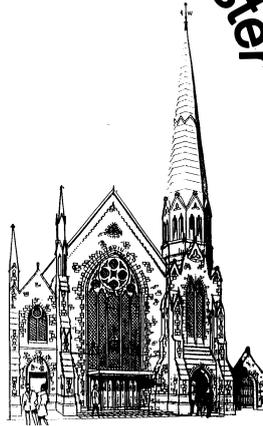


NEWS

United Church Dorchester



MARCH 2022

Registered Charity No: 1137996

Methodist and United Reformed
Part of Churches Together in Dorchester

Minister:

Rev John Yarren 01305 262421
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

Private Tel & email removed from web version



Lectionary readings

6th March

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

13th March

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17 – 4:1
Luke 13:31-35 *or*
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

20th March

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

27th March

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sunday Services

6th March

10.30 Rev J Yarren
Holy Communion
18.30 Rev J Yarren

13th March

10.30 Mr M Griffin

20th March

10.30 Mr R Phillips
18.30 Rev R Lownsborough

27th March

10.30 **Mothering Sunday**
Rev J Yarren

Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45

2nd March Rev S Jenner
9th March Rev D Reep
16th March Rev J Walker
23rd March Rev J Yarren

World Mission Sunday, 13th March

Mike Griffin, Chief Executive of [Tools with a Mission](#) (TWAM), will be leading our 10.30 a.m. service together with the World Church Committee, and will tell us more about the vital work of TWAM, a Christian charity enabling people to earn a living and support themselves and their families. There will be retiring collection. TWAM is our [World Church Project](#) for 2022.

Questionnaire

We hope gradually to move back to normality at services. From Sunday, 6th March, we shall return to having only one service each Sunday, at 10.30am. We then hope to relax the other rules in stages. To this end, we intend to issue a questionnaire after the service on the 6th, asking for your preference in which restrictions to relax first.

Church Family News

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death of John Stedman. John always greeted everyone at the door with a smile and great enthusiasm and always had an answer whenever a minister asked a question in the service. We are planning to celebrate John's life as part of our Sunday morning service on 8th May.

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer service, held in churches around the world, will be on **Friday 4th March** in Holy Trinity Church, High West Street, at 11am. We look forward to seeing you there.



Stationing

Our Methodist circuit, Dorset South and West, has managed to secure another Methodist minister. The Rev Jane Wilson will be based in Bridport and have pastoral oversight of Bridport United Church and Uploders Methodist Church. This will bring the ministerial strength back up to three, which is what it was before the Rev Peter Clark's retirement. Although it would have been ideal to have a URC minister, the current URC policy made the appointment of a full-time URC minister impossible.

As well as her pastoral responsibilities at Bridport and Uploders, Jane will also have a missional role across the whole circuit. There is a shortage of Methodist ministers, so the circuit has done very well to obtain somebody. The circuit leadership put together a very good role profile, and it may be that the inclusion of the missional element made us successful.

New Stewards

We need to have at least four, and preferably five, new stewards appointed at the AGM on the 27th April. Please think prayerfully whether this might be a role which you could fulfil, and also of anybody else who might do it. If you need more information about what the role involves, please speak to one of the existing stewards or to John Hilton, who is the acting Church Secretary.

We also need a new Church Secretary. John Hilton has already gone well beyond his term of office because nobody else has come forward to take his place. The role has been considerably reduced by the appointment of Di Lawrence as our clerical assistant. Without stewards and a Church Secretary, UCD cannot continue.

Exploring our Faith

A Lent study group called "Seekers"

As we approach Lent this year, we are planning to hold a Lent Study Group called "Seekers". This will be an opportunity to explore the basics of what it is to be a Christian today and how we journey through life together as a community here at UCD.

Our Seekers course will run each week from Thursday 10th March through to Thursday 7th April from 7 to 8.30pm. We will meet in the Hall for part of the sessions together, where the theme will be outlined, and then there will be an opportunity to discuss the topic each week in smaller groups. Refreshments will be provided.

Flavour of topics to be explored include "Christianity: boring, untrue and irrelevant today", "Can we trust the Bible?", "Who is Jesus?", "Why does Jesus' death matter?" and "Why suffering?" For more information in relation to the course please speak to Rev John, Rev Brenda Stephenson, Peter Jenner, Paul Smith, Chris Warren, Brian Savage, Elizabeth Haynes, Penny Fennell.



Easter Day Breakfast

On Sunday 17 April the Easter Day breakfast is making a return and all are welcome to enjoy breakfast at the United Church before the 10:30 service.

To start we provide fruit compôte, muesli and cereal, followed by a cooked breakfast, toast, fruit juice, tea and coffee. Back by popular demand we even have Jon's homemade marmalade.

We serve between 08:30 and 09:30 and the cost is £5:00 for adults and £3:00 for children under 12. Please sign up on the noticeboard in the hall or contact Jonathan Mair.

Coffee in the Church Hall

Wednesday 30th March, 9.30-12

On Wednesday 30th March, during the usual coffee morning in the hall, there will be a stall selling goods from the [church shop](#): Christian books, Easter cards, gifts and Traidcraft. Please support this event.

Prayer Chain

If you would like prayer for yourself or others at any time, please contact [Penny Fennell](#). Details can be given anonymously, and confidentiality within the prayer chain is absolute unless there is a safeguarding risk.

Dealing with challenging situations

When confronted with a challenging situation, or one that is becoming challenging, it's helpful to be aware of the following:

- *Assess the situation: is the person rational, or do you suspect mental health issues, drink or drugs or some other factor?
- *Always consider the risks.
- *Try to ensure you have some backup, but don't crowd the person.

If you feel confident that you are not in danger:

- *Encourage the person to a safe space where you can talk and have a cup of tea (don't put yourself at any risk).
- *Be confident, look the person in the eye, allow them to talk and make sure they know that you're listening.
- *Use expressions like 'I can see you're angry' rather than 'calm down'.
- *Don't touch an angry or irate person.

If you feel in danger, or don't feel confident about handling the situation:

- *Don't engage with anyone who is clearly in a heightened state of anger.
- *Ask someone for help.
- *Leave (if appropriate).
- *Contact the police.

If necessary, call the police (999) the Community Mental Health Team (01305 214500 office hours) or the DHUFT Mental Health line (0800 6520190 manned 24/7)

Forest Praise in March

Our next [Forest Praise](#) is on Saturday 26th March at St George's, Fordington, from 10.30 -11.45am. Please do spread the word. If your next door neighbours have children/grandchildren, please do tell them about Forest Praise. We always need help with the activities and having folk helping parents. It's a good morning and well worth doing. Peter Jenner

United Church Dorchester

World Church Easter Coffee Morning

Saturday, 2nd April, 10 - 12



Come and join us for coffee, tea, cakes
and hot cross buns!

Get your Easter presents here: unique
crafts, homemade cakes and biscuits,
books, plants, bric-a-brac and *Guess the
Weight of our Spring Hamper*



All proceeds to go to Tools with a Mission

We are looking for helpers on the day, as well as donations to any of the stalls

**“Caught Between Religion and Politics –
Truth Against Power in a Justice-Led Global Church”**

This year’s south west residential World Mission conference will be held at the Ammerdown Centre, near Radstock, Somerset, from 30th September to 2nd October and will be led by the Rev the Lord Leslie Griffiths.

Leslie Griffiths is a recently retired Methodist minister and former President of the Conference. He spent most of the 1970s as a missionary in Haiti and is still closely involved with the concerns of the Haitian people and politicians. He is an active member of the House of Lords and is frequently called up to speak on current issues. It promises to be a stimulating and informative weekend. Places are limited so early booking is advisable. Shared transport can be arranged.

The cost is £220 for full board from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch. Full details and booking forms are available from local rep David Reep.

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the April news sheet is Sunday 20th March. 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 on a number of different things concerning the church and how it runs. 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.