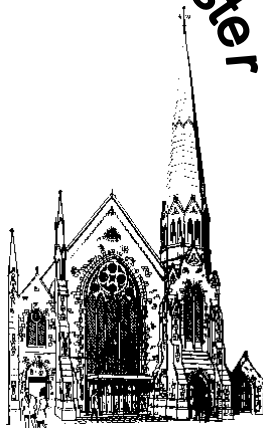


NEWS

United Church Dorchester



JULY/AUGUST 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: [Nigel Hewish](#)

Senior Steward: [Linda Scott](#)

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

5th July	
10.30 am	Rev Steph Jenner Holy Communion
12th July	Action for Children
10.30 am	Rev Gwyneth Owen
4.00 pm	Tea-Pot
19th July	
10.30 am	Dr Colin Farrant
5.00 pm	Circuit service at Tolpuddle
26th July	
10.30 am	Rev John Yarrien
2nd August	
10.30 am	Rev Peter Clark Holy Communion
9th August	
10.20 am	Mr Chris Warren
4.00 pm	Tea-Pot
16th August	
10.30 am	Rev Brenda Stephenson
23rd August	
10.30 am	Rev John Yarrien
30th August	
10.30 am	Worship Committee

Church Family News

We are sad to announce the death of Les Mould, Marylyn's husband. Many of you will know Les through the coffee shop, Wednesday coffee and U3A. Please remember Marylyn and the family in your prayers.

We are also sad to announce the death of Penny Henn. Please remember Alan and the family in your prayers.

Congratulations to Sue and Colin Gannaway who celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary, and to Mary Brayley who celebrates her 100th birthday, in July.

Congratulations to Chris Warren who has completed 50 years as a local preacher, an amazing achievement. Thank you Chris.

Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns

The next Tea-Pots are on Sunday, 12th July and Sunday, 9th August, in the Hall at 3.30pm for 4pm, until 5.30pm.

Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45 am

1 st July	Rev Brenda Stephenson
8 th July	Rev Steph Jenner
15 th July	Mr Peter Jenner
22 nd July	Rev John Yarrien
29 th July	Mr Tony Boyden
5 th August	Rev Peter Clark
12 th August	Mr Chris Warren
19 th August	Rev Brenda Stephenson
26 th August	Rev Steph Jenner

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

Wednesday Coffee Morning Charity Stalls

The charities booked in during July are:

July	1	Age UK	22	RNLI
	8	Leprosy Mission	29	Leprosy Mission
	15	Action for Children		

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. I am now taking bookings for July to December.

John Parson

Saturday Men's Breakfast Meetings

The Men's Group meetings are held in the coffee lounge at 8.30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. Paul Wallis



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 for a while, stay for the whole time, or give a minute of your time
10am – 12noon, Saturday July 11th, September 19th, October 3rd,
November 7th and December 5th

Dorchester Family Support

Once again [Dorchester Family Support](#) will be supporting Free School Meals families in our local area during the summer holidays. We are planning to provide around 300 hampers each week for five weeks. The weekly cost is over £8000. As well as store items each hamper will include fresh meat, fruit and vegetables. We highly value the financial support of our community in helping us to purchase the food required and [further contributions](#) would be gratefully received.

John Weir, Treasurer

Dorchester Foodbank Trustee Search

2025 was a busy year for [Dorchester Foodbank](#). Not only did it celebrate its 16th birthday, but it saw a 14% increase in client demand. Meeting this increase would not have been possible without the support the Foodbank receives from local individuals, businesses, and organisations. The Foodbank would like to thank everyone who donates to its cause.

The Trustees wish to recruit additional Board Members who have a desire to help the Foodbank and support its work. We are looking to widen the Board's expertise in particularly, but not exclusively, the use of social media and the maintenance of its [website](#). Please consider whether you can support its work in this way.

A job description, a person specification and an explanation of Trustee responsibilities are available from [Tracy Hughes](#)

Children and Family Events - July & August

Story Tots – Thursdays 9.30-11am in the Hall

[Story Tots](#) had its annual summer outing to Weymouth on 18th June, which was most enjoyable. We will meet on all the Thursdays in July, with the last one before the summer break on Thursday 30th July. No Story Tots in August and we will start again on Thursday 3rd September.

Family Fun Days in Church – Saturdays 1st & 29th August

We will have toys, crafts, colouring, books to look at, toast and hot and cold drinks along with some bubbles blowing around. A morning for families just to come and let their children play. If you would like to help with either of the mornings, please let Peter Jenner know.

Family Event after School or Teatime

Many of us remember the late Mary Martin, who was passionate about the various things in Church life that she was involved with. One thing that Mary was thinking about was having something to which families could come after school. It would be a space where children could play and relax after school, do homework, learn a new craft or skill like sewing, cooking or baking, listen to a story being read to them, and it would include a meal. It could be monthly or fortnightly and last for a couple of hours. Mary wanted to involve the Church congregation as so many of you have various gifts and skills which could help children and parents. We are now working towards this becoming a reality.

Have we got people in our congregation who would be willing to share their skills in any of the above areas so that we can shape what we can offer to families? If so, please have a word with Peter Jenner. We have produced a questionnaire to give to families who come to Story Tots, Forest Praise and Junior Church. This will be given out in the next month or so, but we need to know if we have enough interest and help from you to make this work. This is a very exciting project which we hope and pray will happen in the autumn. Please include this project in your prayers.

Churches Together in Dorchester & Area

Dorset County Show 2026, Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th September

It's that time of year again when [Churches Together](#) have a marquee at the [Dorset County Show](#). We have had several meetings already to plan what we will be offering at this year's Show. We are offering a baby changing area, toys and games, colouring, Godly play (story and activity), eco table where you can get your hands dirty, refreshments, and harvest hymn sing with cake at 2pm on both days. New for 2026 will be a "getting in the picture" board where you can have a family member take your picture with two backgrounds to choose from.

We need volunteers to help us with all the above over the weekend. There are 2-hour shifts and 4-hour shifts. If you do the 4 hours with a break in-between, your ticket is free. If you do 2 hours, we ask you please to pay £7 for a ticket. We have Volunteer Role Descriptions for the five areas that we offer so that volunteers know what is expected of them. It's great fun and involves a lot of standing and talking and interacting with people. If you can volunteer, please see either Heather Reed, Diana Leeming or Peter Jenner and say which day and times you can do. We need to know by 2nd August so that we can plan the rota for the weekend. The Dorset County Show is the biggest OUTREACH event that we do.

Peter Jenner, Children & Families & Outreach Lay Worker
Show Co-ordinator for Churches Together in Dorchester & Area

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.

Flutecakes Summer Concert

Please come and enjoy some [summery flute music and cake](#) on Saturday 18th July at 5pm at the United Church. Donations will go to [Action for Children](#).

Cakes for the Coffee Lounge

We urgently need more volunteers to make cakes for sale in the Coffee Lounge. Please contact Mary Rousell if you are able to help.



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

[The shop](#) is an important part of our outreach to the town and, on Saturday 25th July, we are going to experiment with bringing items from the shop to sell at the front of the building in order to try to make the shop more visible to Saturday morning shoppers on South Street.

Tolpuddle Weekend, Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th July

We need stewards to help at the [Chapel](#) and on the [Tolpuddle Festival](#) site over the weekend.

Stewarding at the Chapel

Welcoming visitors, making them aware of material that they can take away about the Martyrs. Offering them a drink of water if the weather is hot. The shifts are two hours over the Saturday, 10-12, 12-2 & 2-4. Let Peter Jenner know if you can help with this by Sunday 12th July. Thank You.

Tolpuddle Stand on the Festival Grounds

We have a gazebo next to the main speakers' marquee. We display material about the Martyrs and will have three posters talking about solidarity and how Methodism relates to the Martyrs. We will have a blow-up sofa so that we can have conversations with festival goers. Tickets are needed for the Saturday, and car parking is £15, but we do get a quantity of parking passes and wrist bands. The shifts are 10-12, 12-2 & 2-4. Please let Peter Jenner know if you can help by Sunday 12th July. Thank you.

Tolpuddle March – 2pm on the Sunday

All the Trade Unions march through the village, turning at the Methodist Chapel, a colourful and noisy experience. We need people to be in the march and walk behind our Martyrs banner. The road into Tolpuddle closes at 1pm until 4.30pm.

Service in the Chapel at 5pm with the new President and Vice-President of Conference. You can drive into the village from 4.30pm and park outside the Chapel between the no parking cones. Enter the village from the Puddletown end.
Peter Jenner

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the September news sheet is midday Sunday, 23 August. 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](#) 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.