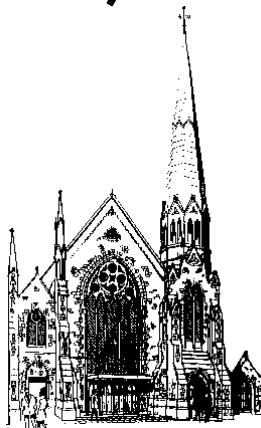


NEWS

United
Church
Dorchester



SEPTEMBER 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

6th September

10.30 am Rev John Yarrien
Holy Communion
6.30 pm Rev Gwyneth Owen

13th September

10.30 am Rev John Yarrien
Baptism
4.00 pm Tea-Pot

20th September

10.30 am Rev Brenda Stephenson
6.30 pm Rev John Yarrien

27th September

10.30 am Rev Gwyneth Owen
Harvest Festival

Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45 am

2nd September Rev Steph Jenner
9th September Mr Chris Smith
16th September Mr Peter Jenner
23rd September Mr Chris Warren
30th September Mr Tony Boyden

Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns

The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 13th September, in the Hall at 3.30pm for 4pm, until 5.30pm.

Church Family News

We are sad to announce the death of Audrey Reep in July.

Happy birthday to Sue Gannaway, who celebrates her 80th birthday in September.

There are several people on the move. Jean and Dennis Janes and Peter Mann are moving locally. Shirley and Denys Hood are moving to Ripon with their daughter, so they will all be closer to the rest of the family. During the service on Sunday 16 August, Rev Brenda Stephenson thanked the Hoods for all their work over 24 years, Linda Scott gave them a card and a token from the church, then Heather Reed said a few words on behalf of the choir and they were given two roses reflecting the works of Thomas Hardy. Then Brenda and Heather played some Northumbrian folk tunes, which had been arranged by Denys. If you would like their address, please see Wendy. We wish all those who are moving a safe and stress-free move.

Mary Brayley thanks everyone who sent cards and messages when she celebrated her 100th birthday in July.

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.

Churches Together in Dorchester & Area, Dorset County Show
Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th September

Thank you to those from United Church who have volunteered to help at the Show, which is good fun and very busy. Your help is much appreciated. We are asking for **donations of cakes and buns** for the weekend. They must have a list of ingredients with them due to food allergies. We ask that they are brought to the Church Shop on **Friday 4th September** between **10 and 12**. Thank you in advance for helping us with your baking. Please see either Heather Reed, Diana Leeming or Peter Jenner for further details.

Wednesday Coffee Morning Charity Stalls

The charities booked in during September are:

2 nd	Church Charities	23 rd	Salvation Army
9 th	Ferne Animal Sanctuary*	30 th	Age UK
16 th	Church Charities		

*The money for the Ferne Animal Sanctuary is being raised by Durnovaria Ladies.

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 about to take bookings for the new year.

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

Story Tots – Thursdays, 9.30-11am in the Hall

The Story Tots team want to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to Margaret Williams who, after many, many years, has retired from Story Tots. Margaret was wonderful with the children and their parents/grandparents or carers. Thank you for being part of the team, enjoy your retirement.

We start [Story Tots](#) after the summer break on Thursday 3rd September.

Dorchester Poverty Action Open Meeting

[“Paths to Wellbeing”](#)

Wednesday 30 September at 7pm at the Dorford Centre

What does a social prescriber do at your GP surgery?

What services do Access Wellbeing on High East Street provide?

Come and find out more from our speakers, a social prescriber and Access Wellbeing (Lantern Trust)
Everyone welcome

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, Saturday September 19th, October 3rd, November 7th and December 5th

Christian Aid

2026 Pilgrimage to the River Jordan

Saturday 26 September

Start: St Peter's Church, Dorchester at 9.30 am

Finish: River Jordan / Bowleaze Cove, Preston

Lunch: Picnic at Osmington Church

Distance: 8 miles (or shorter stages)

Return from Weymouth by public transport

Sponsorship forms and details available from [Phil Stacey](#) or [Tony Boyden](#) or the [United Church Shop](#)



The annual [Dorset Historic Churches Ride & Stride](#) will take place this year on Saturday 12th September. If you are interested in taking part in this event, please contact me - [Shawn Board](#) - for a sponsor form and further information. Half of the money raised through sponsorship will be returned to this church.

As in years past, the church will be open and staffed between 10am and 6pm, so if you could spare an hour or two on the day to welcome Riders and Striders to UCD, I would be pleased to hear from you. Once numbers of helpers are ascertained, I will then be in contact with you again and compile a rota. It is hoped that a sufficient number of people will come forward to operate a shift system as in past years, but whatever you can manage would be appreciated. The task involves offering refreshments, signing sponsor sheets, and directions to other churches etc.

I look forward to hearing from you, and thank you in anticipation.

Every blessing,
Shawn, R & S Organiser for UCD

Lost Property

The church shop keeps and records all lost property handed in. Recently a member of the congregation lost their phone and searched the church, including church lost property, and the surrounding shops to no avail. They had to buy a new phone and change their bank details, which was an expensive and stressful time. Recently the phone has turned up in a drawer in church! Please, if you find something, make sure it gets handed into the shop or to a shop volunteer so it can be recorded and kept safe.

Christmas shoe boxes

We will again be supporting the [House of Opportunity Christmas shoe box appeal](#). Leaflets will be available in September and the boxes will be dedicated and collected towards the end of November. You might want to be keeping your eyes open for ideal presents to fit in your box.

Family Event after School at Teatime

In the July/August news sheet I put in a piece about the possibility of doing an afterschool event for families, which would include a light meal and space for children to unwind after a school day. I have not had anyone say they are willing to offer a skill, or that they are interested in helping, or asking questions about it. Therefore, I am repeating the request.

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, do homework, learn a new craft or skill like sewing, cooking or baking, listen to a story being read to them, and which 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.

Next steps towards this becoming a reality: Have we got people in our congregation who would be willing to share their skills in any of the things I have mentioned? If so, please have a word with me so that we can shape what we can offer families.

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 September, 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.

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

As well as our stock of Christian books and greetings cards, we have a lot of interesting items ranging from an assortment of keys rings to an array of bags, some made of canvas recycled from army tents.

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the October news sheet is midday on Sunday, 20th September. 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.