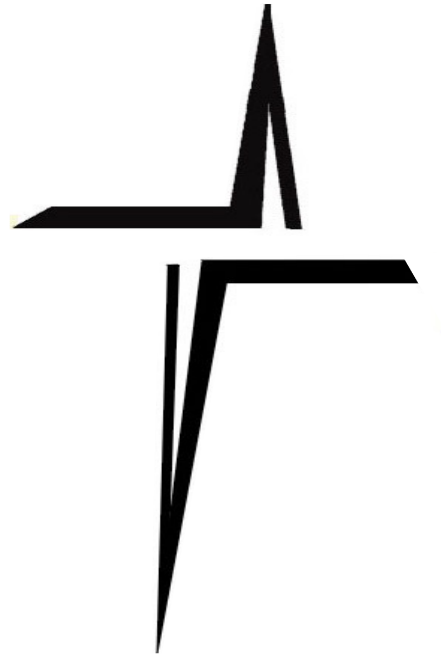


United Church Dorchester



Vision

Feb - March 2017



www.unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk

R & O Ball & Son

(B & S Ball)

Would Be Pleased To See You At The

Londis Store, 65 High West Street, Dorchester

01305 260738

Monday to Saturday - 6.30am to 9pm

Sunday - 7.30am to 9pm

Orders taken for any cuts of meat from Puddletown,
Pre-packed meat, sausages, bacon & cooked meats,
take away hot drinks, frozen produce,

Off license, papers & magazines, grocery,

Purbeck ice-cream,

mobile top ups, Health lottery,

Hermes parcel collection, Free to use cash machine

Greetings cards and stationery

Also at

High Class Family Butcher & Grocer

27 High Street, Puddletown

Tel. 01305 848235

English Beef, Pork, Lamb, Poultry and Bacon

Selection of Home-Made Sausages and Burgers

Home Made Pies, Home Cooked Meats

Fresh Bread Delivered Daily, Purbeck ice-cream

Off licence, Newspapers and Magazines, Fothergill Seeds,

Greeting Cards, Stationery, Pretty Polly Hosiery,

Mobile & electric top ups, cash machine, National Lottery,

Dry cleaning, laundry, shoe repair & photocopier

Post Office

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday - 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm

Wednesday and Saturday - 9am to 12 noon

Direct phone to Post Office: 01305 849526

ABBAS GAS SERVICES LTD



PLUMBING & HEATING
ENGINEERS



3756

INSTALLATIONS—SERVICING AND REPAIRS

OIL, NATURAL GAS & LPG HEATING SYSTEMS

FOR ALL SIZES OF PROPERTIES

HOT & COLD WATER SYSTEMS

& COMPLETE BATHROOMS

ICEN HOUSE
ICEN WAY
DORCHESTER
DORSET DT1 1ES

TEL: 01305 264556
FAX: 01305 268934

GRASSBY FUNERAL SERVICE

*Still a family run business,
serving the local community since 1861*

Office and Chapel of Rest
8 PRINCES ST,
DORCHESTER

Tel. 01305 262338 (24 Hours)



Golden Charter
Funeral Plans



MEMORIAL MASONRY

*Memorial showroom at
16 Princes St, Dorchester*

www.grassby-funeral.co.uk

TEC

TRAVERS
ELECTRICAL
CONTRACTORS



- ♦ Specialist In All Domestic & Commercial Matters
- ♦ All Aspects Of Electrical Work
- ♦ Fault Finding & Repairs • Heating Systems
- ♦ Rewires & Installations
- ♦ New Fuse Boxes, Lighting Systems & Sockets
- ♦ New Builds • PAT Testing

Call Alastair On
01929 288423 / 07795 660079
Wool - Dorset

*Friendly
local
service*

Co-operative Funeralcare

Your local funeral director

*Our caring staff are here to listen and
advise you, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*

Dorchester 01305 266888
31 Great Western Road

Weymouth 01305 772789
130 Abbotsbury Road



read woodruff
chartered accountants

**Practical accountancy and
taxation advice**
free initial consultation

www.readwoodruff.com
online information and advice

24 Cornwall Road DORCHESTER Dorset DT1 1RX
t: 01305 265544
f: 01305 260832
e: advice@readwoodruff.com



KNIGHTON

Plumbing and Heating



Daniel Dorton. 6 Glebe Way, West Knighton
Tel: 01305 853893, Mob: 07837 654921

All aspects of plumbing work from a dripping tap
to a full gas central heating installation

Fully qualified, fully insured, all work guaranteed, references available
High quality work at competitive rates, local plumbing competition winner

24 hour call out with no call out fee, free quotes

10% discount on labour for OAP's

"Right first time"

"Installing quality into your home"



BILL HARGREAVES

**Small building work/maintenance
Including wall/floor tiling**

**106 Coburg Road
Dorchester DT1 2HR**



**No job too small—just call
Tel 01305 267268 or 07810 332697**

**Over 40 years experience
Free estimates**

Why not



From your Bridport based minister

"A Christian is one who is on the way, though not necessarily very far along it, and who has at least some dim and half-baked idea of whom to thanks" (Frederick Buechner)



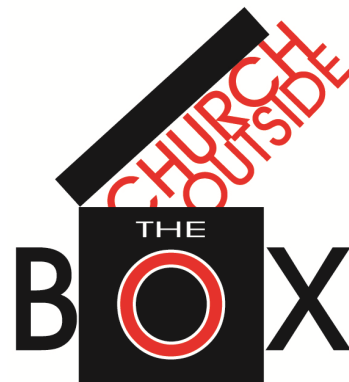
Dear Friends,

Some months back Tony Boyden lent me a book called "How to be a *bad* Christian" by Dave Tomlinson last week I finally got around to starting to read it.

And it's not as strange as the title might suggest, as it is written by a Church of England Vicar, who works in a standard Parish, but endeavours to try to do faith stuff outside of the normal structures. It reminds me a little of the cartoon of Jesus apparently opening a present containing a church building and saying, "Yes I know I wanted the church to come along, but I'm still trying to get it outside of the box!"

The author focuses on his experiences outside of church itself, in pubs, cafes etc. where he meets non-churchy people who,

he says are overwhelmingly interested in things spiritual and yet believe that, wherever else they might encounter God, the last place they would think of looking would be in the church. Which is a bit of an indictment of churches in general I suppose and a challenge for us who seek to be welcoming and hospitable (radically hospitable even!) and suggests that there is a



huge barrier we have if we are to have any prospect of encouraging new folk into our buildings.

In actual fact, one of the premises of the book is, I believe (as I write I haven't finished it so he may develop this concept!) that buildings and structures are not what we ought to be about. Which is fine in principle but (there's always a 'but' isn't there?) as my supervisor once said to me, "You might say it's not all about 'bums on seats' but if we don't get more 'bums' in, we will have to close up and shut all the doors." For surely our facilities and structures are supposed to be a means to an end (i.e. Mission) and not a means in their own right?

And when Dave Tomlinson promotes the concept that we can be good followers by being better people and non-churchy Christians a part of me says "Amen" while the other half says, "Yes, but ..." (again).

But he is right about much that he talks about and I am thoroughly enjoying the book, having so far read about 'how to find God without going near a church,' all you need is love, 'it's not all about the rules' and a very good exploration on dealing with guilt. I'm not completely in agreement about everything but don't expect to be and I want to do more discussing of this. Indeed I am playing with trying to put together a Lent Course based upon the book ... if I can find the time to do so (another 'yes, but...' in the line of many!)

It is not quite the New Year as I write this (the deadline for Vision is always quite early!) but there is one thing I do think that I do need to do. I have decided that one of my New Year Resolutions needs to be to focus a little more outside the walls of our churches and a little less on the inside. I am, as I think I have said before, by instinct, a Pastor but by work practice a bit of a bureaucrat too. Thus I tend to get caught up with the 'must-do' list of needy folk



and the weekly admin 'to-do' list, and rarely get the chance to look beyond the borders to those outside our normal fellowship. The exception being when I am conducting a funeral for someone outside those borders who, thankfully has decided that they would like a Christian Minister to bury their loved one.

And there, as with Dave Tomlinson, I do consistently encounter loving, needing, seeking folk who appreciate an approach that is spiritual and faith-centred, even if it isn't completely based on going to church every Sunday. So perhaps I need to do some serious thinking about how to meet and mix with folk who I don't normally do so? Indeed, perhaps others of us do as well?

So here's a request: Have a wee think and wonder how you and I can do this 'outside the walls' thing a bit more in 2017? And when you see me, please feel free to share your ideas

If you are interested in reading the book please talk to Pat Smith who can order it for you via the Church Bookshop

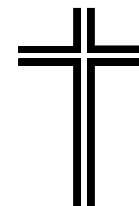
Death Café the Second

After the success of last year's Death Café we shall be running a second event on Saturday 11th March 2017. We hope to have the same mix of people available for you to speak to and ask questions of, about any aspect of funerals and death.

Last time we had Funeral Directors, Solicitors, Hospice representatives as well as our own ministers and musicians, with information from Cruse bereavement services, Age UK Dorchester, the local Green Burial site and a florist.

We will be in the church hall from 10 am – 12 noon with drinks and chocolate cake if you would like to talk or ask those questions that have been on your mind.

Or just come for the company and refreshments.



Outreach slot

Church Chaplain



The role of the United Church Outreach Group has always been about looking outwards and inwards. The challenge of 'out' has been about presence and witness in the community. This has been best exemplified by Retail Chaplaincy.

Our role inwardly has been about encouraging people who would not normally engage with our worship/fellowship to come into the church. Initially the main role here was seen as putting on events to attract different people. This had limited effect but we have recognised that we already have many people who come on to our premises and to some extent should already be encountering our welcome.

The challenge is that this is normally undertaken by those who have other roles which need to be fulfilled. In the Church Shop, for instance, the staff need to engage with people as customers. Similarly in the Coffee Shop they need to serve people. Further Steph and Peter C do engage very well but have many other roles to fulfil. In addition there are many groups and people who come on to our premises for other events/needs who have minimal contact with us.

We believe that our commitment to people and our role in radical welcome and hospitality challenges us to be broader in our role. Wide experience had now been gained with Chaplaincy through retail and the fire service.

When we reflect on such a role on our premises it would work in two ways depending on whether the people we are contacting are part of a church group or not. In the case of the

latter, contact would be seen as the priority.

For visitors the same model as in retail and fire Chaplaincy would apply. Even though the role in the fire service was initially by invitation it is still very much negotiated. With retail, each outlet is approached for permission, so again it is negotiated. What this means is that the role is about giving the greatest respect and starting from the point of those being served. Further it means that those we are working with set the agenda. We are there to listen and respond. Obviously as trust builds up and the relationship strengthens we are more at ease with each other.

Listening is a significant skill and we are very pleased that there is now a Listening and Sharing Event which is particularly helpful for those who have not had any previous specific training. When training Chaplains we have a whole day to develop an understanding of the origins, role and challenges of being a Chaplain. People are always carefully selected, confirmed and affirmed before starting the role. With experienced Chaplains in place it is also possible to shadow and see first hand how the role works.

We offer the love of Jesus and care for people, sensitively listening and discerning where people are and how we may be welcomed to journey with them.

The proposal, which has already been approved by the Council of Stewards, is to employ a Chaplain for 2-4 hours a week and the job would run for one year . This will show how it runs and we can then assess what would be helpful. It also controls the cost initially, which we would plan to cover by the Outreach Group .

With this greater clarification we will be able to return to the

Three Methodist Circuits

Progress is being made on the proposal to bring together the two Methodist Circuits, Portland and Weymouth, and our Circuit and Pastorate.

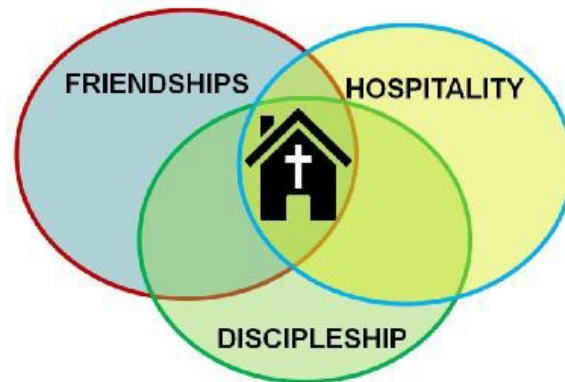
The original Vision Statement has now been worked on and this detail will be available to consider in the near future.

You should have received a calendar for the year. This has pictures of each of the churches and a schematic of the area with dots for the location of each of the churches. Can you work out which is which?

As you know we have been keen to give an opportunity for everyone to be updated about what is happening and to contribute. We are arranging a Vision Day on February 25th. at Weymouth Bay Methodist Church in Melcombe Avenue, Weymouth from 10.00-2.30. Here there will be a display by each church to help us know more, an opportunity to update on the vision and comment, a chance to view a prepared list of Frequent Asked Questions which have been raised and also to offer names for the proposed new Circuit.

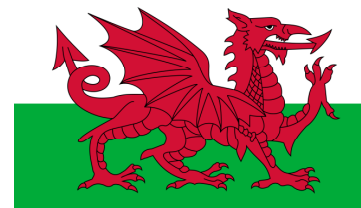
'Come when you can
and go when you
must'.

At the March Circuit Meeting a proposal can then be presented based on a proposed new Circuit from September 2018.



Getting to know you

Not Included in the Web Version











National Random Acts of Kindness Day

Observed on February 17th, National Random Acts of Kindness Day has grown in popularity each year. It is celebrated by individuals, groups and organizations nationwide to encourage acts of kindness.



A Few Quotes of Kindness:

- “Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and

the blind can see.” (Mark Twain)

- “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” (Aesop)
- “Kind words and actions can seem so small, but their effects are truly endless.” (Author Unknown)

Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation

Intentional Faith Development



The Congregational Practice of Intentional Faith Development

Intentional Faith Development refers to all the ministries that help us grow in faith outside of weekly worship, such as bible studies, Sunday School classes, support groups, and prayer teams. Congregations who practice Intentional Faith Development offer opportunities for people at all stages of faith to learn in community. They offer ministries that help people grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God. *Intentional* refers to deliberate effort, purposeful action, and high priority.

The Personal Practice of Intentional Faith Development

Through the personal practice of *Intentional Faith Development*, we do the soul work that connects us to others, immerses us in God’s Word, and positions us to grow in grace and mature in Christ. We place ourselves in the most advantageous circumstances to learn and grow in our following of Christ. We cooperate with the Holy Spirit in our own spiritual maturation. We learn in community



Journey to the Stable

United Church Dorchester has been running the Journey to the Stable for several years. The small core group feel it is successful and would like to share some information with the rest of the

church family.

Measuring success

If you look simply at numbers, the Journey reaches a large audience – nearly 300 children & their teachers and helpers from pre planned school visits alone, as well as 16 children and 79 adults from the public openings. To accommodate school groups the Journey was open early this year and there were some members of the public who had been in previous years and came to visit when only the stable remained.

Numbers only give a part of the story. The core group feel that the Journey to the Stable is worth putting on if just one person values the experience and from comments made we know it is valued by the schools, both the pupils and staff, as well as members of our own and other congregations and non church goers.

Some comments:-

‘The stable was awesome’

‘I liked the stabel (sic)’

‘A wonderful journey – a lovely way to celebrate’

‘Best morning trip ever! Do not change anything, it's perfect. I injoyed (sic) my day

‘I have liked the dark moment in the amazing stable’

This year we added a few new touches. It was a delight to see children with their free Journey to the Stable balloons in Dorchester- they made a big impact on Cracker Night & when given out by Shaun the sheep!

The sheep trail was a slow starter despite excellent publicity but may be worth repeating next year. Those of us who met in the Coffee Lounge to make the sheep enjoyed the afternoon & the links with the shops from the retail chaplains are a real blessing.

United Church Dorchester is becoming known for its annual Journey to the Stable; local people have come to expect it and for some it is a part of their Christmas preparations. It helps us to make the most of our location on South Street, giving us opportunity to welcome people into the church and a chance to learn about the real meaning of Christmas.

The core group feel that in order to keep the Journey to the Stable fresh, the addition of new faces is invaluable. Therefore we would love it if you would consider joining us. If you are

Monies raised over the Christmas period were:

Cracker Night	£96.85
Christmas Card	£27.70
Carols by Candlelight	£398.79
Christmas Eve	£89.76
Christmas Day	£262.60
Baby Changing	£17.80



Monies were shared and sent to the following charities:

Dorchester Poverty Action Group	£96.85
Action For Children	£400.43
Christian Aid General Funds	£529.43
Christian Aid for Syrian Refugees	£1,844.43

In addition, other Charities supported in Dec 2016 were:

World Mission Fund (Methodist)	£196.21
--------------------------------	---------

Dorchester Action for Children Support Group Carol Singing 2016



For many of us Christmas starts with Carol Singing. Three nights organised by the AFC Support group and with tremendous support from church members and brass players. There is a warm feeling on these nights which spreads the spirit of Christmas amongst the singers and the community alike (people wrap up their children and bring them out to watch and listen) and raises valuable funds to help local families have a better future. We finish with a hot drink, sausage rolls and mince pies at various church members' homes. The Carol singing has been organised by the group for over 30 years and we are now getting 2nd and even 3rd generation singers and brass players. Collectors too are vital to the success of the group, we need six collectors each night to collect money in the short time that we have each evening.

A huge vote of thanks is due to singers, brass players, collectors and those who generously open their homes to host refreshments afterwards and of course those who donate.

This year, partly due to good weather, we raised the magnificent amount of £557 – our best ever. With a generous donation of £200 from Dorchester Family Church, as the brass group led their Carol Service, and our own Church collections of £415.95 we have raised the amazing total of £1,172.95 to help needy families in the area.

A Very British Nativity

The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) works for peace and justice on behalf of the Methodist, Baptist and United Reformed Churches, and the Church of Scotland. Christmas 2016, it did just that through a creative retelling of the nativity story.

A Very British Nativity depicts a cast of children enacting the Christmas story, with one key change: instead of making their way to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph are arriving into the UK in 2016. Beyond its festive humour, the film addresses the shocking realities of the UK asylum system. This is a system in which an estimated 37,000 people entering the UK are forced to live on just £5 a day, are often denied the right to legal aid, are placed in substandard accommodation and are denied the right to work.

It was over 2,000 years ago that Mary gave birth to Jesus in a stable, but A Very British Nativity asks how far we've really come since that time. Are we treating the most vulnerable people in our society with the dignity they deserve?

A Very British Nativity was released on 6 December. To see it, email Lucy Zwolinska at zwolinska@methodistchurch.org.uk, or visit www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/





Our World Mission Project 2017

The Virtual Doctors provides sophisticated, yet easy to use bespoke telemedicine

(technology & medicine) software and smartphones with internet access. This empowers health workers in rural Africa by enabling them to send electronic patient files to volunteer doctors for diagnosis and treatment advice, helping to save lives.

THE AIM

To help improve the local primary healthcare in some of the most remote and impoverished areas of Africa. These are places where people regularly walk or cycle long distances to their nearest clinic or referral hospital, and even then often receive inadequate treatment or diagnosis due to the centre being under-resourced.

THE SERVICE

The Virtual Doctors is a unique service. Their simple technology and medicine or 'telemedicine' software, designed with rural Zambia in mind, connects remote health care workers, called Clinical Officers, with a panel of volunteer doctors who give diagnosis and treatment advice on complex cases. As a result, patients are diagnosed more quickly and more often treated in their communities.

THE SOFTWARE

The Virtual Doctors service provides rural health centres with

a smartphone loaded with their bespoke telemedicine software. When a patient with a complex or unusual condition presents, the Clinical Officer creates a patient file with examination notes and photos and uploads it to the cloud. A doctor in the UK then reviews the file and offers diagnostic and treatment advice.

THE BEGINNINGS

In 1998 British safari guide Huw Jones was driving through the remote Zambian bush when he suddenly came upon a trail of sticky blood on the dusty road.

After following the trail for several miles, Huw caught up with a heavily pregnant woman slumped on a bicycle as her husband pedalled frantically in the relentless heat to get her to the nearest hospital, some 60km away.

Despite Huw's efforts, after such huge loss of blood, the woman and her unborn baby died in the jeep on the way; but the concept for the Virtual Doctor service, which would use the internet to save lives in rural Africa, was born.

THE MILESTONES

2007 Development of first concept of mobile clinics

2011 Initial trial of telemedicine concept in Kafue District, using one Virtual Doctor in New York and satellite communications

2013 Pilot project, using 20 Virtual Doctors and Fizzbook computers, launched in six rural health centres in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Zambia

2015 Development of bespoke telemedicine software, specifically designed for rural Zambia, and the use of smartphones

2016 Expansion of service in Zambia and pilot in Tanzania

Tools with a Mission

A Christian Charity sending tools across the world

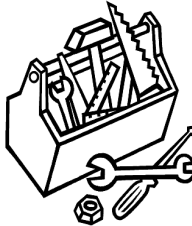


Volunteer drivers needed

One day every 10 weeks to either

- ♦ Drive locally in Dorset to collect and pack van with tools
- ♦ Collect empty van from Farnham area
- ♦ Take full van of tools to M25 South Mimms services and return with empty van
- ♦ Take full van of tools to M25 Clacketts Lane and return by car or train

The van can be driven with an ordinary driving license and there are no age restrictions. All out of pocket expenses paid.



The tools collected are refurbished in Ipswich and sent out to Africa in packs eg carpentry, plumbing, sewing including sewing machine and given to young people completing a vocational training course. This enables young people to earn their own living and not rely on aid.

If you can help contact John & Wendy Hilton *(contacts removed from web version)*

Reg Ch No 1104903

Family News

We give thanks for the lives of Brenda Trim and Enid Clay. We remember them and their families in our prayers.



It is with great sadness we heard of the death of Bill Toop in a car accident and the serious injury of his wife Liz. Bill was a member of St Martins Church, Broadmayne and participated in the joint services with the Methodist Church. He and Liz were also regular visitors to the coffee shop. Bill was a professional artist, a member of the Royal Academy and even gave Prince Charles some art lessons.

Volunteering

Do you have a spare hour or two when you could volunteer within the church family or could you help on a Sunday. Volunteers always needed to help with

- ✧ Communion
- ✧ Power point
- ✧ Distributing flowers
- ✧ Sound desk
- ✧ Church book shop
- ✧ Pastoral visitor

THE MAGAZINE TEAM

Editor Wendy Hilton 33c London Road Dorchester e mail address: (contacts re- moved from web version)	Advertising Manager Ronnie Boyden (contacts re- moved from web version) Photocopying Shirley Hood
---	---

**Deadline for April/May
edition is
Wed 1st March.
Please e-mail to Wendy
(contacts removed from web version)
or leave in post box in
Charles Street entrance
Thank you**

Tony's Property Maintenance & Landscaping

All aspects of gardening, fencing, walls, patios,
power washing, grass cutting and clearance.

No job too big or small.

Regular customers or single jobs

Excellent references

Give me a call for a chat

01305 260759 or 07825991172



Holiday Home to let in Central Cornwall

4 miles from Truro, 5 miles from Perranporth

Sleeps 8 ~ 2 double rooms, 2 twin rooms, 2 bath/shower rooms

Prices from £450 per week

For further details telephone 01305 260464

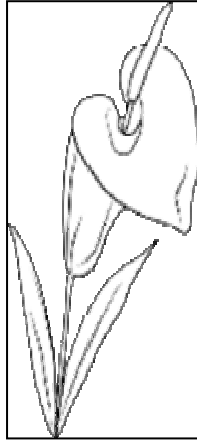
I J BROWN PARTNERSHIP

Independent eye care specialists since
1882, for a professional personal service
for all the family, phone us to make an
appointment

63 High West St
Dorchester 01305 264922

Vision for a lifetime





Death Café

**Sat 11th March 10a.m.-12.00 noon.
in United Church hall**

Solicitors, funeral directors, woodland burials.
Cruse bereavement counselling, flowers,
information from Age UK, Weldmar and
Also in attendance Rev Steph Jenner & Rev Peter
Clark and Heather Reed, Director of Music

**Come & ask your questions about wills, funeral
planning, what to do when someone dies
and support – spiritual, emotional and practical.**

Refreshments available with lots of chocolate cake

Everyone welcome

Rev Steph Jenner

7 Capitol Close
Dorchester
Tel. 262421

MINISTERS

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.

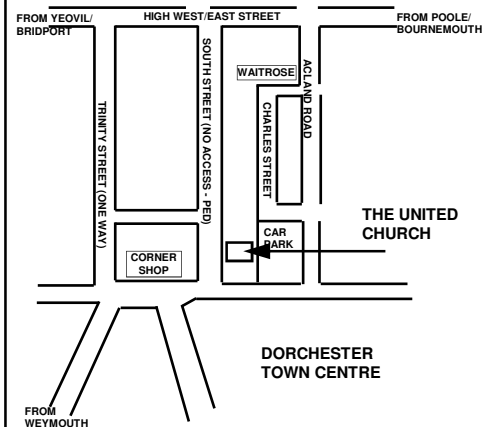
Prayer Groups: Prayer Chain, Prayer & Meditation Meetings.

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