

# NEWS

## United Church Dorchester



**NOVEMBER 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](http://unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk)

Private Tel & email removed from web version

### Sunday Services

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> November

10.30 am Rev Peter Clark  
Holy Communion

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

10.30 am Rev Ruth Lownsborough  
4.00 pm Tea-Pot

#### 17<sup>th</sup> November

10.30 am Rev John Yarrien/  
Rev Kate Konrad

#### 24<sup>th</sup> November

10.30 am Mr Chris Smith  
6.30 pm Rev John Yarrien

### Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45 am

6<sup>th</sup> November Rev Neil Riches  
13<sup>th</sup> November Mr Chris Warren  
20<sup>th</sup> November Mr Tony Boyden  
27<sup>th</sup> November Rev Brenda Stephenson

### Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns

The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> November, in the Hall at 3.30pm for 4pm, until 5.30pm.

### Church Meeting, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November

The next Church Meeting will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm in the Hall. Copies of the Agenda and Minutes will be available in the Foyer beforehand.  
Michael Humphrey, Church Secretary

### Date for your Diary

This year's **Quiet Christmas Service** will be on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

### New to the United Church?

We are very fortunate that new people start to worship with us all the time. Each year in the autumn we have a welcome meeting for all those who have joined us over the previous year. This gives us time to explain more about the church, for you to ask questions and, probably the most important, for you to meet those who have also joined within the last year. Many friendships are first forged at these welcome meetings. The next welcome meeting will be on **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October from 3 to 4.30pm** in the church coffee shop. In true UCD style there will be lots of tea/coffee and CAKE. If you are new to United Church, you are very welcome to come along and find out more.

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

### 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.

## Vision Statement

The following Vision Statement will be discussed at the church meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November:

### What does United Church aspire to be?

“To be a beacon of God’s light and love for all in Dorchester”

### Who we are in 2024

“United Church is a diverse, welcoming, Christian community at the heart of Dorchester, seeking to worship God, to share the story of Jesus, and proclaim God’s love for our community through presence and service.”

### Priorities in key areas of church life:

In the next two years we seek to live out that statement by exploring three areas of church life:

**Worship:** Continue to focus on our core worship offering with a weekly Sunday morning service, a monthly evening service and weekly market day service.

**Explore:** within those services how music, drama, prayer and testimony can deepen our personal and community relationship with God (Father, Son and Spirit).

**1 additional target:** To establish a new offering of worship, mid-week, which is different in style, aimed at a new target group within our wider Dorchester community.

**Small groups:** Continue to support existing small/house groups in the church and strengthen training and resources for the leaders of those groups.

**Ensure:** there is a ‘church based’ group at least during Advent and Lent, and throughout the year if that emerges as an opportunity.

**1 additional target:** Create 3–4 new house groups in the church. Encourage new leaders and hosts to come forward, providing training and support for the new groups to be established. Create a ‘house group’ forum, so that they can share resources, ideas, things that have worked or not worked for their groups, and they can feel supported by one another and the minister.

**Christian Presence: Explore:** How we continue to ensure that the building is a welcoming and inviting space for all in our Dorchester community. Continue to review how the church building is both a place of worship, mission and welcome to our wider Dorchester community.

**1 additional target:** Throughout the building, find ways of sharing and proclaiming that we are a Christian Church and community. Share a sense of our ‘Church Values’ at the entrances and main community spaces throughout the building.

## Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 10.00 -12.00 in the Church Hall

Stalls include:

Cakes

Crafts

Nearly New Gifts

Books & Puzzles

Bric-a-Brac

Guess the weight of the hamper

Mystery Gift Jars

Refreshments – Tea, Coffee, Bacon Butties & Mince Pies



Please support – all proceeds for [‘Wheels for the World’](#)  
Donations of cakes and items for stalls will be gratefully received  
If you are able to offer help on the day please contact [Gill Robinson](#)

### **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. On **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November** we are having a **Volunteers' Meeting at 2.15pm to 3.30pm** in the coffee lounge here at UCD for those who are willing to help with Journey to the Stable, either school or public openings. Tea and cake will be available. 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 4<sup>th</sup> December – Set up in Church - 2-4pm

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December – School Visits - 9am-3pm

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December – School Visits - 9am-3pm

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December – open to the public - 10.30am-2pm

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December – School Visits - 9am-3pm

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – School Visits - 9am-3pm

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December – School Visits - 11.30am-3pm (if needed)

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Open to the Public - 10-30am-12.30pm

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Open to the Public - 10.30am-12.30pm

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Open to the Public – 10.30am-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

#### **Saturday Men's Breakfast Meeting**

November 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>

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.

#### **Donations to Charities**

During the year the church gives financial support to various charities. Our latest donations are as follows:

Dorset Mind £200

Homestart £200

The Women's Refuge £300

Weldmar £300.

### **Dorset Historic Churches Ride and Stride 2024**

Grateful thanks are extended to Elizabeth Haynes, Marion Cox, 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 as always greatly appreciated. Thanks are also due to Dennis Janes for his assistance. A total of 35 Riders & Striders were welcomed to UCD, but alas, no four-legged friends again this year.

Most of all, a huge thank you to Eric Young who rode for us yet again. Thanks also to those who kindly sponsored him. He covered 28 churches and rode 40 miles. A total of £319 was raised through sponsorship, and this will be shared between our Church and the Dorset Historic Churches Trust. A great effort and well done.

Once again, many, many thanks and God bless you all.

Shawn Board, Ride & Stride Organiser

### Wednesday Coffee Morning Charity Stalls

The charities booked in until the end of November are:

October 30<sup>th</sup> Christian Aid                      November 20<sup>th</sup> Wheels for the World  
November 6<sup>th</sup> Salvation Army                November 27<sup>th</sup> Wheels for the World  
November 13<sup>th</sup> Alzheimer's Society

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

#### Photo board – you still have time

The photo board in the hall is a really important asset. It is used by new people to find out a name or face while, for those who have been around for a while, it is a real benefit when trying to get to know new people better. None of us like constantly having to ask a name because we have forgotten (again). Please check that your photo is on the board and also how up-to-date it is. Please e-mail or give Susy Rogers a photo or, if you need a photo taken, please let Wendy Hilton know. We would like to receive all photos by the end of October.

#### 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](mailto:dorchesterfs@gmail.com)

#### Christmas Shoe Boxes

For the last 5 years we have participated in a Christmas shoe box scheme run by the UK charity [House of Opportunity](#) based at St Paul's Church, Salisbury. The charity combats the exploitation of vulnerable young people and communities in south east Europe, helping to prevent poverty and modern slavery and enabling marginalised people to realise a better future for themselves and their children. This year Christmas shoe boxes will be distributed 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.

Leaflets are available in both foyers. For more information see the [scheme's website](#). If you feel you can't fill a whole shoe box but have a few items, there is a box in the South St foyer for these donations.

Please bring your Christmas shoe boxes by **Sunday 17 November**, when they will be dedicated, and then they will be collected the next day.

#### Church Office

During Ellie's maternity leave, several church members are covering her work including John Hilton on lettings, Chris Wells who will be contacting preachers and sending out the order of service, and Pauline Humphrey who will be taking the minutes at the stewards' and church meetings. They are taking on these jobs on top of their other church responsibilities. During this time, some are also on their own pre-booked holidays. Please bear with them and don't expect an immediate response to your query. Due to Ellie's maternity leave and to another member's ill health, the property committee is now down to two people. Please also bear with them if not everything is dealt with as quickly as you would like. Thank you to all those who have taken on this extra work.

### **Ecumenical Committee**

Our ecumenical committee is looking for a new representative from the United Church fellowship. Would you consider joining us? If interested please see or speak to Dorothy Smith. Thank you.

### **Helping people who care for others: Carers' Emergency First Aid Workshop**

Friday 15th November, 10am–12.15pm or 1pm–3.15pm

Specifically designed for carers supporting a loved one at home, this workshop will cover topics such as choking procedures, falls, wounds and basic life support. Those attending will receive a free first aid kit to take away with them. Carers can book by calling the [Leonardo Trust](http://Leonardo Trust): 01202 698325; or emailing [info@leonardotrust.org](mailto:info@leonardotrust.org)  
Venue: [Age UK](http://Age UK), Units 1 & 2, 5 Crown Square, Dorchester, DT1 3EN



### **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 now 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.