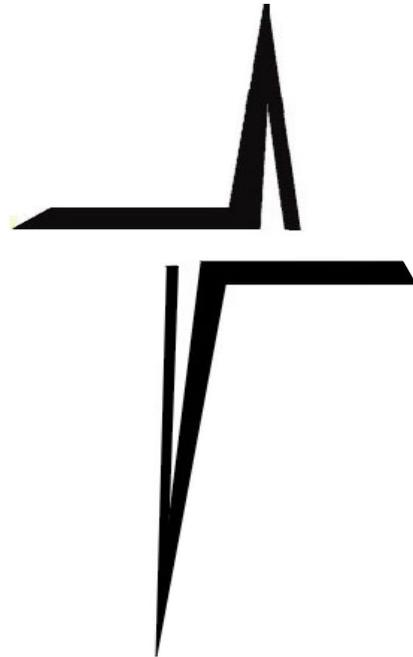


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Vision

Oct—Nov 2016

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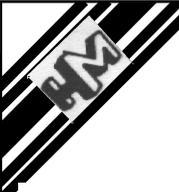
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From your Dorchester based minister

Dear Friends

2016 is moving on rapidly! But let's not wish our lives away.

My recent sabbatical (a three month pause in ministry) reminded me to make the most of every day and get off the treadmill (literally sometimes) to pause, savour and imagine.

We are no use to anyone, let alone God or ourselves, if we just endlessly go from one thing to another to another.

So let us come to a time of pause, of reflection and remembrance. A time to be thankful as the frenzy of harvest settles in to a time for the ground to rest and recover, the plant life to gather its strength and the whole of nature to slow a little and take stock.

We can be too busy, we need to 'consider the lilies of the field' and 'the birds of the air'. We are blessed to live in beautiful countryside, whatever the season, always teeming with life (human and otherwise), always colourful.

One of the books that I studied in these last few months was Unseen Footprints (Encountering the Divine along the Journey of Life) by Sheridan Voysey which was excellent for reflection. [I shall put it in the hall and it will be available to order through the Church Shop if you wish]. It reminds us to recognise the divine in the every day, especially the unseen things of life which go unnoticed.



The title is taken from the familiar Footprints poem, but Voysey asks early on ‘What if unseen footprints walked before us, behind us and beside us?’ and encourages us to focus on the invisible and the not often seen. He talks of science and nature and how humanity fits into the landscape of creation.

‘No wonder nature is the “cathedral of choice” for many seeking spiritual fulfilment. Around, within, above and before us lie signs of divine involvement in our existence”.

And of how it is hugely beneficial to our health and wellbeing to participate in religious and spiritual activities such as church going and problem solving by going out for a walk.

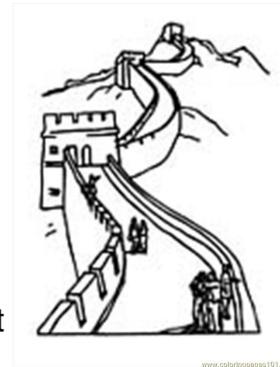
Sometimes we feel God active in our lives, rather than hearing or seeing, and our experience feeds our faith and, if we can surrender our lives to God, imagine what may happen, what our lives could be.

So stop and look around, go outside and really notice the sights, smells and sounds; wonder at it all and thank God for the time we have to enjoy this life.

With every blessing

## **China walk**

In October Ray Harris will be walking a stretch of the Great Wall of China in aid of the Weldmar Hospice. He is going as part of a group from the Fordington surgery. Ray has been doing lots of gardening to raise the money to go on the walk. However he is much more concerned about raising money for the hospice, which we all know does incredible work and has touched many of our lives.



Ed—if you would like to sponsor Ray, there are sponsorship forms in the church shop and in the South Street foyer.

***We will all be thinking and praying for you Ray.***

## Supporting children in developing countries—some issues to consider



I am a member of Bridport United Church and since my retirement from teaching in 2008 I have worked for *people and places*, a company which matches people who would like to do short-term volunteering work in a developing country to a project where their skills and experience can be used to help meet local needs. Our volunteers come from across the age range, but many are in the newly retired age bracket or those taking a short career break, and we have won a number of awards for our ethical, responsible approach to volunteering work abroad. As well as placing volunteers, *people and places* engages in awareness-raising about some of the complex issues surrounding volunteering abroad.

The current focus for this awareness-raising work is on the issues attached to volunteering with and supporting children in developing countries, particularly children in orphanages. I have learned so much I did not know before about the potential dangers of this kind of work, as well as the benefits, and I'm going to share some of that information with you here – so, before you read on, here's the health warning – I intend this article to be thought-provoking!

I regularly visit the countries where we send volunteers, to work with our local partners there. I will shortly be off on my next trip – to Cambodia this time. In Cambodia I will be visiting two community centres in Siem Reap – we place volunteers at both of these centres to work with families from some of the poorest local communities.

These community centres have been set up specifically to help families keep their children with them at home. In the Far East in recent years, as in many developing countries, a large number of orphanages have been founded with the apparent aim of giving 'orphans' a better life. However all research shows that

orphanages / children's homes are not the best place for children to grow up – children thrive in families.



In our country for many years now there have been no children's homes; children unable to remain with their birth family for whatever reason are placed with foster families and/or are adopted. Children who grow up in institutions become institutionalised and frequently find it hard to function in society when they become adults, and we all know from stories in the media that there have been many cases of children in residential care being abused. You will be as shocked as I was to learn that **80%** of children in orphanages around the world are not orphans. So how do they end up in orphanages?

Some are trafficked, some are sold by desperate families who simply have no money. Many are given to the orphanages by their families who are told that in an orphanage their child will have a better life because they will receive funding from international donors, and maybe international volunteers will come who will teach them English and bring them gifts and money. In the past some have been the result of deliberate government policy, as in Romania in the 1980s. Some of course are genuine orphans – life expectancy is lower in the developing world and in southern Africa in particular AIDS has left many children orphaned; however in most developing countries family responsibility is seen as more important than it is in our own culture, and the majority of genuine orphans are cared for by other family members such as grandparents, or by other friends in their community. Most orphanages exist in parts of the world where international tourists go – as tourism develops so the number of orphanages grows.

And who supports these orphanages? There are three main categories of funding, all originating in countries such as ours.

One source is volunteers, who pay to go and volunteer in an orphanage and bring funding with them. There are some volunteering companies (*people and places* is one of them) who do not place volunteers in orphanages, but many still do because it is a popular choice among volunteers who have not thought through the implications of what they are doing. There are some countries where the government is working hard to set up community-based care systems for children and where it is illegal to open new orphanages or children's homes, but the orphanages still exist because of the demands for placements from companies who send international volunteers. One thing I shall be doing in Cambodia is meeting with representatives from an international charity to begin to draw up a code of conduct for people sending volunteers to work with children abroad, but this will be a long process.

A second source of funding is holiday makers – it has become quite common for a holiday tour to include a visit to an orphanage – tourists are shown round the orphanage, children are made to tell their sad life stories to the tourists and the hat is passed round for donations. In the worst case scenarios the money does not go to support the children at all (after all if the children look well fed and happy donations won't be so high) but is kept by the orphanage owners as income, with the tour guide taking a cut.

And the third source of funding for orphanages is well meaning people such as ourselves, who are only too willing to give to what sounds like a really good cause. Some of the biggest donors to orphanages are churches, where people see it as a way of fulfilling their Christian duty to support the needy.

So what can we learn from this? I have learned to ask questions. In the past I have certainly given money to people raising money for an orphanage. Now I would want to know why those children are in an orphanage and what moves the

people running the orphanage are taking to get the children back into families within their community. There are obviously some well-run orphanages for genuine orphans where the children are looked after well in what is in effect a large family – but I have learned to be cautious.

If I were on holiday and someone tried to take me to an orphanage I would refuse to go and would explain why – I did this when I was in Kenya – people don't necessarily understand why you are refusing but the word is starting to get out there and we have to start somewhere.

I have learned to use as a benchmark what would be acceptable in our own country – to think how we would feel if a coach-load of tourists turned up at, for example, a playgroup and expected to come in, cuddle the children and take photographs of them. If it's not acceptable here (and of course it's not), it's not acceptable in a developing country – children are not tourist attractions and should never be treated as such.

And in the past, given the choice between giving money to an orphanage or to some sort of community-based project, whether that be a school, a community centre or a charity supporting needy families I would almost certainly have chosen the orphanage because it would have sounded like the most worthwhile cause. Now without a doubt I would give to the community project, and I would encourage you to do the same.



The challenge is certainly not to stop supporting children in developing countries – the need has not decreased – but to make sure we are doing this in ways that genuinely help and are not designed simply to make us feel good - and that requires real thought.



## Outreach slot

As I write this our thoughts and prayers are very much with those who will be a presence for the church in the Dorset County Show. For the third year now we have the church tent. We are very grateful to the volunteers for their care, love and presence for people visiting the show.

The Retail Chaplains who serve each week in South Street and the Arcades are also offering to be a presence (in their case a mobile one) at the show but based from the Church Tent. They will also be linking with the Churches Together in Dorset team. It was the suggestion of the Chaplains themselves that they be a caring presence at the show and the idea fits really well with the tents to which people will come. It mirrors the work of the Outreach Group seeking to encourage people to events on the premises and caring for them as well as going out into the community.

You will recall that the Retail Chaplains came from our Outreach Group but management is now ecumenical to reflect the team and the wider involvement of Churches in Dorchester.

With the recent Chaplain Commissioning Service at the front of our church two of the new Chaplains are expected to expand the work on to Brewery Square, hoping to strengthen the link the

## Lost articles for Vision

Due to a technical problem with our e-mail I have lost all the articles saved in Outlook waiting for space in the Vision magazine. If you have e-mailed me an article over the last year, which has not already been printed in Vision, please could you e-mail it to me again. If you gave me a hard copy those are safe in a different filing system.

Many thanks Wendy (Editor)

## Church Officers May 2016

Each year a list of church officers is placed in the centre of the Vision magazine so it can be pulled out and kept for reference. Contact phone numbers can be found in the church directory.

<b>COUNCIL OF STEWARDS</b>	
Minister	Revd Stephanie Jenner
Minister	Revd Peter Clarke
Steward ( & Treasurer )	Colin Gannaway ( 2006 -
Senior Steward	Penny Fennell (2012-
Steward ( & Secretary )	Janet Kennewell ( 2016 -
Steward	Paul Smith (2013-
Steward	Paul Wallis (2014-
Steward	Alex Reed (2015-
Steward	Roni Boyden (2016-
Steward	
Pastoral visitor (employed)	Angela Fisher (Jan 2013-
Church Administrator (employed)	June Faulkner (Jan 2016 -

<b>REPRESENTATIVES TO EXTERNAL BODIES</b>	
Bridport and Dorchester Methodist Circuit	Ministers, Senior Steward, Treasurer,+ Robin Knight, Maurice Dale, Mary Lucraft, Tony Boyden
Churches Together in Dorchester	Senior Steward, + Heather Bland
URC Wessex Synod	Ruth Archer

<b>WORSHIP</b>	
<b>Worship Committee Chair</b>	Rev Steph Jenner
<b>Stewards representative</b>	Paul Wallis
Director of Music	Heather Reed
Transport service	Peter Green
Visual projection (church services)	Matthew Reed
Audio Tape Distribution	
Bible Readers	Jenny Ackling
Communion Stewards	Wendy Hilton
Welcome stewards (Sun)	Carol Illingworth and Elizabeth Martin
Market day services planning	Rev Steph Jenner
Market day Welcome stewards	Sheila King
Movement in Worship	Dorothy Smith
Tuesday Prayer Group	Pat Bolton
By Still Waters ( Tues)	Brenda Stephenson
Community Ministry Planning	Rev Steph Jenner
Prayer Chain	Penny Fennel
Flower Arranging (rota)	
Flower Provision (rota)	
Flower Distribution (rota)	Gillian Daniels
Church banners	Nigel Hewish
<b>YOUTH AND FAMILY</b>	
<b>Y&amp;F Committee Chair</b>	Peter Jenner ( 2016 -
<b>Stewards' Representatives</b>	Alex Reed
Safeguarding co-ordinator	Heather Bland & Janice Young
Junior Church	Linda Gundry /Lynne Antell
Story Tots	Janet Evans
Friday Youth Group	Rev Steph Jenner
Contact Centre	Alison Cocks

<b>PASTORAL AND FELLOWSHIP</b>	
<b>Pastoral committee chair</b>	Wendy Hilton (2012-
<b>Stewards' Representative</b>	Penny Fennell
Pastoral Visitors secretary	Sheila Mann
Badminton ( Friday evening )	Maurice Dale
Badminton ( Monday a.m.)	Susy Rogers
Book Circle	Sheila Mann
Brass Ensemble	Kate Badley
Brenda's Music Group	Brenda Stephenson
Catering co-ordinator	Sue Gannaway
Country Dancing	Linda Gundry
Cradle Roll Secretary	Maggie Granlund
German language group	Sheila Mann
UCD Art group	Pat Bolton
Picnic people	
Monday Fellowship Group	Cyril & Mary Lucraft
Tuesday Fellowship Group	Paul & Elizabeth Haynes
Wednesday Fellowship Group	Paul & Pat Smith
Thursday Bible Fellowship	David Bumphrey
Friday Morning Bible Fellowship	Morag Griffiths
Summer Camp	Maureen Parker
Solo Group	David Steel /Angela Fisher
Thursday Night Out	Paul Haynes
Mens Group	Chris Warren

<b>PROPERTY &amp; FINANCE</b>	
<b>Property Committee Chair</b>	Paul Smith (2012-
<b>Stewards' Representative</b>	Paul Smith
Bookings Secretary	Peter Mann
Heating	Ben Parker
Food Hygiene	Mary Martin
DDA champions	Betty Underwood, Mary Martin
Recycling	Ray Harris
First Aid Boxes	Margaret Williams
Fire Alarm Testing (weekly)	Eric Young/Trevor Antell/John Cull
<b>FINANCE</b>	
<b>Finance Committee Chair</b>	David Aldwinckle (2013-
<b>Treasurer ( &amp; Steward )</b>	Colin Gannaway
<b>Stewards' Representative</b>	Paul Smith
Freewill offering secretary	Maurice Dale
Collection counters rota	John Hilton
Independent examiner	Denys Hood

<b>ADMINISTRATION, PUBLICATIONS, etc</b>	
<b>Convenor</b>	Janet Kennewell
Membership data base	John Hilton
Printed orders of service	Marion Cox
Monthly News Sheet editor	Elizabeth Martin
Vision Magazine Editor	Wendy Hilton
Vision Magazine Advertising	Roni Boyden
Photocopying	Shirley Hood & Alison Cocks
Reform magazine	Ruth Archer
Window Display	Judith Anstice
Web site manager / editor	Trevor Antell, Colin Gannaway
Press release advisor	Marion Cox

<b>COMMUNITY SERVICE, HOME AND WORLD MISSION</b>	
<b>CSHWM committee chair</b>	Mary Martin (2015 -
<b>Stewards' Representative</b>	Roni Boyden
Action for Children	Mary Rousell
Bible Society Action group	Chris Warren
Christian Aid	Peter & Irene Green, Peter & Sheila Mann Tony Boyden
Coffee Shop	Shirley Hood,
Church shop	Marion Cox
Wednesday Coffee Morning	Sue Gannaway. Sheila Mann, Norma Hodges
Eco- Congregation	Nigel Hewish
Fair Trade / Traidcraft	Susy Rogers
Dorchester Poverty Action Group	Wendy & John Hilton
German partners	Hugh Thomas, Joy Wallis
Historic Churches Ride & Stride	Heather Bland
Methodist Homes for the Aged	c/o Rev Steph Jenner
Women's World Day of Prayer	Dorothy Smith
World Mission Committee	Ruth Archer
World Mission Committee - sec'ry	Maria Jacobson
Liaison with schools and residential homes	

### **Volunteer for Powerpoint**

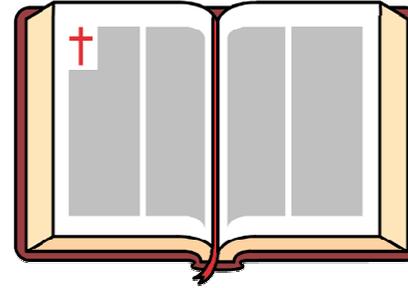
We need a replacement volunteer on Powerpoint for Daniel who has done such a brilliant job over the last few years. Full training will be given. Commitment is one Sunday morning every 6 weeks

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## A Message from Christian Aid about Refugees

*'When did we see you a  
stranger and welcomed you...?  
Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these  
who are members of my family, you did it to me.'*  
*Matthew 25:38 - 40*

The UK has a proud history of supporting people forced from their homes by violence and conflict. In the 1930s the Kindertransport saved the lives of Jewish children from Germany. In the 1970s the UK welcomed Ugandan Asians fleeing Idi Amin's regime, and Vietnamese refugees fleeing the Vietnam War, and in the 1990s we opened our doors to Kosovan refugees.

Today, more than 65 million people are displaced globally. Forced from their homes by violence, fear, desperation, or poverty, each person is made in God's image, and is deserving of safety, freedom and hope. Our message of shared humanity

is more important than ever when we consider the deeply divided attitudes to immigration revealed during the EU referendum campaigns.

Yet as governments wring their hands and respond by building higher walls, ordinary people and local organisations are meeting urgent needs of those refugees stuck in Greece and in the Western Balkans, and those closer to home in Calais. Here in the UK, faith communities are at the heart of a different story, galvanising local support to find homes for people forced from their countries by violence and conflict and now languishing in desperate circumstances.

The vision that inspired Christian Aid's creation in 1945 was one that emerged from destruction, pain and suffering, and a belief in a world where all people would live together as neighbours.

We believe the UK has a moral responsibility to protect those fleeing from violence, and as one of the world's richest countries we have the ability to do much more. While many communities and churches are united in welcoming families and individuals seeking refuge in the UK, the response of the UK government has not matched the scale of the crisis, nor the compassion of those who have already opened their homes to refugees. Elsewhere, poor countries - like Lebanon and Iraq - are hosting 86 per cent of the world's refugees.

We believe that the UK ought to respond to this crisis boldly finding unity in shared values of humanity and compassion. Dr Rowan Williams, Chair of Christian Aid, has spoken out, challenging us as a society to act:

*"The UK must not turn a blind eye to this crisis. We can and must do more to respond. The rhetoric in the media is one that suggests that the UK is 'full', and that those arriving on our shores are 'a drain on our economy.' Not only are these assertions unfounded, but they fail to recognise the positive, life-affirming contributions that generations of refugees have made*

*to British society – and that we ourselves are changed by welcoming the stranger. Rather than treating people with hostility and disdain, we must recognise that every neighbour is our neighbour, and that we have it within ourselves to respond with compassion and welcome, and to offer an opportunity for people to rebuild their lives.”*

The UK has chosen to leave the EU, but still has an important global role. The church in the UK has a critical role in presenting a vision of a future where each person is treated with inherent dignity and infinite worth. As Steve Clifford, General Director of the Evangelical Alliance, says:



## **Family News**

We give thanks for the life of Doreen Lloyd, a member of Bridport who recently moved to Dorchester. We remember her and her family in our prayers.

Congratulations to all our young people who have been taking exams. Daniel Jacobsen got 4 A\*s in his A levels and is going to Durham university to study engineering. We pray for all our young people who received their GCSE results—Kate Jacobsen, Thomas Scott, Laura Badley and Abby McCarthy, as they start their A-levels. We also pray for Rachel Whiter who has just completed her AS levels and to Alastair Mair who is starting medicine in the autumn at Lancaster University.

Congratulations to Val and Alan Morgan who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in August and to Ralph and Diana Davis who celebrate in September.

Finally we send our very best wishes to Alison Pople, who will be moving to Wales in the autumn to live with her other son. Alison is one of those people, who works quietly in the background, seeing what needs doing and more importantly

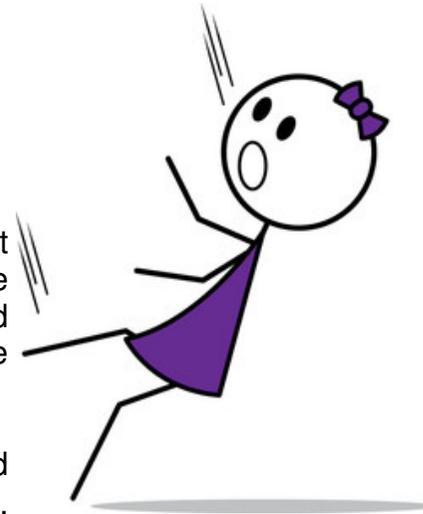
## **Free Home Safety Falls Prevention Event**

**Corn Exchange Dorchester on  
Tues 11 October 9.30 –12 noon**

Dorset Early Help and Dorset Partnership for Older People Programme, with Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue will be hosting this Home Safety event

A large number of other local and national organisations will be there, providing a huge range of information on local services and activities, how to access aids and adaptations, help at home, leisure pursuits, benefits checks, energy efficiency advice, etc. The following organisations have confirmed their attendance: Alzheimer's Society, BGET Healthy Homes Project, CAB, CCG Public Involvement Team, Dorchester PCSO, Greenwood Centre for Independent Living, Healthwatch, RVS, Shelter, Tricuro

Local residents will also receive a range of giveaways – including free fitted slippers, on completion of the SAIL (Safe and Independent Living) Form, and there will be time to have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee!



### ***THE MAGAZINE TEAM***

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*Wendy Hilton*

***Advertising  
Manager***  
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Dorchester  
Tel. 262421

## MINISTERS

**Rev Peter Clark**

Bridport  
01308 425978

## SERVICES

Holy Communion (2nd Sunday in the month)	Sunday	9.00am
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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.

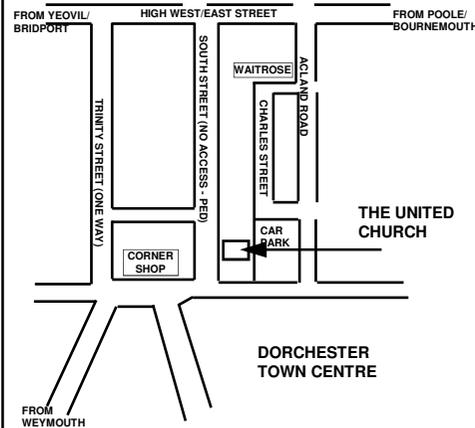
**Prayer Groups:** Prayer Chain, Prayer & Meditation Meetings.

**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](mailto:pennymf65@gmail.com)

Your Pastoral Visitor:

**United Church  
Dorchester,  
South Street**

**Methodist and United Reform**

**Reg Ch No 1137996**