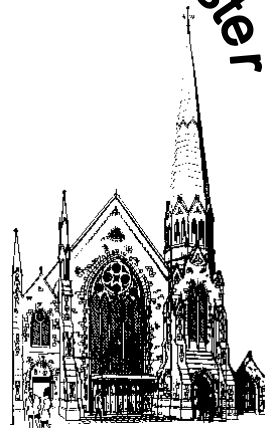


NEWS

United Church Dorchester



NOVEMBER 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

1st November	All Saints Day
10.30 am	Rev John Yarrien
	Holy Communion
6.30 pm	Rev John Yarrien
8th November	Remembrance Sunday
10.30 am	Mr Peter Jenner
4 pm	Tea-Pot
15th November	Safeguarding Sunday
10.30 am	Rev Kate Konrad
6.30 pm	Rev John Yarrien
22nd November	Shoe Box Service
10.30 am	Mr Chris Warren
29th November	Advent Sunday
10.30 am	Lt Col Marion Drew, S.A.
3 pm	Circuit Advent carol service

Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45 am

4 th November	Rev Peter Clark
11 th November	Rev Steph Jenner
18 th November	Rev John Walker
25 th November	Rev John Yarrien

Church Family News

Five years ago, in September 2021, I was given a diagnosis that no-one wants to hear, but due to modern medicine and the support and prayers of four different churches, I am still here! So, I would like to thank the UCD membership for all those prayers and the support you gave over the last five years. It was very much appreciated. Never underestimate the power of prayer! Carol Illingworth

Christmas Shoe boxes

This year we will again be supporting the [House of Opportunity Christmas shoe box appeal](#). Leaflets are now available and the boxes will be dedicated on Sunday 22nd November and collected a few days later. We hope to have shoeboxes for people to use as they need to have separate tops and not be the all-in-one box type so, if you have any unwanted shoe boxes with separate lids, please leave them in the South Street foyer. If you do not wish to fill a shoebox, there is a box available for donations in the foyer. Last year 29 boxes were filled by members and we also sent several bags of loose items.

Advance notice for diaries

Quiet Christmas service on Friday 11 December at 3pm followed by Christmas refreshments. Please let your friends know.

Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns

The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 8th November, in the Hall at 3.30pm for 4pm, until 5.30pm.

Welcome meeting for new people

On Sunday 15 November after the morning service there will be a welcome meeting in the coffee shop for all those who have started coming to the church over the last year. Please come and meet each other and find out more about what happens at the United Church. Coffee and cake will be served.

World Church charity

Thank you for your generosity in enabling us to support '[The Leprosy Mission](#)' so successfully over the past two years. We are now looking to support a different charity in 2027 and have identified two possible options:

- **Water Aid** – which aims to bring clean and safe water, sanitation and hygiene to communities where they don't exist in the poorest countries in the world.
- **Mary's Meals** – which funds life-changing school meals to some of the world's poorest children in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the **church meeting on Thursday 19th November, which starts at 7pm**, there will be short presentations about both charities and the opportunity for those present to vote to select which one we will support. Please come along if you can.

If you wish to research a little about these charities in advance please have a look at their websites:

[Water Aid](#)

[Marys Meals](#)

Wednesday Coffee Morning Charity Stalls

The charities booked in during November are:

4	Murugi Community Trust
11	Christian Aid
18	Leprosy Mission
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. I am now taking bookings for the new year.

John Parson

Reverse Advent Calendar

Many of us buy an Advent Calendar each year. We open it each day in December and receive a gift, often a sweet or chocolate. With a Reverse Advent Calendar, we MAKE a small gift each day from Advent Sunday, which this year is on the 29th November, to Christmas Day, which commemorates the birth of God's son, Jesus, to be our Saviour. We take a jam jar (or something similar) and put a coin in each day as we thank God for his great gift to us. People see it as primarily a spiritual exercise rather than a fundraiser. If you hand your jam jar in at church on Christmas Day or one of the following Sundays, the money will this year go to our Roof Appeal.

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.

<p>Saturday Men's Breakfast Meetings</p> <p>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</p>	 <p>Annual Market Stalls galore, coffee/tea/lunches Saturday, 7 November United Church, 10.00-12.00 (Soup and a roll lunches 12.00-1.00) Gifts of cakes and bric-a-brac very gratefully received</p>
<p>Light a Candle for Peace</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Stay a while, stay for the whole time, give a minute of your time 10am – 12noon, Saturday November 7th and December 5th</p>	
<p>Christmas Coffee Morning Saturday 14th November, 10.00 -12.00 in the Church Hall</p> <p>Stalls include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cakes • Crafts • Gifts • Books & Jigsaws • Bric-a-Brac • Guess the weight of the hamper • Mystery gift boxes • Refreshments – tea, coffee, cake, mince pies and bacon rolls <p>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</p> 	
<p>Dorset Historic Churches Ride and Stride 2026</p> <p>Grateful thanks are extended to Elizabeth and Paul Haynes, Colin Tizzard and Julia Young, who very kindly volunteered to help with staffing the church for this year's Ride and Stride event. Two of you stayed way over time to help out, and this was particularly noted. Your valued help was as always greatly appreciated. Thanks are also due to Dennis Janes and John Hilton for their assistance and also to those from the Men's Breakfast who kindly helped move tables and chairs. Unfortunately, due to illness, we had no riders this year, however we did manage to welcome 40 Riders & Striders and one four-legged friend to UCD.</p> <p>Once again, many, many thanks and God bless you all. Shawn Board, Ride & Stride Organiser</p>	

Children and Families News

Forest Praise

For the last 11 years we have held Forest Praise on a Saturday morning once a month. It started at the Children's Centre in Poundbury and then we went to St George's in Fordington as it became a joint venture with ourselves and St George's. The Forest Praise team met a couple of weeks ago to think about its future, and it was decided for various reasons that Forest Praise had reached the end of its run and would finish. The Forest Praise we held at the end of September was the final one. I would like to thank the Forest Praise team who have worked so hard over the years preparing crafts, attending planning meetings and giving up their Saturday morning. Your support has been fantastic. Thank you.

Story Tots

We have had a few new parents come with their children, and we have had quite a few little ones with birthdays over the last few weeks. We sing Happy Birthday to them and give them a present. We will have Story Tots Plus in the October half-term, when we will be making some tree decorations to go on the Christmas tree that we will have at St George's Christmas Tree Festival, which is over the weekend of 4th – 7th December.

Journey to the Stable 2026

We will again be welcoming schools and the public to Journey to The Stable. It is interactive and reminds us of the real meaning of Christmas. I have already got four schools who wish to bring a class, and some are bringing at least two classes (not at the same time). We will need people to help with the school visits and the public openings.

We are setting the Journey up on Wednesday 2nd December at 2pm (it may have to be a couple of days earlier if I get more schools coming) ready for **School Visits** on Thursday 3rd, Friday 4th, Monday 7th, Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th December, with visits starting at 9.30 am. **Public Openings** will be Saturday 5th 11-1.30/2pm, Thursday 10th 11-2pm, Friday 11th 11-1.30pm and Saturday 12th 11-2pm, and then the Journey will be packed up apart from the Stable which will be in the Quiet Room until Christmas so that people can go and look and feel the true meaning of Christmas. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Hall noticeboard for public openings which will give the times that need to be covered. For school visits please **speak to me (Peter Jenner) or email me** as we need 2/3 people for school visits to make drinks, top up the stations and possibly to lead a small group of children on the Journey.

Please remember in your prayers the families that come to Story Tots, Junior Church, and the schools that will be coming to Journey to The Stable.

Peter Jenner – Children & Families & Outreach Lay Worker



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 a good selection of Christmas cards, Advent calendars and candles, as well as many attractive items which would make ideal gifts: do come and browse!

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the December news sheet is midday on Sunday, 22nd November. 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.

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.