

# NEWS

## United Church Dorchester



**NOVEMBER 2023**

Registered Charity No: 1137996

### Methodist and United Reformed

Part of Churches Together in Dorchester

#### Minister (Rev John Yarrien)

On leave of absence due to illness.

Please contact [Rev Gwyneth Owen](#)

**Pastoral Support Assistant:** [Ruth Magee](#)

**Church Secretary:** Position vacant.

Please contact Senior Steward (see below)

**Senior Steward:** [Michael Humphrey](#)

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

**Church office:** 01305 457477

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

Private Tel & email removed from web version

### Sunday Services

#### 5<sup>th</sup> November

10.30 am Rev David Cuckson  
Holy Communion  
6.30 pm Rev Gwyneth Owen

#### 12<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Sunday

10.30 am Rev Steph Jenner  
4.00 pm Tea-Pot

#### 19<sup>th</sup> November Safeguarding Sunday

10.30 am World Church  
Committee  
6.30 pm Rev Brenda Stephenson

#### 26<sup>th</sup> November Women Against Violence Sunday

10.30 am Mr Chris Warren

### Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45 am

1<sup>st</sup> November Mr Chris Warren  
8<sup>th</sup> November Rev Brenda Stephenson  
15<sup>th</sup> November Rev Steph Jenner  
22<sup>nd</sup> November Mr Tony Boyden  
29<sup>th</sup> November Rev John Walker

### Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns

The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup>  
November, in the Hall at 3.30pm for  
4pm. until 5.30pm.

The church is open for Morning Prayer  
each Tuesday starting at 8.30am. All  
welcome.

### Church Family News

Congratulations to the Rev John Walker and Elizabeth Payne on their engagement. Elizabeth is a retired teacher and librarian and is the widow of the Rev Dr Geoffrey Payne, who was an RAF Chaplain and then a lecturer in Old Testament in Edinburgh.

Huge thanks to all at UCD for their prayers and good wishes, cards and flowers since I have been unwell. The support is greatly appreciated. Mary Martin

Judy and Andy Davies would like to thank everyone who sent them cards and greetings when they were celebrating their golden wedding anniversary in October.

Rev Gwyneth Owen has become our Ministerial Support during the absence of Rev John Yarrien.

We also offer our thanks to Rev Brenda Stephenson who has been providing a Chaplaincy role within UCD and has now stood down.

We say thank you to Dr Catherine Welch, who has stood down from her Safeguarding role after many years of service. Linda Scott becomes Safeguarding Officer and is also the Steward with responsibility for Youth and Family. Gill Robinson is now the Steward with responsibility for Pastoral work. Paul Smith has been re-appointed as Chair of the Property Committee.

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November, Jill Jenkinson will be part of our service, updating us on her ongoing work with [Wheels for the World](#). There will be a retiring collection for Wheels for the World.

### **Church Meeting**

Our next Church Meeting takes place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 7pm in the Church. Please come and have your say on UCD matters. Our 2024 budget will be presented and all are welcome, however it is only Church members who can vote. Minutes and Agendas will be available in the foyer or by email if you contact the [church office](#).

### **Church Secretary**

All of us are very sorry to hear of Mary Martin's illness, and our focus is on supporting her through our prayers and by whatever practical support the family feels will be helpful. However, whilst writing a note of appreciation to others who have stepped down from their church role, it would be remiss not to thank Mary for all she has offered to the church in her role as Church Secretary. She stepped forward when we were finding it difficult to fill this role and she has been fully committed to it. Thank you so very much, Mary.

The role of Church Secretary is now vacant and we are seeking interest from members who would like to know more about the role. The Church Secretary is a Steward and the central point of contact with the United Reformed Church. Please contact [Michael Humphrey](#) or [Rev Gwyneth Owen](#) for more information.

### **Help Needed**

Help is needed once a month with serving coffees and welcoming visitors to the [Coffee Lounge](#) on Tuesday morning. It is a pleasant way to spend the morning and a wonderful way to meet other members and visitors to Dorchester. Help is needed from 9 am to 12.30, it is truly not arduous.

Help is also needed, from the New Year, with Stewarding the [Wednesday Market Service](#). This is also once a month, from 10.15 to 11.15, though if there were more volunteers it could be less often. This is a simple but important service, giving a warm welcome to our visitors, it is also a good way to meet other members and outside visitors to the church.

If you can help with either of these important roles or need further information, please contact Elizabeth Haynes.

### **World Church Christmas Coffee Morning**

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 10 – 12

[Stalls to include](#) homemade cakes, books, bric-a-brac, and Christmas crafts; there will also be Guess the Weight of the Christmas Hamper. Refreshments will be available, including mince pies. Donations to any of the stalls, especially homemade cakes, will be greatly appreciated. All proceeds to [Wheels for the World](#).

### **Christmas Shoe Boxes for House of Opportunity**

We are again collecting shoe boxes for the Salisbury-based charity, which has been renamed House of Opportunity. Please start collecting now. Leaflets are in the front foyer and in the church shop, but more information is available on the [House of Opportunity Christmas Box appeal](#) page. The Christmas shoe boxes will be dedicated on Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> and collected the following day. If you do not want to do a whole shoebox but have items to donate, there is a box in the South Street foyer for donations, which will be used in Salisbury for additional boxes. Thank you

### **Journey to the Stable 2023**

We are approaching the time of year when we start to make plans to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Journey to the Stable is part of those plans. School children and the public can go on an interactive journey and be part of the Christmas story.

Schools will be coming from Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 9.30-2.30pm, and public openings will be Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>, Friday 15<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 11-3pm (11-1.30 on the 15<sup>th</sup> as Quiet Christmas is at 3pm).

We will be setting up the Journey in the church and the Quiet Room on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm and taking it down on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December after 3pm. We need help with the setting up, school visits and public openings. If you can help in any way please see Peter Jenner, Diana Leeming, Val Gould or Wendy Hilton. There will be also be a rota (with time slots) on the notice board in the main hall for people to sign if they can help to steward the public openings.

### **Family Fun Days**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 10.30- 2pm**

We will be opening the church and foyer for families to come and relax and have a drink. We will have toys, crafts including icing biscuits, as well as a gazebo with the heading "Are you in the picture?" so that parents can take a picture of their children in a stable setting wearing a costume, plus baby changing and feeding facilities. We will need help with this so please see Peter Jenner, Diana Leeming, Val Gould or Wendy Hilton.

### **Church Shop**

[The shop](#) is on Charles Street, at the back of the church building, opposite Dorchester Library, and is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings from 10.00 to 12.30.

We, like the rest of the retailers in Dorchester, now have on sale a range of Christmas cards in boxes, packets and in singles, all at very good prices. We have Advent candles, notelets, Shared Earth goods and various books that would make ideal presents, and Meaningful Chocolate Advent Calendars have now arrived, each one containing a booklet with the Christmas story, as well as lots of yummy Fair Trade chocolate. These calendars are not available in any other shops, so stock up now! We look forward to seeing you in the shop. Remember, we take credit/debit cards and cheques as well as cash.

Peter Jenner, Pat Brown, Pat Smith, Susy Rogers

### **Prayer Chain**

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

### **'A slice of Christmas FluteCakes'**

Saturday 2nd December at 5pm  
Festive music and tasty cake to begin the Christmas season  
Free entry with retiring collection for [Dorchester Child Contact Centre](#)

### **UCD's Vision Statement**

Our purpose is to worship God and, helped by the Holy Spirit, to love each other, to care for those in need and to share the love of Jesus Christ with all those around us. The United Church Dorchester is a Christian Community welcoming everyone. We value our diversity. Whatever our age, background, culture, gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity, we each have something special to share with others. In Jesus Christ's name, the United Church Dorchester

- seeks personal and spiritual growth, together as a worshipping community and also individually, and encourages all in faith,
- cares for and supports all within and beyond the church community,
- works in partnership with other churches and local groups in Dorchester and district,
- serves the community and the wider world by caring for the earth and striving for a just and peaceful world, combating poverty and disadvantage, and
- fosters a deeper understanding of and respect for other cultures and faiths.

### **Christian Aid Events**

#### **[An Evening with Peter Green: Poems and Stories](#)**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30-9.30**

**Dorchester YMCA, Sawmills Lane, Weymouth Avenue, Dorchester DT1 2RZ**

Peter has always been captivated by poetry and, from the time of Covid, he began increasingly to write both serious reflections on nature, politics and human behaviour as well as short humorous verses, limericks and satirical pieces. He has been a long-time supporter of Christian Aid because it stands up for the worth, dignity and human rights of those who need our help and support to be independent and self-sustainable. We look forward to what will be a very enjoyable evening.

Entry free but by ticket only, donations to Christian Aid welcome. Tickets are £5 for a fish and chip supper, payable on the evening but ordered beforehand (please state if you require gluten free). Tickets available from the [United Church shop](#), or from Tony Boyden ([Christian Aid Contact](#))

Date for your diary: **Annual Christian Aid Market**, United Church hall, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Churches Together in Dorchester**

**[Prayers for Peace](#)**, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 3pm

We will gather at the War Memorial to pray for peace in the world. All welcome.

**Alpha Connect lunch**, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 12-2pm

Church leaders and their teams and key volunteers are invited to find out more about Alpha. The Connect lunch will obviously include a lunch together provided by Alpha so emailing to reserve your space is crucial - please email [Pastor Mark Topp](#). It will also include a time of worship and prayer, small discussion groups and testimonies from Alpha.

**Annual General Meeting**, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 7.15pm

This will be held at the Storehouse Church, Cambridge Road, for election of officers and reports back on progress over the year. Churches Together associate groups are welcome to mount displays. The hall will be open during the day to allow time for setting up.

### **Dorset Historic Churches Ride and Stride 2023**

Grateful thanks are extended to Elizabeth Haynes, Margaret Long, Peter Robinson, Colin Tizzard, Julia Young, and Enid and John Parson who very kindly volunteered to help with staffing the church for this year's Ride and Stride event. Your valued help was greatly appreciated. Thanks are also due to Maria Jacobson and Kevin Rogers for their assistance.

Once again, Eric Young rode for us, and of course many thanks are due to him, and also to those who kindly sponsored him. He covered 23 churches and rode 40 miles. A superb effort on a very hot day.

A total of £291 was raised through sponsorship, and this will be shared between our Church and the [Dorset Historic Churches Trust](#). A great effort and well done. We welcomed a total of 47 Riders & Striders to UCD, but unfortunately - possibly due to the high temperatures - we received no four-legged friends this year.

Once again, many thanks and God bless you all.

Shawn Board, Ride & Stride Organiser

### **STOP PRESS: GOOD NEWS**

We are delighted to share the good news that Jonai's cancer is completely gone. He will have reconnecting surgery soon. We thank God and all our friends for the love and prayers we have received.

Much love, Jonai and Brian

### **Notices for news sheet**

The deadline for the December news sheet is Sunday 19th November. Please send notices for inclusion to [Myra Dawson](#)

### **Church Website**

Don't forget to check out the [church website](#), which is managed by Kevin and Susy Rogers, 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.