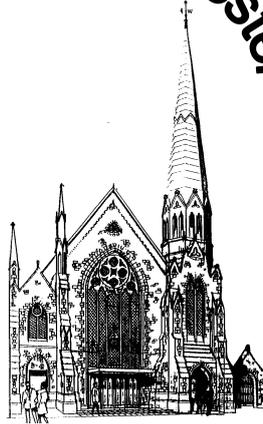


# NEWS

## United Church Dorchester



**SEPTEMBER 2021**

Registered Charity No: 1137996

**Methodist and United Reformed**  
Part of Churches Together in Dorchester

**Ministers:**

**Rev John Yarren** 01305 262421

**Rev Peter Clark** 01308 425978

Please contact one of the Church Stewards if necessary

**Church Secretary:**

**Senior Steward:** John Parson

**Church** (general number): 01305 262462

**Church office:** 01305 457477

**Website:** [unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk](http://unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk)

Private Tel & email removed from web version

**Lectionary readings**

**5<sup>th</sup> September**

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Psalms 146

James 2:1-10, 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

**12<sup>th</sup> September**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 116:1-9

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

**19<sup>th</sup> September**

Wisdom of Solomon

1:16-2:1, 12-22 or

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalms 54

James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a

**26<sup>th</sup> September**

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-

16, 24-29

Psalms 19:7-14

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

**Sunday Worship**

**5<sup>th</sup> September**

10.00/11.15 Rev J Yarren

Holy Communion

**12<sup>th</sup> September**

10.00/11.15 Mr R Lownsborough

**19<sup>th</sup> September**

10.00/11.15 Rev J Yarren

**26<sup>th</sup> September**

10.00/11.15 Rev P Clark

**Market Day Services**

Wednesdays at 10.45am

1<sup>st</sup> September Rev S Jenner

8<sup>th</sup> September Mr T Boyden

15<sup>th</sup> September Rev P Clark

22<sup>nd</sup> September Mr C Warren

29<sup>th</sup> September Rev B Stephenson

**Farewell to the Revd Peter Clark**

There will be a Circuit Farewell Service for the Revd Peter Clark at 4pm on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> September at Bridport United Church, to be followed by a tea. All are welcome to attend.

Peter's final service at UCD before he retires will be on the morning of Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> September. At this service, we intend to make a presentation to Peter to show our appreciation of all that he has done for us during his time as one of our ministers, and for a time our only minister. If you would like to donate towards our gift to Peter, please give your donation either to our Treasurer, Colin Gannaway, or to our Senior Steward, John Parson.

There will also be an afternoon tea at UCD on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 3pm in the church hall. Besides the official presentation and the circuit event, we wanted to give him a more personal thank you from UCD. If you hope to come, please sign the list on the notice board in the church hall by Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September to help us with planning. Depending on numbers we may need to use several rooms to accommodate everyone safely.

**Harvest Festival**

We usually have our Harvest Festival on the last Sunday in September, which this year is on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The Outreach Group want to hold an outreach event on the day before, just as they did on Easter Saturday and at Pentecost. However, the church is not available on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> September, so the stewards have decided to move our Harvest Festival to Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> October, and the Harvest outreach event will be on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> October.

### Church Family News

Margaret Hulmes was a member of our church for at least 40 years. Sadly she died at the end of July. David and Margaret had moved nearer to their daughter last year as Margaret's dementia progressed. As with many church members I will greatly miss her quiet manner and support. Her funeral is in Winchester at 13.30 on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August. I am in regular contact with her daughter and would be happy to pass on any messages. Mary Rousell

Mary Lucraft wishes to send everyone her very best wishes. She is settling well into her new home and has reconnected with many of her old friends. She has returned to her former church and is very pleased she is now able to sing.

### Church Seat Bookings from Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

If you need to cancel your booking or make a booking during this period, please contact Val Gould.

### Building works

You will all be aware that there are major building works that need to be addressed on the roof. For the safety of the roofers a birdcage structure and scaffolding will be erected in the church the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> September. We don't know how long the work will take to mend the roof until they start the actual work. We also don't know until this scaffolding is up whether we can use the church for services. We hope that, with a bit of furniture moving, we may be able to stay in church for services and continue to have coffee in the hall. However, we may need to remove a few of the chairs, while others may need to be angled to avoid looking at a scaffolding pole rather than the minister. Please bear with us as we try various ways to make this work.

The service on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 10.45** will definitely be in the hall as the workmen will be erecting the scaffolding. For this service, please can you use the Charles Street entrance as you will not be allowed through the church.

### A thank you from Revd Gwyneth Owen

I was very surprised to receive a goody bag from the circuit to mark my retirement from current responsibilities, and even more surprised to find a cheque from UCD in it. I haven't been involved with UCD this year at all, and the previous year only in my role as Superintendent, so it is very generous of you to make a contribution in the way that you have. I do appreciate your generosity and your thoughtfulness and will look forward to seeing you from time to time - it depends where the Super plans me!

### Letter of Thanks from Dan Jacobson

Dan Jacobson has spent the last year doing voluntary Christian work and receiving Christian training at a church in Durham. We at UCD have been very pleased to support him financially during this year, and we have received a very appreciative letter of thanks from Dan. He is continuing for another year of training and discernment for church ministry and leadership.

### Video volunteers

We are very grateful to Peter Robinson, who has been videoing the Sunday morning service for many months now. We would like some other volunteers to support Peter, especially when he is away. If you would like to know more about what this would involve, please see Peter.

### Coffee Lounge

The Coffee Lounge will re-open on Tuesday September 14th at 10am. At present it will be open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 am to 12:30. New volunteers and cake makers are always welcome. If you are able to help please contact Elizabeth Haynes, Diana Leeming, Sue Gannaway or Mary Martin.

### Forest Praise

Over the last few months we have held three Forest Praise events with our friends at St George's at Fordington. They have been very well received and children, parents and ourselves have had a great time. So much so that we are now going to start to do them monthly at St George's on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month (same time - 10.30am to 11.45am) and see how they go.

The dates are 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 6<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> December. We will still be needing people to help on the Saturday mornings and are very grateful to those who have helped so far. Please have a word with either Janice Young, Peter Jenner, Diana Leeming or Heather Reed for further information.

### Harvest Fun Day (Messy Harvest) for Families - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 10-12 noon

You will recall that we did a Pentecost Fun Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> May which was for families (seems a long while ago now) which was a great success. So we are going to celebrate Harvest and have a "Messy Harvest" fun morning on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October from 10am -12 noon. As before it is aimed at families, children and parents mainly but that's not to say that grandparents cannot come along as well. There will be various activities for the children to engage with and hopefully we will have refreshments. We will be needing help with "Messy Harvest" so please see Peter Jenner.

However, a lot depends on space as we will have scaffolding up in Church due to the leaking roof, which will therefore not be available to use. Final details in the October news sheet or from Peter.

### Story Tots Plus

A really big THANK YOU to all of the church members who helped in any way with the Story Tots Plus sessions held over the summer holidays. We hosted and entertained lots of children and their families and carers and had lots of positive feedback. We had 22 babies and children for the last session!



### Transport Officer

Peter Green is the church's transport officer. This service has not been available due to Covid, but the pastoral committee would like to see the service restart, if people are willing to volunteer to drive passengers to one of the church services. Both driver and passenger would need to wear a mask and have the windows open. If you feel you could volunteer, please let Peter know. He also needs to know if your car is able to accommodate a wheelchair if necessary, and also if you are able to lift a chair into the boot. If you need a lift and would like to make use of the service, please ring Peter Green before the Friday night.

### Cream Tea in aid of Dorchester Poverty Action

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2.30pm – 4.30pm  
at the Old Vicarage, The Green, Puddletown  
(opposite the church)  
cream tea £3, glass of prosecco £2, stalls and raffle

### Dorchester Casterbridge Rotary Club

Autumn Charity Fair, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September,  
9.30-12.30 in the United Church Hall  
Cakes, Tombola, Toys, Books, Gifts, Toiletries  
Tea, Coffee, Bacon Butties, Cake and Biscuits

### **Ride and Stride**

The Dorset Historic Churches Ride & Stride will take place this year on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September. If you are interested in taking part in this event, please contact Shawn Board for a sponsor form and further information. Half of the money raised through sponsorship will be returned to this church.

As in years past, it is hoped that the church will be open and staffed between 10 am and 6pm, so if you could spare an hour or two on the day to welcome Riders and Striders to UCD, I would be pleased to hear from you. Once any restrictions etc are ascertained, I will then be in contact with you again and compile a rota. It is hoped that a sufficient number of people will come forward to operate a shift system as in the past, but whatever you can manage would be appreciated. The task involves offering refreshments (providing regulations permit if any are in force at the time), signing sponsor sheets, and directions to other churches etc.

I look forward to hearing from you, and thank you in anticipation.  
Every blessing.  
Shawn

Please note: further details, including contact links, are on the [News page of the UCD web site](#). If leaving a message on Shawn's answerphone, or texting, please state clearly your name, address and phone number. If you wish to speak personally, please ring after 9pm. Thank you.

### **Money course for new university students**

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) will be running a money course at the Dorford Centre on 1st September 7-9pm aimed at those who have just left school and are going to university for the first time this year. This is an exciting but scary step and many will be worried about money. This session will help them learn how to be in control of their money. For further information or to attend, please email [cap@dorchesterbc.org.uk](mailto:cap@dorchesterbc.org.uk) or call Dorford church office on 01305 262045.

### **Christmas Shoe Boxes**

This year we will be again collecting Christmas shoe boxes to send to south east Europe through the Salisbury charity FSCI. They will be given to abandoned children living in state care, poor rural schools and kindergartens, women's refuges, prisoners' children, isolated elderly people, refugees and Roma children living in difficult conditions. The leaflets will be available in the late summer/early autumn. Watch this space.

### **Church directory/address book**

There are still copies available of the 2020 church address book. This is available to everyone who regularly attends church. If you would like a copy, please see John or Wendy Hilton.

### **Notices for news sheet**

The deadline for the October news sheet is Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September. 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 who's who on the Council of Stewards; 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; policies and procedures. 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.

### **Replacing the Revd Peter Clark**

The Revd Peter Clark will retire at the end of September. The Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) has been planning how we try to replace him, but the final decision lies with the Circuit Meeting which meets next at Weybay at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> September.

The first idea was to try to get another full-time URC minister. There were doubts about whether the circuit could afford a full-time replacement, hence the suggestion, which we looked at very seriously, that we should share a full-time appointment with Hope and Radipole URC churches in Weymouth. They had been trying without success for several years to secure a half-time URC minister. Together we hoped to obtain a full-time minister. Then the URC Wessex Synod made a decision in July 2020 that no new vacancies could be advertised. We thought at first that this would be a temporary policy whilst they brought out a more sophisticated alternative, but this has not happened. Then, at last, Hope and Radipole obtained the half-time minister which they wanted, so any scheme to join with them has now been ruled out.

Although there are many possible schemes, the circuit is now looking very seriously at two possibilities. The first is to go into the Methodist stationing process to obtain a full-time Methodist minister. The second is to seek a part-time appointment which, we hope, would attract a retired URC minister. Each has points in its favour as well as drawbacks.

The closing date for entering the stationing process is 23<sup>rd</sup> September, and, if we were successful, the new minister would arrive ready to start in September 2022. Besides having pastoral charge of Bridport and Uploders, the new minister would be expected to spend about 40% of his/her time on mission work at Westham and around the circuit. I agree very strongly with the circuit steward who said that she is fed up with managing decline and wants to be involved in church growth. The cost of a five-year appointment would be £250 000, some of which is likely to be taken out of circuit reserves which currently stand at about £840 000. The circuit has already allocated £50 000 for mission work, from which we at UCD hope to claim for expenses associated with StoryTots, Forest Praise and the County Show. There is a proposal to increase that by another £150 000. That would make the mission post very attractive, but I personally find it difficult to imagine spending even £20 000 per year. The main drawback, as I see it, is that all the ministers will be Methodist when about 55% of the circuit are members of LEPS.

To secure a part-time URC minister, the circuit would simply advertise in the appropriate magazine/journal. This would make two and a half ministers in the circuit, which would be affordable with our present budget and also maintain the URC presence in the circuit. A new minister would start as soon as he/she were available.

There is a national shortage of Methodist ministers so, having two already, our application might very well not be successful. On the other hand, we have seen that it took Hope and Radipole several years to secure a part-time URC minister, so that alternative might equally well not lead anywhere. At the June Circuit Meeting, we were told that it would be possible to go into the stationing process whilst simultaneously advertising for a part-time URC minister, because we could drop out of stationing at any time. When the CLT looked more closely at the stationing documentation, all 84 A4 pages of it, that advice turned out to be incorrect. Once we enter the stationing process, we must stay in until next April.

John Parson  
Senior Steward

## CHRISTIAN AID UPDATE

September and October will be busy months for Christian Aid and its supporters.

Don't forget the walk to the **River Jordan (Bowleaze Cove) from St Peter's Church at 09.30 on Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**. The distance is about 8 miles, returning on public transport. A good place to have a picnic lunch or use the café at Bowleaze. *If you only want to complete part of the walk there will be stages at which people can be picked up and returned home.* Details are available from the church shop or from Tony Boyden. Maps with directions will be available on the day.

In October we will be holding two of the events which we held over from Christian Aid Week in May plus a further street collection. Details are as follows:

**Street Collection (South Street) Friday October 15<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to 5 pm.** If you can spare an hour or so to collect that would be very much appreciated.

**Christian Aid Market (Main Hall, United Church) Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 1.30 pm.** There will be **Ploughman's Lunches served from 12 pm.** Again offers of help on the day would be very much appreciated. Also **help with setting up** on the Friday (15<sup>th</sup>) would be greatly welcomed.

**Ecumenical Service (United Church) Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 4.00 pm.** Led by Revd. John Yarrien with guest speaker, Rob Pearce, formerly responsible for Christian Aid in the south of England. Rob has the reputation of being an engaging and inspirational speaker.

We're delighted to say that the **Christian Aid Recipe Book has gone to press.** Over one hundred recipes from over fifty contributors. It should be available from October. **Price £10.**

If you are able to help in any way please get in touch with me via the Christian Aid Contact option on the [UCD 'Contact Us' pages](#). All offers much appreciated!

Tony Boyden