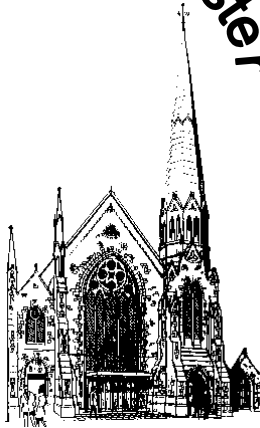


NEWS

United Church Dorchester



DECEMBER 2024

Registered Charity No: 1137996

Methodist and United Reformed
Part of Churches Together in Dorchester

Minister ([Rev John Yarrien](#)) 01305 262421
John's rest day is usually Friday. Please contact one of the Church Stewards if necessary.

Pastoral Support Assistant: [Ruth Magee](#)
Church Secretary: [Michael Humphrey](#)
Senior Steward: To be appointed

Church (general number): 01305 262462
Church office: 01305 457477
Website: unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk

Private Tel & email removed from web version

Sunday Services

1st December Advent Sunday
10.30 am Mr Tony Boyden
Holy Communion

8th December
10.30 am Rev John Yarrien
Crib Service
4.00 pm Tea-Pot

15th December
10.30 am Rev Gwyneth Owen

22nd December
10.30 am Rev John Yarrien
6.30 pm Rev John Yarrien
Carol Service

Christmas Eve
4.00 pm Christingle
11.00 pm Midnight Communion
at St George's

Christmas Day
10.30 am Rev John Yarrien

29th December
10.30 am Rev Steph Jenner

This year's **Quiet Christmas Service** will be on Friday 13th December at 3pm in the church followed by Christmas refreshments. This is a [short service](#) with festive hymns ideal for anyone who can't sit for long or can't concentrate for a sermon. Come and celebrate Christmas with old friends and new. Everyone welcome.

Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns

The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 8th December, in the Hall at 3.30pm for 4pm, until 5.30pm.

Journey to the Stable 2024

Come and experience the true meaning of Christmas through [Journey to the Stable](#). It is interactive, takes about 25 minutes and is suitable for all ages. We are open on Saturday **7th December** 11am-2pm, Thursday **12th December** 11am-2pm, Friday **13th December** 11am-1.30pm, Saturday **14th December** 11am-2pm. To many people Journey is the starting point of what the coming weeks hold as we approach the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. We look forward to welcoming children and adults to Journey to the Stable.

Christmas shoe boxes

Thank you for the 21 Christmas shoe boxes filled and dedicated, as well as enough separate items to fill a few more boxes. They have now been collected by the local charity [House of Opportunity](#) and will be delivered to Eastern Europe to families suffering modern day slavery and other serious issues.

Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45 am
4th December Rev Peter Clark
11th December Rev Neil Riches
18th December Rev John Yarrien

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

Advent and Christmas Services

Advent Sunday, 1st December. There will be the usual 10.30am service, led by Mr Tony Boyden.

This is the day to begin putting money into your Reverse Advent Calendar.

Wednesday, 4th December. The usual 10.45am Market Day service, lasting about 20 minutes and led by Revd Peter Clark.

Saturday, 7th December. Journey to the Stable will be open to the public from 11am to 2pm.

Saturday, 7th December. A short concert of festive flute music at 5pm. Please see separate notice.

Sunday, 8th December. Our 10.30am service will be a special Christmas Crib Service, led by Revd John Yarrien. We hope that many of the children and families who attend Storytots or Forest Praise will also come. This will be followed by lunch in the Hall which will be open to all. Please see separate notice.

Sunday, 8th December. Afternoon Tea and Carols (or Tea-Pot) will be in the Hall at the usual time of 3.30pm for 4pm until 5.30 pm.

Wednesday, 11th December. The usual 10.45am Market Day service, lasting about 20 minutes and led by Revd Neil Riches.

Thursday, 12th December. Journey to the Stable will be open to the public from 11am to 2pm.

Friday, 13th December. Journey to the Stable will be open to the public from 11am to 1.30pm.

Friday, 13th December. Quiet Christmas at 3pm. Please see separate notice.

Saturday, 14th December. Journey to the Stable will be open to the public from 11am to 2pm.

Sunday, 15th December. Cracker Day. There will be the usual 10.30am service, led by Revd Gwyneth Owen. Afterwards the church will stay open until 2pm for carols, craft and refreshments.

Wednesday, 18th December. The usual 10.45am Market Day service, lasting about 20 minutes and led by Revd John Yarrien. Afterwards there will be carol singing outside the church in South Street for Action for Children.

Sunday, 22nd December. There will be the usual 10.30am service, led by Revd John Yarrien.

Sunday, 22nd December. Our annual Carol Service will be at 6.30pm led by Revd John Yarrien.

Tuesday, 24th December, Christmas Eve. Our annual Christingle Service will be at 4pm. This is suitable for all ages, so do come and make your own Christingle.

Tuesday, 24th December. There will be a joint Communion Service at St George's Church at 11pm.

Wednesday, 25th December, Christmas Day. Our 10.30am Service will be a Family Service lasting about 45 minutes and led by Revd John Yarrien. Do come and bring your family as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

Sunday, 29th December. There will be the usual 10.30am service led by Revd Steph Jenner.

N.B. There will not be a Market Day service on Wednesday, 1st January, as it is New Year's Day.

Festive Flute Music

Saturday 7th December, 5pm

Please come and join us for a short concert of [Festive Flute Music](#) followed by cake. Entry is free with a retiring collection for [Dorchester Child Contact Centre](#).

Spuds and Puds - Church Family Meal

Sunday 8th December at 12.15pm

Following the crib service on Sunday 8th December, led by Rev John Yarrien, we will be having a Jacket Potato and Puds lunch time meal to which all are welcome. There is a signing-up sheet on the Hall notice board so that we know how many to cater for and what dessert you are able to bring. Coffee will be served as usual in the hall after the morning service and we will then sit down for lunch at 12.15pm.

Saturday Men's Breakfast Meeting December 7th

In the coffee lounge 8.30-10.00 am
Share a breakfast and have a chat
Let me know your breakfast preferences!
For details contact Paul Wallis.

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.

Journey to the Stable 2024

It is only about 6 weeks before we open the South Street church doors and welcome school children and adults to experience the real meaning of Christmas. This year we are re-vamping the station boards to make them more up-to-date and consolidating a couple of the stations into one so 7 stations will become 5. We are also shortening the times for the four days when we open to the public.

We will be needing people to help with the school visits (two schools have already booked) and the public openings. We are also looking for people on school visit days who would be willing to dress up and be in the stable as Mary and Joseph, which will add to the children's experience.

The dates for JTTS are:

Wednesday 4th December – Set up in Church - 2-4pm
Thursday 5th December – School Visits - 9am-3pm
Friday 6th December – School Visits - 9am-3pm
Saturday 7th December – open to the public - 11am-2pm
Monday 9th December – School Visits - 9am-3pm
Tuesday 10th December – School Visits - 9am-3pm
Wednesday 11th December – School Visits - 11.30am-3pm (if needed)
Thursday 12th December – Open to the Public - 11am-2pm
Friday 13th December – Open to the Public - 11am-1.30pm
Saturday 14th December – Open to the Public – 11am-2pm
Take stations down after public opening. Stable will remain.

This is the biggest town centre outreach event that we do so please remember it in your prayers. Please see me for any further information.

Peter Jenner

Reverse Advent Calendar

Many of us buy an Advent Calendar each year. We open it each day in December and receive a gift, often of a sweet or chocolate. We are suggesting that this year, as we journey through Advent, we MAKE a small gift each day before we receive on Christmas Day the greatest gift of all, God's son, Jesus, to be our Saviour.

We hope that each of us will take a jam jar and put a coin in it each day from Advent Sunday, which this year is on 3rd December, until Christmas Day. The coin may be 1p or 5p or 50p or even more; it does not have to be the same amount each day. Please hand the money in on Christmas Day or one of the next two Sundays. All the money will then go to the [Food Bank](#). Obviously, the Food Bank will not receive it before Christmas, but we are assured that they need money all the year round.

Please use one of your own jam jars if you can, but we hope to have spare ones available for you to take on Advent Sunday and the Sunday before, 26th November.

Wednesday Coffee Morning Charity Stalls

The charities booked in for December are:

December 4th Julia's House December 18th Crisis at Christmas
December 11th Cats Protection

If you know of any charities who might be interested in having a stall in future months (we only have one charity stall each Wednesday) then please put them in touch with me.

John Parson

**New Year Family Fun Morning
Saturday 4th January, 10-12 noon**

We are having a morning for children, parents and grandparents to come along and join in various craft activities, play with toys, join in a few games which will include pass the parcel, and have hot drinks and toast. This free Family Fun Morning will be held in church so please use the South Street entrance. See Peter Jenner for more information.

Carol Singing

Join us outside the church for carol singing in the street
Wednesday 18th December at
11.20am
in aid of [Action for Children](#)

Christmas Food Hampers

[Dorchester Family Support](#) will once again be distributing food hampers to those families entitled to free school meals in the area this Christmas. We will need at least 200 bags so if you have any at home or are willing to buy a couple we would be very grateful. The large bags with a flat bottom and a Christmas scene are ideal but we will be happy to accept any contributions. [Dorford Baptist Church](#) will have a large box in their foyer to receive any donations. Thank you. Kath Joslin - dorchesterfs@gmail.com



United Church Shop

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
[The shop](#) is in Charles Street, at the back of the church building,
opposite Dorchester Library

We have a range of Christmas cards at very good prices. We also have Advent candles and calendars, including Meaningful Chocolate Advent Calendars, as well as Shared Earth and Tilnar Art goods, and various books that would make ideal presents. We look forward to seeing you in the shop.

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the December news sheet is midday on Sunday 15th December. 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. 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.