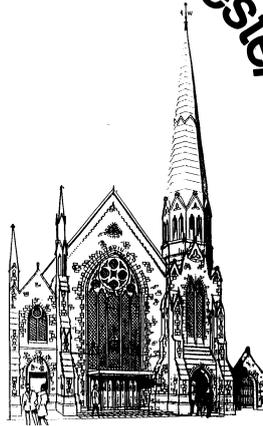


NEWS

United Church Dorchester



DECEMBER 2020

Registered Charity No: 1137996

Methodist and United Reformed
Part of Churches Together in Dorchester

Ministers:

Rev John Yarrien 01305 262421

Rev Peter Clark 01308 425978

Please contact one of the Church Stewards if necessary

Church Secretary: John Hilton

Senior Steward: John Parson

Church (general number): 01305 262462

Church office: 01305 457477

Website: unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk

Private Tel & email removed from web version

Lectionary readings

6th December

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

13th December

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126 or *Canticle*:
Magnificat (Luke 1:46b-55)
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

20th December

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Canticle: Magnificat (Luke 1:46b-55) or
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 1:1-14

27th December

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

Sunday Worship

6th December Second of Advent

10.00/11.15 Rev J Yarrien
Holy Communion

13th December Third of Advent

10.00/11.15 Rev P Clark

20th December Fourth of Advent

10.00/11.15 Ms J Amey
Carol Service

Christmas Eve Christingle service

3.00/4.15 pm Mrs L Gundry
11.30 pm Rev J Yarrien
Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

10.00/11.15 Rev J Yarrien

27th December First of Christmas

10.00/11.15 Rev J Yarrien

Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.30am

2nd December Mr C Warren

9th December Mr T Boyden

16th December Rev P Clark

23rd December Rev J Yarrien

Everyday Prayer

Loving God, at this time of uncertainty and isolation open our eyes to your unending mercy and faithfulness, and your power for which nothing is impossible. Enable us to celebrate the birth of your Son with joy even in dark times, for he is our light in the darkness and our hope for the future. Amen

Church Family News

We sadly have to announce the death of David Creighton. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary and the family.

Booking for December services

We hope to be able to return to worship with two services from Sunday 6 December. Remember you can book in advance for December Sunday services. Please let Gillian know before the beginning of the month. If there are any of the Sundays when you know you will be away or you are on duty and will already have a designated seat, please make sure Gillian knows as we anticipate December will be busy, especially the carol service on 20 December. Gillian will be available to take bookings before and after most services in December.

You do not need to book for the Christmas Eve Midnight Communion service, but you will need to make a separate booking for Christmas Day as this is not a Sunday. Depending on lockdown restrictions we foresee that there may be larger family groups. As for Christingle (see later notice) you can book up to a maximum of 5 in one household group to sit together. We will do our best to move chairs to accommodate this.

Please contact Gillian via the **Office** on **457477** (not Christingle: see below) Monthly bookings – at least two days before the beginning of the month Weekly bookings – by 6pm on the Saturday before the Sunday

Christingle

Thursday 24 December at 3pm and 4.15pm

As yet, we don't know what the guidance will be in December. However, plans are afoot for a Christingle with a difference. Everyone will be provided with a DIY Christingle bag and we will all make our Christingles together, but in our own seat with families socially distanced to keep everyone of all ages safe. The atmosphere of Christmas approaching and all being peaceful and ready will still be the same.

As with most of our services now, you will need to book for one of the two Christingle services. Families of up to 5 (inclusive of adults and children) will be able to sit in their household bubble. If carers or grandparents are bringing children without parents, they will be able to sit in a bubble (max 5). If your household is greater than 5, please let us know as we may have to split the group depending on the number and sizes of households that have booked. The maximum number we can accommodate safely at each service is 45.

Please book a minimum of a week before the service by contacting Wendy Hilton. When you arrive for the service you will be shown where you are sitting as the logistics are quite complex.

Carol Service - Covid edition

Our carol service this year will be a little different from previous years. It will be on Sunday 20th December at 10am and 11.15am. As the congregation is not allowed to sing, we would like to add an extra dimension to the service by including members of the congregation who are artists and craftspeople. We are inviting people who have produced Christmas themed art work, models, wall hangings etc to either take a picture of their work to be displayed on PowerPoint during the service or, if the item is big enough, bring the item to be displayed in the church.

If you would like to be involved in this venture please contact John Hilton if you would like your work on PowerPoint or Enid Parson if you would like your work displayed live. Let's celebrate Christmas this year with musical and visual arts. Many thanks. Heather Reed

We are hoping to repeat the carol service as an extended Wednesday morning service in the hall at 10.30 on 23rd December. Booking is not needed; first come first served.

Zoom service

Join members from across the circuit for a weekly Zoom service every Sunday at **5pm** led by our local ministers and lay preachers. To receive your first Zoom invitation to this service, e-mail Jacqui Trent at weybaymc@yahoo.com

Christmas Shoe Boxes

19 shoe boxes and a big bag of loose items were collected by the charity FSCI (Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion) in November to deliver to families in need. Thank you to everyone who made up a box in these difficult shopping times.

Space at Christmas with Feed Me, Change Me, Love Me Monday 21st to Wednesday 23rd December, 11am -3pm

In your Christmas preparations, a space to come and just be, reflect, indulge in Christmas crafts and find a safe space in the Christmas crowds to Feed Me, Change Me and Love Me (facilities for baby changing and feeding) and FREE activities for children and carers .

We need help with stewarding on these days to make sure everything goes smoothly in a friendly, welcoming environment and is Covid safe. If you are able to offer to steward (2 hour slot) please let Mary Martin know. Thank you.

One Way Christmas Fair
in aid of Mission Aviation Fellowship
Wednesday 9th December 1.30 – 3.30pm and Thursday 10th December 10am – 12 noon
Christmas crafts, books, gifts, cakes and refreshments, and the church shop will be open

We hope that Covid restrictions will allow us to provide a fair with a difference. You will enter through South Street where we will have the Christmas craft stall. Then through the church into the corridor where there will be a gift stall, books in the Quiet Room, then into the hall for the cake stall and refreshments and out towards Charles Street, where the church shop will be open. There will be stewards throughout the fair maintaining safe distancing. On entering the hall you will need to give your details for Track and Trace, and refreshments will be in groups of six at a maximum. All cakes donated must be wrapped and there will be no bric-a-brac stall due to space restrictions and the current difficulty of disposing of unsold items. Donations for the stalls can be brought to the hall on the Wednesday morning.

We need volunteers to help on stalls, to steward and to provide refreshments. If you can volunteer please contact Mary Martin. If after lockdown we go into Tier 2 we may not be able to provide refreshments, but we may still be able to have the stalls. Watch out for any updates. Thank you.



Dorchester Poverty Action

Thank you to the many people and businesses who have donated to the charity recently. We expect the need to grow locally in 2021 as sadly businesses may fail and people made redundant. In the run up to Christmas we are giving £5000 worth of Co-op vouchers to key agencies eg health visitors, family support workers, mental health team, carers team, social workers etc to give to those who are in need.

Action for Children Fundraising Group at UCD - Update

Our League of Light boxes raised £651.34 this year, so a very big thank you to everyone who contributed to this excellent amount. We will be collecting and playing Christmas carols outside the front door of United Church Dorchester on December 12th and December 19th from 12.00 until 3.30 – please come and see us if you can!

Support Service

Worried about going out? Finding it hard to cope with queueing? Family too far away to help? Needing to self-isolate?



Please don't struggle on alone and put yourself at risk. Don't forget there is a cheerful and willing band of younger folk from church who are very happy to help out. We are happy to continue shopping, collecting prescriptions or other tasks as long as needed so if you, or folk you know, need support then please don't hesitate to make contact.

Support is being coordinated by Gill and Peter Robinson

Dorchester Family Support (formerly School Holiday Lunch Club)

Dorchester Family Support are organising Christmas food hampers for our families who we know will still need help this December. We really hope that people will once again support us. We have put together a list of foodstuffs that we will need. We try to make each hamper as uniform as possible so here are some of the items that we know are well received:

Small Christmas/fruit cake, chocolate, cheese biscuits, jelly/trifle mix, coffee, hot chocolate and Christmas puddings (crisps and mince pies have been deleted – see below). If you can think of anything else that is “Christmassy” don’t be afraid to include it. The bin for donations is currently in the South Street foyer and will be there on a Wednesday and Sunday, but when the shop reopens it will be there on the other days. All donations need to be received by Sunday 12 December.

UCD has just heard from the charity that Thomas Hardy School is unable to provide basic hampers this year, but will be providing mince pies and crisps. Tesco are also unable to help with sourcing additional items this year, so the charity will be using Waitrose. This Christmas will be especially difficult for those who have lost their jobs, or have fallen through the cracks of the financial help available. Please, if everyone in church could just donate one item, it could make a huge difference to our local families. Thank you.

A wealth of information in the new UCD website members’ area

Di, our admin coordinator, and Kevin, our webmaster, have spent many hours over the last few months developing a password protected area on our website and loading it with useful information. Things like: who’s on what rota and when; addresses in the church directory; our governing documents; annual reports, church meeting minutes and AGM minutes for the last five years; who’s who on the Council of Stewards; policies and procedures in the church and, very soon, a regularly updated diary of bookings in the UCD buildings. You can use all these resources if you can access the internet and if you have already completed the UCD consent form, which gives us permission to hold your contact details on the church database. The majority of you will have done this about three years ago. (Due to data protection legislation, the church database is not accessible on the web.)

Please contact Di (office@unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk or Tel: 457477) and ask for the username and password required to access the secure web area. Di will send you two separate emails; one containing the username and the second containing the password and instructions on how to log in. I hope you find the information useful. If something that you want to access is not there please let Di or me know and we’ll see if it can be added. John Hilton

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the January news sheet is Sunday 20th December. Please send notices for inclusion to Myra Dawson

Church Website

Don’t forget to check out the church website (<http://unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk>), which is managed by Kevin and Susy Rogers. As well as a downloadable version of the news sheet, it also gives information about the church and its various groups, events, reports and how to contact specific members/groups. The website belongs to the church as a whole so you are encouraged to contribute. Where possible, go, discover and explore!

Data Protection Act

In common with most other churches and organisations, the United Church Dorchester keeps pastoral records of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of regular worshippers and friends. The information is used for church purposes only, is never communicated to any other body and is held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Please notify us in writing if you do not wish your data to be held by us in this way.