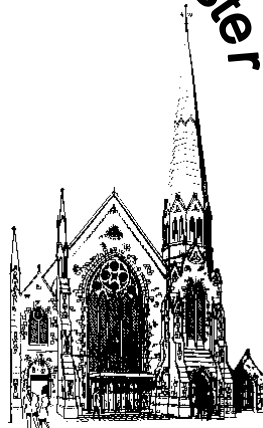


# NEWS

## United Church Dorchester



APRIL 2026

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](#)  
**Church office:** 01305 457477  
**Website:** [unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk](http://unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk)

Private Tel & email removed from web version

**We are a Christian Community seeking to be a Beacon of God's Light and Love for All**

<b>Services</b>	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April</b> 7.30 pm	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Rev John Yarrien Tenebrae service Holy Communion
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April</b> 9.30 am 2.30 pm	<b>Good Friday</b> Churches Together Walk of Witness from St Peter's Quiet Service Rev John Yarrien
<b>5<sup>th</sup> April</b> 10.30 am	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Rev John Yarrien Holy Communion
<b>12<sup>th</sup> April</b> 10.30 am 4.00 pm	Rev Brenda Stephenson Tea-Pot
<b>19<sup>th</sup> April</b> 10.30 am 6.30 pm	Rev Peter Clark Rev John Yarrien
<b>26<sup>th</sup> April</b> 10.30 am	Rev John Yarrien

**Church Family News**  
Congratulations to Marylyn and Les Mould who celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary, and to Shirley and Denys Hood who celebrate their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, at the beginning of April, and happy birthday to Val Gould who is 80 in April.

**Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns**  
The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, in the Hall at 3.30pm for 4pm, until 5.30pm.

**Quiet Easter**  
Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2.30pm  
[A 30 minute service](#) followed by Easter refreshments  
Ideal for those who want to celebrate Easter and the empty cross quietly, but joyfully.  
Everyone welcome

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

<b>Market Day Services</b>	
Wednesdays at 10.45 am	
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Rev Brenda Stephenson
8 <sup>th</sup> April	Mr Peter Jenner
15 <sup>th</sup> April	Rev John Walker
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Rev Steph Jenner
29 <sup>th</sup> April	Rev John Yarrien

**Saturday Men's Breakfast Meetings**  
The Men's Group meetings in 2026 will be in the coffee lounge at 8.30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month.  
Paul Wallis

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

### **Journey to the Empty Tomb in Holy Week**

Holy Week, the Last Supper, Jesus Prays in Gethsemane, Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus, Jesus before the High Priest, Peter's Denial of Jesus, Jesus brought before Pilate, the Crucifixion of Jesus, the Resurrection of Jesus. These are all Stations of the Cross which lead to the Empty Tomb. The Church will be open on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 11-1pm, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 12-2pm and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 11.30 to 2pm for a time of personal reflection as you make your journey through Holy Week through the various stations which will have pictures, short readings and a visual item until you reach the Empty Tomb. Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord. (StF 295).

#### **Easter Saturday - 4<sup>th</sup> April - South Street**

Between 10.30 and 12 noon we will be giving out hollow Easter eggs and flower stems to shoppers to wish them a happy Easter and remind them of what Easter is about. Help to distribute them between these times will be welcome.

#### **Story Tots**

There will be no Story Tots on Maundy Thursday, 2nd April, but we will be having Story Tots Plus on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 9.30-11am which allows the parents who normally come to Story Tots to bring their older children.

### **Holy Week and Easter**

#### **Maundy Thursday**

On Maundy Thursday, we remember the final meal of Jesus with his disciples, now called The Last Supper. During the meal, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat, this is my body". Then he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and gave it to them saying, "Drink it, all of you, this is my blood poured out for many, my blood which seals God's covenant". There can surely be no more appropriate time for us to celebrate Holy Communion. Our service will be led by Rev John Yarrien at 7.30pm, and will include the Service of Tenebrae.

#### **Good Friday**

On Good Friday, when we remember Jesus's crucifixion, there will be a Walk of Witness organised by Churches Together. This will start with a short service at St Peter's Church at 9.30am. We will then cross the High Street and walk slowly behind the cross, down South Street, pausing to sing a hymn at the Town Pump and outside Barclays Bank, and finishing with a short service at the War Memorial. A slow procession has more impact if it is done in respectful quietness, so we hope that those taking part will observe that.

#### **Quiet Easter**

Also on Good Friday, at 2.30pm, we shall have a half hour service called "Quiet Easter". There will be no hymns, but a quiet re-telling of the events of Holy Week from Palm Sunday leading up to the joy of Easter Day. After the service, tea, coffee and hot cross buns will be served in church.

#### **Easter Sunday – The Greatest Day in the Christian Year**

On the first day of the week, at about sunrise, some women went to Jesus's tomb with spices to anoint his body. But his body was not there, and they learnt that he had been raised from death and restored to life. On Easter Day, our morning service will be at the usual time of 10.30am. It will be led by Rev John Yarrien and will include Holy Communion. But earlier in the morning there will be a short Sunrise service at Maumbury Rings at 6am. This is early in the day for many of us, but it is a wonderful experience to be with Christians from all the other churches in town celebrating the great central truth of our faith.

**Christ is Risen – He is Risen Indeed – Alleluiah**

### **Church Meeting held on 16th February**

Here is a summary of the items discussed at the meeting. The completed draft minutes are on the [Church website](#).

- Safeguarding – All group leaders are encouraged to complete risk assessments for their Church activities and events. We are reminded that when there are child centric activities, there should only be adults involved in the activity in the building at these times.
- Coffee Lounge – This is an important outreach and needs more support in terms of volunteers and attendance. Sue Gannaway will not be working on Lent Lunches next year and if there is a lack of volunteers it may not go ahead.
- World Church – They raised over £5,000 for the [Leprosy Mission](#) and will continue this year. The charities being considered for next year are [WaterAid](#) and [Mary's Meals](#). If you would like to add to this discussion, please contact committee members.
- Church Meetings - All agreed to NOT decrease the amount of Church Meetings.
- Church Review - Peter Mann suggested a church review of Our Vision, leading to a long-term development plan to be launched as part of celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of UCD. Work will start on this process. Stewards will be seeking member opinions, and there will be further discussion at the AGM on 28<sup>th</sup> April.
- Dogs in the Building - The Stewards will be producing a Dog Policy for the Church.
- Fundraising and Stewardship – Work continues on the roof, hall windows, solar cells and the women's toilets. Grants are being applied for and fundraising will be needed so these projects do not wipe out Church reserves.

### **Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm**

All are welcome to attend our AGM on 28<sup>th</sup> April. This is when we review our 2025 activities, approve the financial accounts and plan for the future. There will be plenty of opportunity to chat in small groups using the informal café-style seating used at the last Church Meeting.

In 2028 we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we will be asking for your ideas on how we should mark this milestone. Church Members will also be invited to vote on a number of issues including the appointment of new people to key roles in the Church. Nomination forms for the role of Church Stewards will be available in the Foyer. Please join us.



### Light a candle for Peace

We are opening the church for a time of quiet reflection, for the community and church members to come and light a candle, pray for peace, and pray for our increasingly fragmented world. Many of us are feeling helpless, unsure of what is going on in our world and how we should respond. Lighting a candle for peace gives us a chance to stop and pause as we pray for peace.

Stay a while  
Stay for the whole time  
Give a minute of your time

10am – 12noon  
Saturdays April 18<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup>

### Wednesday Coffee Morning Charity Stalls

The charities booked in during April are:

April	1	Leprosy Mission	22	Action for Children
	8	Murugi Community Trust	29	Julia's House
	15	Leprosy Mission		

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, but we have no vacant weeks before July.

John Parson



### 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 look forward to welcoming you.

### Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the May news sheet is midday on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April. 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 – please [send in](#) any information about [Events](#) taking place at the church, or [Latest News](#) items that may be of interest.

### 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.