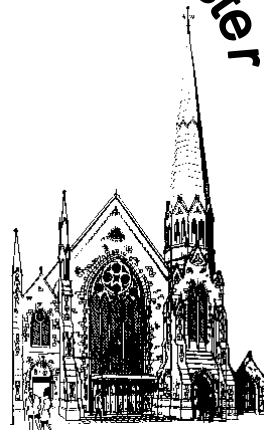


NEWS

United Church Dorchester



JANUARY 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

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

Sunday Services

4th January

10.30 am Rev John Yarrien
Covenant Service
Holy Communion

11th January

10.30 am Rev Ruth Lownsborough
4.00 pm Tea-Pot

18th January

10.30 am Mr Alan Turner-Smith
6.30 pm Rev Gwyneth Owen

25th January

10.30 am Rev John Yarrien

Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45 am

7th January Mr Chris Warren
14th January Mr Tony Boyden
21st January Rev John Walker
28th January Mrs Elizabeth Haynes

Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns

The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 11th January, 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 Peter Mann who celebrates his 90th birthday in January. Happy birthday Peter.

Celebrate the New Year at midday with coffee

Join some of the pastoral committee in the coffee lounge after the Wednesday market day service on Wednesday 31 December at 11.15am to celebrate the New Year. Many of us don't see in the New Year at midnight as we are ready for bed before then, but at midday on December 31 in the UK, Australia will be welcoming in 2026 as it will be midnight with them. Join us for coffee and nibbles to celebrate the start of 2026 at 12 noon. More details from Ruth or Wendy

Church Meeting dates

Monday 16th February
at 7pm

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 28th April at 7pm

All are welcome to attend

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

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.

Wednesday Market Day Services

I would like to thank Elizabeth Haynes for organizing the Wednesday door steward rota. Elizabeth has undertaken this task quietly behind the scenes for many, many years and has now relinquished it to me. So, thank you Elizabeth for all that you have done regarding the Wednesday Market Day service.

At the moment we only have four people on this rota, but it would be good to have a few more. So, if you come to the Wednesday Market Day service, or feel that welcoming people into our church to worship is something you could do, or would like to do, please speak to me. Carol Illingworth

Wednesday Coffee Morning Charity Stalls

The charities booked in during January are:

January 7th	Leprosy Mission	21st	Parkinson's Dance
14th	Action for Children	28th	Parkinson's Group

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

Lock Your Doors

For 30 years we have never locked our front door in Dorchester when we are there. However, just recently there has been a spate of burglaries when people are at home. Only a few days ago Natalie, who lives close to church, had an intruder come into her home. Her front door was locked, but a top window was open and he stretched through and opened the main window and climbed in. He then unlocked the front door and left it open. He called out and she came down. She hadn't heard him initially, as she was upstairs listening to music through headphones. He purported to be a Good Samaritan, who had seen a youngster run into her open door. It all sounded very plausible and he was a good con artist. It wasn't until he left and she thought about it that she realised nothing added up. Thankfully she was not hurt, had nothing stolen and her house wasn't messed up. It is a lesson to all of us to think about our front doors and windows. This is not the first case that we know of recently. A friend from another church was at home waiting for their family to arrive (hence the front door was unlocked) and someone came in and took jewellery, while she was in the house.

This is happening in Dorchester NOW – be careful.

Wendy Hilton



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 will be re-opening on Tuesday 6th January and look forward to
welcoming our loyal customers and new customers
to the shop in 2026.



Refurbishment of the Main Female WCs

In June 2025, church members were asked a series of questions regarding their wishes for the refurbishment of the main toilets. The results were presented in the Oct/Nov Vision magazine. On the basis of these answers, the new layout for the main ladies' toilets will be similar to the existing layout, i.e. two cubicles and two wash hand basins.

The plan is that the current toilet area will be gutted and the current drain cover in the floor will be removed and replaced, since it is no longer possible to open it and gain access to the drains. New floor covering will be installed and new lights and faster hand driers will be fitted. The walls will be covered up to 1.3m from the floor with DuraPanel Premium or similar, a sheet material which is a modern equivalent of tiles but is much easier to keep clean. Examples of the panels can be viewed at the [Durapanel website](#). The ceiling and remaining, visible, parts of the wall will be repainted.

The current toilet bowls, which are only a few months old, will remain; the one in the left hand (facing) cubicle is a few centimetres higher than the one in the right hand cubicle. Fast-filling toilet cisterns will be fitted along with new seats, which will, if possible, include flip down, child friendly seats. New toilet cubicles will be installed, as will a new modesty panel in the same material as the cubicle doors (see [example 1](#) and [example 2](#)). So that handbags, etc. can be stored off the floor, the wash basins will be set into a flat surround, made from the same material as the wall covering or the cubicle doors. The pipes underneath will be boxed in with a demountable surround. Please note that the colour choices for some of these materials are quite limited, but we will take advice from the church handicraft group on the colour scheme. The project will be managed by members of the Property Committee.

The gents' toilet contains an old urinal, which is hidden behind one of the walls. We intend to remove it but this work will require Listed Building approval, which will delay the start of refurbishing the gents' toilet by at least several months. Any questions, please contact Paul Smith or John Hilton.

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the February news sheet is midday on **Sunday, 18th January**. 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.