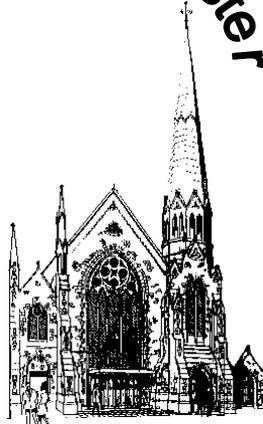


NEWS

United Church Dorchester



MARCH 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

1st March	
10.30 am	Rev John Yarrien Holy Communion
8th March	
10.30 am	Mr Roger Phillips
4.00 pm	Tea-Pot
15th March	
10.30 am	Rev John Yarrien
6.30 pm	Rev John Yarrien
22nd March	
10.30 am	Lt Col Marion Drew SA
29th March	Palm Sunday
10.30 am	Rev John Walker

Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45 am

4 th March	Rev Peter Clark
11 th March	Mr Tony Boyden
18 th March	Mr Chris Warren
25 th March	Mrs Elizabeth Haynes

Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns

The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 8th March, 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

In February and March we say goodbye to two of our members, who are moving away to be closer to their families. Rev David Cuckson is moving at the end of February to Axbridge in Somerset and in March Ken Mills is moving to Chippenham. We wish them an easy move and pray they settle in quickly to their new homes.

Congratulations to Marylyn and Les Mould who celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary in April.

Lent Lunches

[Lent lunches](#) are being served in the hall every Wednesday in Lent. From 12 noon until 1.30pm, Sue Gannaway and her team of helpers will serve a variety of salads and a delicious selection of desserts, all accompanied by a cup of tea or coffee. Why not come along and enjoy a lovely meal in good company. The charge is £8, with all profits going to [Christian Aid](#) and [Action for Children](#).

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.

Quiet Easter

Friday 3rd 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

World Day of Prayer 2026
Friday 6th March, 10.30am
United Church Dorchester

Please do come along to the [World Day of Prayer](#) service, which this year has been compiled by the Christian women of Nigeria with the theme "I will give you rest, come" taken from Matthew chapter 11.

2025 Annual Report

Each year we prepare the UCD Annual Report, which includes a wide range of individual reports on our previous year's activities. If you lead a team, chair a committee or run an activity, please let me have your written report by email no later than 31st March. The completed Annual Report will be available in the run up to the AGM which is on Tuesday 28th April.

[Michael Humphrey](#)

An Invitation

John and the Stewards will be hosting a short informal session to outline the role of Church Steward and answer any questions. Tea, coffee and cake will be provided and there is no requirement to 'sign up' or make any commitment at the meeting.

If you or someone you know would like to understand more about the role, you are invited to come along to the next Council of Stewards meeting on Monday 9th March at 6.45pm in the Coffee Lounge.

Wednesday Coffee Morning

Every Wednesday from 9.30 to 12 noon we have a Coffee Morning in the hall. It is usually fairly quiet before 10.00, but then gets busier both with people from the church and also with visitors, but there is usually still plenty of space for more people to come. There is also a charity stall each week selling books, jigsaws and general bric-a-brac. Why not arrange to come on a Wednesday morning with family or friends or the people who sit next to you in church each Sunday morning? If you arrive about 10 o'clock you could have tea/coffee and a chat, and then at 10.40 go into church for the service which starts at 10.45 and lasts about 20-25 minutes. Or you could go to the service first and then go to the hall afterwards for your refreshment. Let us try to build on the warm welcome, friendship and fellowship which we enjoy every Sunday morning. John Parson

Wednesday Coffee Morning Charity Stalls

The charities booked in during March are:

March 4	Salvation Army	18	Dorchester Poverty Action
11	RSPCA – Taylor's Re-homing	25	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

[Dorchester Poverty Action](#) coffee morning

with free refreshments to say thank you to all our supporters

Saturday 14 March 10am – 12 noon

In United Church hall

[Stalls including cakes, gifts, books, bric-a-brac and a raffle](#)

Everyone welcome

Donations for the stalls can be brought on the day or given to Wendy

EASTER COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 21st March, 10.00 -12.00 in the Church Hall

Stalls include:

- Cakes
- Crafts
- Plants
- Books
- Jigsaws
- Gifts
- Bric-a-Brac
- Guess the weight of the hamper
- Refreshments – Tea, Coffee, Cake & Hot Cross Buns



Please support – all proceeds for '[The Leprosy Mission](#)'
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

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

Do you need a buggy?

One of our regular worshippers has just moved into a care home and has a substantial 4-wheel buggy in excellent condition. If you would like to know more, please see Wendy Hilton.

QUIZ EVENING

Saturday 14th March, 7pm
at United Church Dorchester
£5 per person

Come as a team (max 6 people) or join a team on the night
Coffee/tea and cake provided
Please pre-book if possible by contacting [Elizabeth & Paul Haynes](#)
Proceeds to [Action for Children](#)
Please support



Journey to the Empty Tomb in Holy Week, week commencing 30th March

We will be opening our church doors so that the public can reflect on Stations of the Cross, which goes through the events of Holy Week. We will be open on Monday 30th March 11 am – 1 pm, Tuesday 31st March 12 – 2 pm and Wednesday 1st April 11.30 am – 2 pm. The Quiet Room will be set up as a tomb and will stay until Easter Sunday. The opening slots are when there should be plenty of people about. We will be needing people to do an hour slot to welcome people in and explain what to do. Please see Peter Jenner if you can help with this.

Night Falls

A Lent production by the [Riding Lights Theatre Company](#)
at [Dorchester Baptist Church](#), Tuesday 17th March at 7pm
See the [full details](#), including how to book tickets in advance (strongly advised).

Spreading Easter Joy

We will be giving out small Easter eggs and flowers on Easter Saturday (Holy Saturday) in South Street from 10-30 - 12 noon and wishing everyone a happy Easter. If you would like to help with this, please let Peter Jenner know.

Story Tots

We will not be having Story Tots on Thursday 2nd April (Maundy Thursday and first week of school Easter holidays) but will be having Story Tots Plus on Thursday 9th April when families can bring their older children as well as their younger children.

Some Good News

You may have seen in the press that Generation Z, that is roughly 20 to 35 year olds, are taking an increasing interest in Christianity. Perhaps following on from that, last year the total membership of the Methodist Church in the UK actually increased by 10,000 after 73 years of continuous decline.

The press also reported that sales of Bibles last year increased by over 130%, i.e. they more than doubled. How can we respond to that and help this progress to continue? As far as young people are concerned, we can continue to make them welcome, just as we try to make everyone welcome, and not only to our services but also to tea/coffee afterwards in the hall. The research shows that Generation Z are actively buying Bibles, researching the Christian faith, and then arriving at local churches asking the question 'I've read this, what does it mean?' Are you ready to answer those questions from the person sitting next to you at Church? It's a real challenge, and the stewards are exploring ways in which we can get ourselves ready for what is dubbed 'the quiet revival'.

As far as Bibles are concerned, do we think of buying a Bible as a present for young relatives or the relatives of friends? It is probably wise to check with their parents that they have not already got their own Bible, but it is worth thinking of when Christmas or their birthday come along.

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 have Easter cards, packs and single cards, and Fair Trade Easter eggs on sale. We also have some lovely stock from Shared Earth, who say "Fair Trade and climate action go hand in hand. The communities most threatened by droughts, floods, encroaching deserts etc are those in the global south, where our artisans live and work. By choosing eco-friendly, Fair Trade products, you're making a real difference to those who need it most."

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the April news sheet is midday on Sunday, 22nd March. 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.