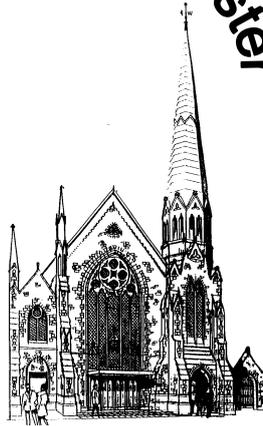


NEWS

United Church Dorchester



DECEMBER 2021

Registered Charity No: 1137996

Methodist and United Reformed
Part of Churches Together in Dorchester

Minister:

Rev John Yarrien 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

5th December

Baruch 5:1-9 *or*
Malachi 3:1-4
Canticle: Benedictus
(Luke 1:68-79)
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

12th December

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Canticle: Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

19th December

Micah 5:2-5a
Canticle: Magnificat
(Luke 1:46b-55)
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Christmas Day

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

26th December

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

Services

5th December

10.00/11.15 Mr C Warren
Holy Communion

12th December

10.00/11.15 Ms J Amey

19th December Carol Service

10.30/6.30 Rev J Yarrien

24th December Christingle

3.00/4.15 Mr P Jenner

25th December

10.30 Rev J Yarrien

Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45

1st December Rev S Jenner

8th December Rev J Yarrien

15th December Rev J Walker

22nd December Mr T Boyden

29th December Mr C Warren

Quiet Christmas

Friday 3rd December, 3pm

Join us for a short Christmas service followed by a tea. This is ideal for those who find sitting through a full service difficult. Everyone welcome.

Church Family News

Congratulations to Ken Mills, who celebrated his 90th birthday in November.

Seat booking for carol services

You must book your seat for whichever carol service you wish to attend. The 6.30 carol service is exactly the same as the 10.30 so please allow others to come and don't book for both services. If you will be sitting in the choir or the music group you do not need to book.

We need to make sure we do not go over the total number of people we can safely seat. Please e-mail Wendy directly or via the [UCD web site](#). Please let her know whether it is the 10.30 or 6.30 carol service, how many you are booking for and their names and if you will all sit together as a group with no empty seats between you and if you need to be downstairs or would prefer the balcony.

Christmas Day

There is no booking of seats for Christmas Day. However, if you need a specific seat reserved or extra space around your seat for either the Christmas Day service or one of the carol services, please let Wendy know.

Building works

We had hoped that the scaffolding would have been dismantled by now, but it is looking more likely that it will be there possibly until Christmas. However, this is very dependent on the roofers, the scaffolders and the weather.

Please do not leave booking your seat for any of these services until the last minute.

Journey to the Stable

Journey to the Stable is an interactive experience helping to explain the true meaning of Christmas. This is ideal for adults and children alike. The journey takes 20 – 30 minutes. There are seven stations focusing on a person or a part of the Christmas story with readings and reflections. At each there is a small activity or object for you to take away, so you leave with a bag of reflections and goodies.

Open on Saturday 11th and Wednesday 15th to Saturday 18th December, 11am - 3pm.

In the busyness of all the Christmas shopping, writing the cards and icing the cake, take a few minutes to be still and reflect on what Christmas is all about.

Journey to the stable (stable only)

Open Tuesday 21st to Thursday 23rd December, 11am - 3 pm.

Christingle

Thursday 24th December
3pm and 4.15pm

We will be repeating last year's very successful Christingle in a bag. 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 is peaceful and ready will still be the same. No booking needed, but there will be a maximum number at each service for safe social distancing.

Spuds and Puds Christmas Family Lunch Sunday 19th December at 12.15pm in the Hall

After our morning carol service on Sunday 19th December here at United Church we shall be having a Spuds and Puds Christmas family lunch to which everyone is welcome. It will consist of jacket potatoes with a choice of three fillings, followed by a choice of puds, one of which will be Christmas pudding, and coffee/tea. The cost will be £5 for adults and it will be free for children. (Coffee will still be served after the morning service in the South Street Foyer.)

Please sign the sheet in the Hall **by 16th December** if you are coming to the lunch so that we know how many we are catering for. Please see either Peter Jenner, Janice Young, Diana Leeming or Heather Reed if you need further details.

Feed Me, Change Me, Love Me

Tuesday 21st, Wednesday 22nd
and Thursday 23rd December,
11am- 3pm

Church open for baby changing and feeding. Safe, comfortable, private area. Activities for children. FREE



Christmas Shoe Boxes

This year we collected 30 Christmas shoe boxes, a bag of donations and an additional £35 to send to south east Europe through the Salisbury charity FSCI. The boxes 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.

"Cover to Cover: Unexpected Jesus"

An opportunity to journey through Advent this year, together, considering who Jesus is, how and why he came to earth, and how we can be inspired to live a life that makes way for him, the kings of kings. Hosted by Rev John, either on Zoom, starting on Monday 29th November until Monday 20th December at 7pm or in person at the Manse (7 Capitol Close), starting on Tuesday 30th November until Tuesday 21st December at 11am. Both groups will last an hour, and will follow the same material.

<p>The Green Group is meeting again on Saturday 4th December at 10.30 a.m. in the Cerne Abbas Room Topic: COP26: What Next?</p>	<p>Traidcraft The last order for Traidcraft will be done on Monday, December 6. The Church Shop will close for the Christmas break at 12.30 on Thursday December 23.</p>
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Charity stalls

Do you support a local charity for which you would like to fundraise? Each week at the Wednesday market day coffee from 9.30 – 12.00 one charity a week will be able to provide and staff a fundraising stall to raise money. There is a notice on the hall noticeboard where you can sign up for a convenient Wednesday. The charity must organise the setting up, the selling and most importantly the clearing up and removal of all items. For further details talk to Sue Gannaway or Wendy Hilton.

ECO CHURCH

Revd Andrew de Ville and Professor John Evans invite you to join them via zoom on
Thursday 2nd December 19:30 to 21:00

Whether you are interested in starting along this road or are journeying down it already, let's share our ventures, experiences and challenges. Together we can make a difference.

Opening prayers and introduction:
A Rocha UK: Eco Church and Wild Christian; Eco Circuit and Eco District

Stories from around the District:
An Eco Church: Caversham Heights
Becoming an Eco Church: Wesley, Winchester
Being an Eco Church: The United Church, Winchester
Helping other Eco Churches: Romsey

'What can make a difference?': Group Discussion

Next steps and Closing prayer

Further details are available from the [Southampton Methodist District](#).

<p>FluteCakes Christmas Concert Saturday 11th December at 5pm at UCD</p> <p>A short programme of festive musical favourites followed by cake. Retiring collection for Dorchester Child Contact Centre.</p>	<p>Christian Aid Carol Singing, December 24th Please join us for an hour's carol singing outside Barclays Bank from 09.30 to 10.30.</p> <p>Christian Aid Cookbook. An excellent Christmas present! Only £10 and all to a good cause.</p>
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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.

**Helping the Homeless and Vulnerable Adults in Dorchester
Christmas Shoe Box Appeal**

This group is appealing for a shoe box full of goodies (items like toiletries, thermal underwear, gloves, woolly hats) for the homeless to open at a Christmas meal. Male and female boxes please (but they have more men than women). Further details may be available from the group's [Facebook page](#).

Harvest Donation

We have received the following from Dorchester Food Bank:

"We, at the Food Bank, would like to thank the United Church fellowship very much for your generous Harvest donation. This helps us enormously as we seek to feed the hungry in our area and we always assure our clients that the food doesn't come from us but from the kind-hearted people in our community."

Home Start West Dorset

Home Start West Dorset exists to support families with at least one child under five to cope with the difficulties of parenting. Our volunteers spend around two hours each week with a family. Our long term financial position needs to improve to handle the increased demand. We are therefore asking people to become Friends with a small regular donation. If you would like further information (including details on how to donate) please visit the [HSWD web site](#).

John Weir
Trustee HSWD

Dorchester Family Support

Dorchester Family Support will once again be offering food parcels to those families entitled to free school meals this Christmas. We will be using Hardye's School on Friday 17th December to pack the provisions and our families will come in on Saturday 18th December to pick up their parcels. Because of the uncertainty regarding supplies this year, we would appreciate financial donations rather than goods. This will allow us to act quickly if there are difficulties sourcing any particular foodstuff. Last year we helped 191 families at Christmas, which equated to 416 children. We do not think our numbers will be less this year. Our bank details for direct transfer of any monies is: CAF Bank, Acct No 00033782. Sort code: 40-52-40. Cheques made out to Dorchester Family Support can be sent to Dorchester Baptist Church: Bridport Road Dorchester Dorset DT1 1RR. Thank you once again for your support.

Kath Joslin – Trustee, Dorchester Family Support

Dorchester Park4FREE days

Shoppers can park for free in most Dorset Council-run car parks - not including on-street parking - on Saturdays 20th and 27th November and 4th December and Wednesday 22nd December, as well as 27th and 28th December and 3rd January. The car parks include Acland Road, Durngate Street, Fairfield short stay and long stay, Old Market, Top o' Town short stay, long stay and commercial, Trinity Street south and Wollaston Field.

The Park4FREE days have been organised by Dorchester BID in association with Dorchester Town Council and Dorset Council to give a boost to the town's businesses in the run up to Christmas.

Notices for news sheet

The January news sheet will be ready for distribution from Sunday 19th December as there is no service on 26th December. The deadline is therefore Sunday 12th 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 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!