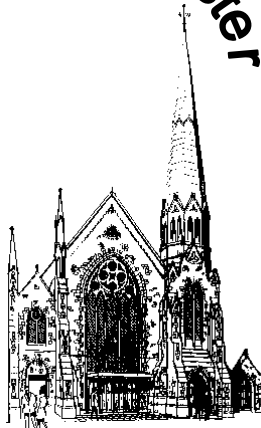


NEWS

United Church Dorchester



MAY 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

3rd May 10.30 am	Rev Ruth Lownsbrough Holy Communion
10th May 10.30 am 4.00 pm	Worship Committee Rev John Yarrien Christian Aid Service at St George's, Fordington
17th May 10.30 am 4.00 pm	World Church Sunday Mr Peter Jenner Tea-Pot
24th May 10.30 am 6.30 pm	Pentecost Rev John Yarrien Rev Helen Harrell
31st May 10.30 am	Trinity Sunday Mr Chris Warren

Church Family News

Belated congratulations to Heather and Matthew Reed, who celebrated their ruby wedding anniversary on Easter Sunday.

We are very sad to announce the death of Denis Robinson at the end of March. Denis and Irene started coming to UCD about a year ago. Terry Henshall has also died. His late wife was a regular worshipper at UCD, while Terry attended the Catholic church, but he helped in the coffee shop before Covid. Please pray for their families and friends.

World Church Sunday

We are delighted that Gabby North of ['The Leprosy Mission'](#) will be making a return visit to our service on Sunday 17th May to update us about their work. The service will be led by Peter Jenner and members of the World Church Committee.

There will be a retiring collection for 'The Leprosy Mission' with Gift Aid envelopes available.

Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45 am

6 th May	Mr Chris Warren
13 th May	Mr Tony Boyden
20 th May	Rev Peter Clark
27 th May	Rev Brenda Stephenson

Bring-and-Share lunch

On Pentecost Sunday, 24th May, there will be a Bring-and-Share lunch in the Hall following the morning service and coffee. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please sign the notice in the Hall to let us know you are coming and to indicate what food you can bring to share.

Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns

The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 17th May, 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.

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.

Ascension Day and Pentecost

After Jesus was raised from death on Easter Day, He appeared to his disciples on several occasions. This could not continue indefinitely and, rather than the appearances petering out, there had to be a final one. At that time, people believed that heaven was above the sky, so Jesus had to be seen to rise upwards to return to God, His Father, in heaven. That final appearance is what we commemorate on Ascension Day.

Before that, Jesus had told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. Whilst waiting, they worshipped each day in the Temple (the Sunday in-between has been called Expectation Sunday). Then, on the day of Pentecost (formerly called Whit Sunday), the Holy Spirit came upon them with great power. With amazing ability, they preached boldly and thousands of people were converted and became followers. This year, Ascension Day is on Thursday, 14th May, and Pentecost is Sunday, 24th May.

Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a movement which is worldwide and ecumenical. It consists of each of us praying for up to five people each day from Ascension Day to Pentecost. Ascension Day is this year on Thursday, 14th May. Pentecost is ten days later, on Sunday, 24th May, so we are asked to pray on each of eleven days. We pray for up to five people, so it may be for two or three or four. It is recommended that we pray for no more than five but, of course, our prayers are our own private conversation with God, so the decision is ours.

For whom should we pray? For family and friends, but which ones?

People who regularly attend church but have not yet developed a deep faith in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

People who used to have faith and attend church regularly, but have lost their faith and no longer attend.

People who used to have faith and attend church regularly, but, whilst not losing their faith, have been put off the church by something which was said or done by church members, perhaps many years ago. They have fallen out with the church but not fallen out with God.

People who have never had faith and never attended church regularly.

We pray, "Come, Holy Spirit, Come", that those for whom we pray may grow in faith and become regular members of a worshipping community. We hope to have cards available in the foyer on which you can write the names of the people for whom you will pray.

You can find out more at [Thy Kingdom Come](#)

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



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 May 16th, June 13th

Christian Aid Week, 10-16 May Collecting can be fun!

Choose ten houses in your neighbourhood to collect from and contact [Tony Boyden](#)

Go For Ten

1. Before Christian Aid Week choose ten houses in your neighbourhood you want to deliver to
2. Check this out with your church Christian Aid rep (Tony Boyden is the rep for UCD) and collect envelopes, collector's badge etc
3. Deliver envelopes and allow a few days before collection
4. Return envelopes to your church Christian Aid rep

Christian Aid needs your help more than ever this year!

Christian Aid Week

[Ecumenical Service](#) at [St George's, Fordington](#)

Sunday 10th May at 4pm

Guest speaker: Charlotte Scott, national Christian Aid Service led by Revd. John Yarrien and Revd. Cora Yarrien

Christian Aid street collection

Friday 15th May
outside Barclays Bank, South Street
PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY!

Wednesday Coffee Morning Charity Stalls

The charities booked in during May are:

May 6	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
13	RSPCA Taylors Re-Homing
20	Feral and Elderly Cat Care
27	Parkinson'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. I am now taking bookings for July to December.

John Parson

Outreach during Holy Week

Journey to the Empty Tomb was well received by the community as we had 50 people who walked the Journey over the three days that the Church was open. Thank you to Pat Smith, Penny Fennell, Paul Smith and Linda Scott who helped with the stewarding and welcomed people to the event. Thank you also to Rev John and Ruth Magee who prepared the Church for Holy Week.

We gave out 200 daffodil stems and 230 hollow Easter eggs on Holy Saturday, which were appreciated. Thank you to Diana Leeming, Elizabeth Haynes, Dorothy Smith and Rev John who helped me with this outreach of wishing our community a "Happy Easter".

[Story Tots](#)

We had a good session in the second week of the Easter holidays and are now back on Thursday mornings 9.30-11am as normal. We are having a break on Thursday 28th May as it is half-term and are back as usual the following week, Thursday 4th June.

If you know of any families who have children 0-4 years (pre-school), please do tell them about Story Tots. Children must be accompanied by a parent, carer or grandparent who stays with them for the session.

Peter Jenner - Children & Families & Outreach Lay Worker

Thursday 21st May at 7pm

[Thomas Hardye School Music Department](#)

The THS musicians present a [concert](#) of Choral and Instrumental music performed by students from all year groups. Entry is free but donations much appreciated for Music Department funds.



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

There is always something new to see in the [Church shop](#). We're an open door for people to browse or just to come in for a chat. The shop is an important part of our Outreach and we look forward to welcoming you.

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the June news sheet is midday on Sunday, 24th May. 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.