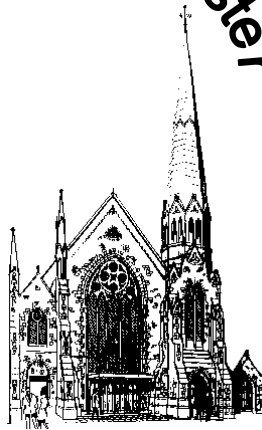


# NEWS

## United Church Dorchester



**MARCH 2024**

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:** Position vacant.  
Please contact Senior Steward (see below)  
**Senior Steward:** [Michael Humphrey](#)

**Church** (general number): 01305 262462  
**Church office:** 01305 457477  
**Website:** [unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk](http://unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk)

Private Tel & email removed from web version

### Sunday Services

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> March

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

#### 10<sup>th</sup> March **Mothering Sunday**

10.30 am Rev Steph Jenner

#### 17<sup>th</sup> March **World Church Sunday**

10.30 am Rev David Cuckson  
6.30 pm Rev John Yarrien

#### 24<sup>th</sup> March **Palm Sunday**

10.30 am Mr Roger Phillips  
4.00 pm Tea-Pot

#### 28<sup>th</sup> March **Maundy Thursday**

6.30 pm Rev John Yarrien  
Tenebrae Service

#### 31<sup>st</sup> March **Easter Sunday**

10.30 am Rev John Yarrien  
Holy Communion

### Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45 am

6<sup>th</sup> March Rev Brenda Stephenson  
13<sup>th</sup> March Mr Tony Boyden  
20<sup>th</sup> March Mr Chris Warren  
27<sup>th</sup> March Rev John Yarrien

### Church Family News

We are sad to announce the death of Derek Smith. Before Covid, Derek came regularly from Melpash and sat in the back row very quietly. Since Covid his health had deteriorated and he was unable to worship with us, but a couple of members of the congregation maintained regular contact with him. Please remember his family and friends in your prayers.

The service on **World Church Sunday** on 17<sup>th</sup> March will be led by Rev David Cuckson together with some members of the World Church Committee, and there will be a retiring collection for the URC's CWM (Council for World Mission).

### World Day of Prayer

[The service for Palestine](#) will be at UCD on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 10.30am**. All are welcome.

### Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns

The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, in the Hall at 3.30pm for 4pm, until 5.30pm.

### Thursday Fellowship Group

[This group](#) met for the first time on 15<sup>th</sup> February. It meets in the Church Foyer at 2pm each Thursday and is initially looking at some Lent material called 'Healing and Hope'.

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

**Christian Aid Changemakers Conference: Changing the World Together**  
**Eager to hear how your local community can transform communities all around the world?**

Be a changemaker for love, equality, dignity, and justice by coming to our [Changemakers Conference](#), which will be streamed to

Dorchester Baptist Church on Saturday 2 March from 10.30am until 1pm.

All very welcome. Refreshments will be available. Drop in at any time.

**Lent Lunches**

[Lent lunches](#) are served in the hall every Wednesday during Lent. We do a ploughman's with cheese, ham or egg and a sweet - fruit pie, trifle or bread and butter pudding - and coffee all for £7.50. Served from 12 until 1.30, we will be very pleased to see you. All proceeds go to Christian Aid.

**Pastoral Visitors**

There will be a social and fellowship get-together for pastoral visitors to say thank you for all your hard work in 2023 on Thursday 7 March in the coffee shop from 2.30 – 4pm.

**Easter Coffee Morning**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 10.00 -12.00 in the Church Hall

Stalls include:

- Cakes
- Crafts
- Plants
- Books
- Jigsaws
- Bric-a-Brac
- Guess the weight of the hamper
- Refreshments – tea, coffee and hot cross buns



Please support – all proceeds for '[Wheels for the World](#)'  
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](#)

**Wednesday Coffee Morning Charity Stalls**

The charities booked in until the end of March are:

February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Oxfam	March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Vacant
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Dorset Blind Association	March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Wheels for the World
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	R.N.L.I.		

If you know of any charities who might be interested in having a stall in future months (we only have one charity each Wednesday) then please put them in touch with me.

John Parson

### **The Vision for UCD: a Message from Rev John and the Council of Stewards**

**Friends,** as winter begins to give way to spring, and as 2024 continues, I invite you to join me and the Church Stewards on a journey to set the vision for United Church Dorchester for the next 10 years and beyond.

**Can you believe...** that is it nearly 25 years since the United Church Dorchester embarked on a spirit led, bold vision for the Millennium. Which saw tireless work from so many people across the church community, gathering to discern where God was leading our church. Eventually turning dreams into a reality through the purchase of 51 Charles Street, much fund-raising, and importantly teams of people focused on how the new building facilities were going to be used for worship and mission, and many other things besides.

The stewards and I believe that God is calling us again to look at the long-term vision of United Church. Not merely talking and dreaming dreams, but coming up with actions and milestones that will steer United Church into the next phase of its worship, mission and presence in Dorchester. There is **so** much to build upon, to learn and to continue within the life of our Church. **Yet** we believe in a God that is constantly at work shaping and guiding his kingdom into growth.

So at our Annual Church Meeting on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm** we will be starting the process of hearing your views around the shape of our Church for the next few years.

**We need you to PRAY,** and listen to where God is prompting our fellowship to direct its energy and resources in the coming years. **Could you be part of a team specifically looking at one of these areas of our vision, enabling it to become a reality?**

Here are areas of church life that we have identified that it would be helpful for us to focus our conversations and emerging vision upon:

- **Fellowship & Learning.** How can we grow in faith together? Are you a member of a small group? How could we explore the Bible together? Should we try Alpha or a Seekers Course?
- **What is Church For?** What are we here to do? How do we reach new people?
- **Worship.** What makes worship meaningful? What could we try in Worship to bring it alive?
- **Reaching Families and Children.** Building on our great Sunday School, Forest Praise and Story-tots groups, how might we reach the missing generations in our community?
- **Social.** What types of event would you like us to try, so that we can meet together socially? We may need to fundraise, could you help us with that?
- **How do we use our building?** The building is the base for all we do at UCD, do we need to use our building differently to meet the needs of our community and our mission goals for 2024 and beyond?
- **Serving our Community.** What can we offer to the meet the needs of Dorchester? What can we build on that we are already doing? Are there new partners we could work with to achieve this?

#### **A prayer, adapted from the Millennium Project prayer, to aid our thoughts and conversations:**

Living God, we thank you for every opportunity of serving you, one another and our whole community, here in the heart of Dorchester. We pray now for a deeper understanding of your vision for this Church, that it might continue to grow as a place of welcome, love and friendship to all people. Open our eyes, hearts and minds as we give thanks for all that has been, as we eagerly explore all you call us to do in the future, and as we attend the needs, hopes and aspirations of the present. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

<p><b>Dorchester Food Bank AGM</b>          Wednesday 28 February at 7.30 p.m.          at Dorchester Baptist Church.          Everyone welcome.</p>	<p><b>Debt</b>          If you or someone you know is struggling with money worries, <a href="#">Dorchester Poverty Action</a> have just updated their debt leaflet, which includes lots of useful information. These are available in both foyers.</p>
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**Volunteer needed**  
 Mary Martin organised a Sunday afternoon working party 3 or 4 times a year for us to join together to draw, cut and sew sanitary towels for Kenya. It was a lovely time for fellowship and positive action. We are looking for someone who would be willing to organise these gatherings, liaise with [Julie Fry](#) who takes them to Kenya, and store the material needed. If you would be willing to co-ordinate this important project, please talk to Val Gould.

**QUIZ EVENING**  
 Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 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

**Prayer Chain**  
 If you would like prayer for yourself or others at any time, please contact [Enid Parson via e-mail](#). Details can be given anonymously, and confidentiality within the prayer chain is absolute unless there is a safeguarding risk.



**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  
 A new customer came into the shop recently and described it as a 'little gem'. Please come and see for yourselves. It's a wonderful resource for Christian books, greetings cards, ethically sourced gifts and fair trade goods. We currently have a good selection of **Easter cards** on sale.

**Notices for news sheet**  
 The deadline for the April news sheet is midday on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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. Where possible, go, discover and explore!

**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.