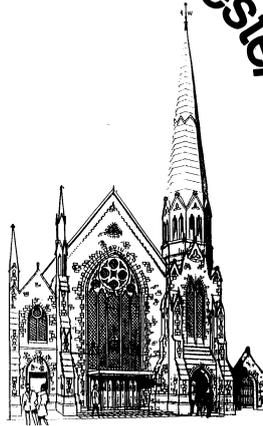


NEWS

United Church Dorchester



NOVEMBER 2020

Registered Charity No: 1137996

Methodist and United Reformed
Part of Churches Together in Dorchester

Ministers:

Rev John Yarrien 01305 262421

Rev Peter Clark 01308 425978

Please contact one of the Church Stewards if necessary

Church Secretary: John Hilton

Senior Steward: John Parson

Church (general number): 01305 262462

Church office: 01305 457477

Website: unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk

Private Tel & email removed from web version

Lectionary readings

1st November

Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

8th November

Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 *or* Amos 5:18-24
Canticle: Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 *or* Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:1
Matthew 25:1-13

15th November

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8, 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

22nd November

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7*a* *or* Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

29th November

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

Sunday Worship

1st November All Saints Day
10.00/11.15 Rev J Yarrien
Holy Communion

8th November Remembrance Sunday
10.00/11.15 Mr A Boyden

15th November Women Against Violence Sunday
10.00/11.15 Rev J Yarrien

22nd November
10.00/11.15 Mr P Jenner

29th November First of Advent
10.00/11.15 Rev J Yarrien

Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.30am

4th November Rev J Yarrien
11th November (10.45) Rev P Clark
18th November Rev P Clark
25th November Mr P Jenner



Wednesday, 11th November, Remembrance Day

This year November 11th falls on a Wednesday when we have a short morning service. Usually, that starts at 10.30am and finishes at about 10.50am. For that week only, we shall start at 10.45am so that we can include the two minute silence at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month.

Commemoration – a Reminder

Since the start of lockdown in March, several of our church members have died. Because of the covid restrictions, very few people were allowed to attend their funerals and, because our church services were suspended, it was not even possible to mention their passing during a service. At each of our morning services on **Sunday, 1st November**, All Saints Day, the Rev John Yarrien will conduct a short act of commemoration at which the names of all our members who have died this year will be read out. We will mourn their passing; thank God for their lives and all that they meant to us; and remember the Christian hope of an infinitely better life in heaven.

Remembrance Sunday, 8th November

Because of the need for social distancing, remembrance ceremonies at war memorials across the country will be greatly scaled down this year. In Dorchester, there will not be a parade, and, unless we have a particular duty, we are urged not to attend. Presumably, there will be no need for any road closures. The government's advice is that we should observe the two minutes' silence in our homes. At church, normally we observe the two minute silence at 11am, but this year neither service covers that time, and it is obviously impossible for both to do so. Although it will not be at 11am, we shall observe a two minute silence during each service. It will seem strange, but these are strange times. What is important is that we respect and honour with gratitude those who made the ultimate sacrifice that we might live in freedom and peace.

Everyday Prayer

Holy Spirit, you are depth, silence, peace and wholeness. Into a noisy and uncertain world speak your word of calm. Into troubled hearts and broken relationships let your peace descend. So may our faith be strengthened and our lives find peace. Amen

Church Family News

We all send Mary Lucraft our very best wishes and prayers as she moves to Nottingham on 29 October. Mary came from Nottingham, so she is moving back to family and friends. She has bought a bungalow next door to one of her friends.

Monthly booking for worship services

Remember you can book for Sunday services for a calendar month (4 or 5 Sundays). Please let Gillian know before the beginning of the month. If there are any of the Sundays when you know you will be away or you are on duty and will already have a designated seat, please make sure Gillian knows. We still have many members who have not returned to Sunday services, so we do not want unused seats when people are wanting to book. Individual Sunday bookings will continue for those who prefer to book weekly. As we move into the Christmas season it is even more important that you book your seat as for some Christmas services space may be very limited.

Please contact Gillian on **(01305) 457477** and leave a message (machine is checked daily)

Monthly bookings – at least 2 days before the beginning of the month

Weekly bookings – by 6pm on the Saturday before the Sunday

NHS Covid-19 Test & Trace App

The church has the NHS Covid-19 Test and Trace App QR Code on display at the entrance. If you have a Smartphone (Android or iPhone) sold since 2015, please install the free App at home and then use it according to this guidance:

1. Before leaving home to come to the church buildings, use the “Check Symptoms” tab to confirm that you are “all clear”.
2. Check on your phone settings that the “Location Services” option is set to “On” and that Bluetooth is enabled.
3. On arrival at church, open the app and tap “Venue Check-In”. Your phone then acts in some ways like a camera.
4. Point your phone at the QR code on display, and you should receive an acknowledgement that you have checked in successfully.
5. Also register your attendance to the steward on duty in the normal way.
6. Turn off the app, but leave the phone on. If attending a service or meeting, check that the sound option is set to “silent”.

Thank you for your valued support in using this App.

Zoom service

Join members from across the circuit for a weekly Zoom service every Sunday at **5pm** led by our local ministers and lay preachers. To receive your first Zoom invitation to this service, e-mail Jacqui Trent at weybaymc@yahoo.com.

Church Notices

Normally, if you want to give information to the congregation, you can send it to Marion Cox to be printed in the weekly Order of Service. At the moment we do not have that printed, but a notice can be read out by the steward at the start of each service. To have this done, please telephone John Hilton or John Parson. If you send the notice by email, please send it to both of them in case one of them is away.

Prayer Chain

If you would like prayer for yourself or others at any time, please contact Penny Fennell. Details can be given anonymously, and confidentiality within the prayer chain is absolute unless there is a safeguarding risk.

Support Service

Worried about going out? Finding it hard to cope with queueing? Family too far away to help? Needing to self-isolate?



Please don't struggle on alone and put yourself at risk. Don't forget there is a cheerful and willing band of younger folk from church who are very happy to help out. Lockdown may have eased a little but the future months still seem uncertain. We are happy to continue shopping, collecting prescriptions or other tasks as long as needed so if you, or folk you know, need support then please don't hesitate to make contact.

Support is being coordinated by Gill and Peter Robinson.

Wednesday coffee

It is planned to restart Wednesday coffee mornings (no stalls) on November 4th from 10am-12 midday. In order to comply with the Covid restrictions it is IMPERATIVE that we meet in groups of no more than 6 people. Please come along and meet up with friends and ensure that you maintain social distancing and keep everyone safe.

Dorchester Family Support Summer 2020 Report

In 2019, operating as Holiday Food Club, we helped around 80 families each week for four weeks. Since then there have been a number of changes. We are now a registered charity, Dorchester Family Support, and this year we based our distribution at Thomas Hardy School as larger facilities were needed. As a result of the generosity of our community we also distributed food for six weeks.

We supported around 180 families and distributed about 1200 parcels but, as a consequence of the coronavirus, we were unable to provide coffee, cake and a chat with the families, which was disappointing for us. We were also able to deliver a small number of parcels for the first time to families without transport. The total food costs were nearly £18,000.

We are grateful to our community for their financial support. This included trusts, churches, corporate and individual donors. Our thanks also go to Thomas Hardy School for the free use of their premises. Our volunteers have been amazing again and we particularly thank the canteen staff at Thomas Hardy for their help.

We are well placed to provide support to our families at Christmas and your generosity enables us to commit to continuing our project next year.

John Weir, Treasurer

**Dorchester Family Support
Christmas Hampers**

Dorchester Family Support are starting to gear up for Christmas by organising food hampers for our families who we know will still need help this December. We really hope that people will once again support us. We have put together a list of foodstuffs that we will need. We try and make each hamper as uniform as possible so here are some of the items that we know are well received: boxes of mince pies, small Christmas/fruit cake, chocolate, large bags of crisps, cheese biscuits, jelly/trifle mix, coffee, hot chocolate and Christmas puddings. If you can think of anything else that is "Christmassy" don't be afraid to include it. We will be sorting all contributions on Friday 17th December so it would help us if we had everything in place by Sunday 12th December. Contributions can be left in your church shop for me to pick up. Many thanks for all your help throughout the year.

Kath Joslin

There will be a bin in the church shop for donations from the beginning of November.



Christian Aid – Dorchester and District Recipe Book

Have you a favourite recipe that you'd love to share? Then this is your chance! We are planning to produce a book with recipes from across the Dorchester churches to sell to raise urgently needed funds for Christian Aid's activities in the poorest nations of the world.

We're looking for recipes covering starters, main meal dishes, vegetarian or vegan delights, desserts, preserves and non-alcoholic drinks. It could be your own or passed down through generations across your family. We'd love to receive it. It could be a seasonal dish, one that uses local Dorset ingredients or an all the year round classic.

Please send us the following information:

- A sentence or two about yourself and the church or religious group that you go to.
- Say why you've chosen this dish.
- Please give information about the cooking time (fan and non-fan ovens) and approximate preparation time.
- Provide a colour photo of the finished dish if possible.

Then send the recipe either to Tony Boyden or Tony McDougal

Closing date for recipes: **Saturday, January 16th 2021.**

**Churches Together in Dorchester AGM
Thursday 5th November at 7pm**

This will be on Zoom and the link will be sent out with the agenda a few days before the meeting. The focus of the meeting this year will be on Poverty Action. There will be a presentation with space for questions and discussion. Reports from the organisations associated with Churches Together in Dorchester will be sent out with the agenda, and there may be an opportunity for a few questions about them. Although the AGM will be very different from previous years, we hope that you can join us and hear about what Churches Together has been doing this year!

Christmas Shoe Boxes

This year we are again collecting shoe boxes for the local charity, the Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion, based in Salisbury. The charity works to break the cycle of poverty and marginalisation for some of the most vulnerable individuals and communities in Southern Europe. Boxes will be dedicated on Sunday November 15th, so do not forget your shoebox on that Sunday as they will be collected by the charity shortly afterwards. A few leaflets are still available in the shop and church foyer. Any questions please contact Maureen Parker.

Dorchester Poverty Action

Are you one of the financially lucky ones during the coronavirus epidemic that has actually more money in your bank account than normal? In DT1 and DT2 many people are not so fortunate for a variety of different reasons, some work-related, others due to difficult family situations.

Dorset Poverty Action has been there all through coronavirus supporting local people in DT1 and DT2, making grants of up to £200 to local people who have hit a financial crisis, at the request of a professional worker or agency who knows their circumstances.

There are many local people who live on a low income but manage their finances very efficiently, so do not normally need help but, this year, even the most careful have been very badly hit. DPA has helped 46 families so far since April, totalling £7,701 (September figures) for things like basic white goods for people being rehoused from abusive situations, school uniform for children returning to school after months at home, washing machines that are beyond repair, beds for growing youngsters.

With no fund-raising events, Dorchester Poverty Action is depending on the generosity of local people who perhaps realise that they have not spent as much this year as they usually do. Please consider if you are one of these good people and make a donation by visiting our website:

www.dorchesterpovertyaction.org.uk

You can give online or by BACS or send a cheque to Dorchester Poverty Action, c/o United Church Dorchester, 49-51 Charles Street, Dorchester DT1 1EE. Dorchester Poverty Action is a local charity that was set up in 1993 as a registered charity by Churches Together in Dorchester and is run by five volunteer trustees and an advisory group who are all volunteers. It has no office base so is run with minimum administrative costs. Its income comes from local people, organisations, churches and trusts plus, in normal years, several fund-raising events, none of which has been possible this year.



Church shop

In November and December, the shop will be open on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. We have a good selection of Christmas cards as well as other Christmas items such as gifts, children's books, Advent calendars, wrapping paper and paper napkins as well, of course, as Traidcraft goods. Do come and visit us to find things you won't find in other shops.

One-Way Christmas Fair

Saturday 21st November, 10am-1pm

Come and join us for coffee and to browse the stalls of Christmas crafts, gifts, cakes and books, which will be well spaced out through the ground floor of the church building.

Carol Service - Covid edition

Our carol service this year will be a little different from previous years. It will be on Sunday 20th December at 10am and 11.15am. As the congregation is not allowed to sing, we would like to add an extra dimension to the service by including members of the congregation who are artists and craftspeople. We are inviting people who have produced Christmas themed art work, models, wall hangings etc to either take a picture of their work to be displayed on PowerPoint during the service or, if the item is big enough, bring the item to be displayed in the church.

If you would like to be involved in this venture please contact John Hilton if you would like your work on PowerPoint or Enid Parson if you would like your work displayed live. Let's celebrate Christmas this year with musical and visual arts.

Many thanks. Heather Reed

Dorset Historic Churches Ride and Stride

Grateful thanks are extended to Enid and John Parson, Julia Young and Marion Cox, who very kindly volunteered to help with staffing the church for the Ride and Stride event. It was most appreciated. Thanks are also extended to John and Wendy Hilton for their valued assistance. This year, we welcomed a total of 38 Riders & Striders plus two doggies to the Church which, apart from the doggies, was equal to the same number as last year. Considering the impact of Covid-19 restrictions, this was a pleasing result.

Finally, and certainly by no means the least, a huge thank you to Eric Young for riding for us, and to those who sponsored him. He covered 30 churches and rode 65 miles, and raised a total of £160 which will be shared between our Church and the Dorset Historic Churches Trust. A great effort and well done.

Once again, many thanks and God bless you all.

Shawn Board, Ride & Stride Organiser

New Address Book

This will be available from November to everyone who is on the church database and will include all those who have given consent for their details to be printed. If you have said you do not want your details printed, then you will not be included. The address book will be available electronically. Either e-mail John Hilton for a copy or, if you can wait, it will soon be available in a new area of the church website, which will be a password protected area for church members only. More information about this soon. If you would like a printed version, there will be someone in South Street after both Sunday services and after the Wednesday service. Please will you dispose of your old address book, which contains people's personal information, safely e.g. by shredding, burning etc. If you are not yet coming to one of these services but would like a printed address book, please contact Wendy Hilton. The address book will not be available to anyone who is not on our church database.

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the December news sheet is Sunday 22nd November. Please send notices for inclusion to Myra Dawson.

Church Website

Don't forget to check out the church website (<http://unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk>), which is managed by Kevin and Susy Rogers. As well as a downloadable version of the news sheet, it also gives information about the church and its various groups, events, reports and how to contact specific members/groups. 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.