

# NEWS

## United Church Dorchester



**APRIL 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

<b>7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	
10.30 am	Rev Jane Wilson
<b>14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	
10.30 am	Rev John Yarrien
4.00 pm	Tea-Pot
<b>21<sup>st</sup> April</b>	
10.30 am	Rev Dr Leslie Griffiths (Lord Griffiths of Burry Port)/Rev John Yarrien
<b>28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	
10.30 am	Rev David Cuckson
6.30 pm	Rev John Yarrien Holy Communion

### Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45 am	
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Mr Peter Jenner
10 <sup>th</sup> April	Rev Steph Jenner
17 <sup>th</sup> April	Rev Dr Michael Hopkins
24 <sup>th</sup> April	Rev John Walker

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, the Market Day service will be led by the Rev Dr Michael Hopkins, the new moderator of the Wessex URC Synod. This will be followed by a Q&A session where people can get to know him.

### Church Family News

We are sad to announce the death of Rosemary Mills. Please remember Ken and his family and friends in your prayers.

We send Rev John and Mrs Elizabeth Walker our very best wishes following their wedding on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to Enid Parson who has a big 0 birthday at the end of March.

### Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns

The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April, in the Hall at 3.30pm for 4pm, until 5.30pm.

### Lent Lunches

Lent lunches are served in the hall from 12 until 1.30 every Wednesday during Lent. We do a ploughman's, a pudding and coffee all for £7.50. We will be very pleased to see you. All proceeds go to [Christian Aid](#).

### 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.

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

## Holy Week and Easter

### **Palm Sunday**

On Palm Sunday, which is 24<sup>th</sup> March this year, we recall Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem seated, not as a king on a horse, but humbly on the colt of a donkey. Our 10.30am service will be led by Mr Roger Phillips. Later in the day, we have Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns at 3.30 for 4pm.

### **Market Day Service**

We have our usual Wednesday morning service at 10.45am, led by Rev John Yarrien, and lasting about 20 minutes.

### **Maundy Thursday**

On Maundy Thursday, we remember the final meal of Jesus with his disciples, now called The Last Supper. During the meal, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat, this is my body". Then he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and gave it to them saying, "Drink it, all of you, this is my blood poured for many, my blood which seals God's covenant". There can surely be no more appropriate time for us to celebrate Holy Communion. Our service will be led by Rev John Yarrien at 6.30pm, and will include the Service of Tenebrae.

### **Good Friday**

On Good Friday, when we remember Jesus' crucifixion, there will be a Walk of Witness organised by Churches Together. This will start with a short service at St Peter's Church at 9.30am. We will then cross the High Street and walk slowly behind the cross down South Street, pausing part of the way down and stopping for a short service at the War Memorial. A slow procession has more impact if it is done in silence, so we hope that those taking part will do that. After the War Memorial, we will walk up Bowling Alley Walk to Borough Gardens for a short service around the bandstand. Afterwards we are invited to go to the Baptist Church at the Dorford Centre for light refreshments.

### **Easter Sunday – The Greatest Day in the Christian Year**

On the first day of the week, at about sunrise, some women went to Jesus' tomb with spices to anoint his body. But his body was not there, and they learnt that he had been raised from death and restored to life. On Easter Day, our morning service will be at the usual time of 10.30am. It will be led by Rev John Yarrien and will include Holy Communion. But earlier in the morning there will be a short 'Son-Rise' Service at Maumbury Rings at 6am. This is early in the day for many of us, but it is a wonderful experience to be with Christians from all the other churches in town celebrating the great central truth of our faith.

Christ is Risen – He is Risen Indeed – Alleluiah

### **Wednesday Coffee Morning Charity Stalls**

The charities booked in until the end of April are:

March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Wheels for the World	April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Mary's Charities
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wheels for the World	April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Royal Voluntary Service
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Weldmar		

I do not specifically ask each charity how much they have raised at our coffee morning, but Julia's House told me that they raised £133, Dorset Blind Association £153 and the R.N.L.I. £179.

All were delighted with their results.

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

### 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](#)

### Annual General Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> April

Our AGM will be held in the Church, starting at 7.00pm, with refreshments served from 6.30pm. Whether you are new to UCD or have been worshipping with us for a while now, this is an excellent opportunity to hear what we do beyond Sunday worship. Also at this meeting we, as a congregation, elect members to key positions within the life of the Church and receive a financial report for the last year. Copies of the Agenda and the 2023 AGM Minutes will be available in the Foyer.

#### **Voting**

All members, friends, and adherents of UCD are warmly invited to attend and contribute to the AGM. However, only Church Members are permitted to vote.

#### **Election of Officers**

At present we have vacancies for three Church Stewards who must be Church Members. Details of the Church Stewards' role and responsibilities can be found on the UCD website under "Stewards' Handbook". Nomination forms will be available in the Church Foyer and must be signed by two Church Members and the form given to Michael Humphrey, acting Church Secretary, at least one week before the meeting.

We will also vote to extend the tenure of the Church Treasurer, Mr Colin Gannaway, who has agreed to continue in the role for a further year.

The position of Church Secretary is decided by the Council of Stewards but the meeting can indicate a suitable candidate. Committee Chairs will also be ratified at the meeting.

#### **A New Vision**

This year Rev John Yarrien is asking us all to join him and the Church Stewards on a journey to set the vision for UCD for the next 10 years and beyond. The AGM will be the occasion to start this process, by listening and sharing together where God is leading us.

Please join us on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April from 6.30pm.  
Michael Humphrey

### Children and Family Events in April and May

Over the Easter holidays we will be having the following for children and their parents:

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April** – Family Fun Morning in Church from 10-12 noon – toys, crafts, painting, games, hot cross buns, toast and drinks

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April** – Story Tots Plus in the Hall from 9.30-11am – toys, books, games, and activities for older children

On **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May** – Pentecost Family Celebration in Church where we will have lots of fun, games, activities and possibly a birthday cake

We look forward to welcoming our existing families who come to Story Tots and the new families who will come and see what we are doing. Happy Easter.

### Craft Sale: Wednesday, April 17th

Many of you will know that Mary Martin was a keen crafter. Her family have donated items from her sewing room; there is fabric, quilting, embroidery and tapestry items, haberdashery, craft books and tools etc, etc, etc! We are hoping to sell them at the coffee morning on April 17th to raise money for Mary's charities, namely Mercy Ships and Christian Aid. Do come and support us, and tell your friends!

We also have a patchwork quilt that Mary made, measuring 80 x 90 inches. We will be displaying this at the Easter coffee morning and also at the craft sale. It will be for sale by silent auction, with a minimum price of £50.

#### 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

#### The Quiet Space

##### Tea and Conversation

Monday afternoons, 2 – 4

Books, jigsaws, puzzles, bring your  
knitting and sewing

Tea and cake provided

Woodlands Crescent, DT1 3RQ

Wheelchair accessible, free parking

We are a Registered Warm Space

Contact [Val Potter](#)

### 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.

### Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the May news sheet is midday on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April. 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!