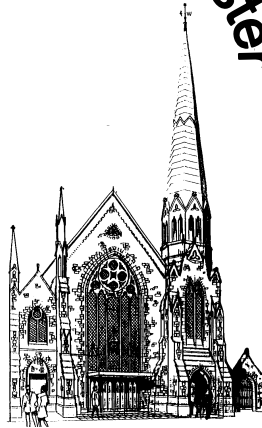


# NEWS

## United Church Dorchester



**DECEMBER 2022**

Registered Charity No: 1137996

**Methodist and United Reformed**  
Part of Churches Together in Dorchester

**Minister (Rev John Yarren):** 01305 262421  
John's rest day is usually Friday. Please contact one of the Church Stewards if necessary.

**Church Secretary:** [Mary Martin](#)  
**Senior Steward:** [Brian Savage](#)

**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

#### 4<sup>th</sup> December

10.30 am Mr P Jenner  
Holy Communion  
3.30 pm Tea-Pot

#### 11<sup>th</sup> December

10.30 am Rev John Yarren  
Café Church

#### 18<sup>th</sup> December

10.30 am Rev D Cuckson  
6.30 pm Rev John Yarren  
Carol Service

#### 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve

4.00 pm Rev John Yarren  
Christingle Service

#### 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day

10.30 am Rev John Yarren

### Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45

7<sup>th</sup> December Mr Chris Warren  
14<sup>th</sup> December Rev John Walker  
21<sup>st</sup> December Rev Neil Riches  
There will be no Market Day service on 28<sup>th</sup> December.

### Church Family News

June Burt would like to thank all the people who sent her cards and messages after Barry died in October. She is most grateful that so many people were thinking of her.

Congratulations to Jenny Trotman who celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in November.

We welcomed eight new members by transfer in November – David and Norma Leigh, Frank and Chris Wells, John and Gill Pinney, Iris Levins and Elizabeth Doble.

### Afternoon Tea and Carols

The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, in the Hall at 3.30pm for 4pm, until 5.30pm. After tea, we shall sing favourite carols.

### Christmas Eve Communion

There will not be a Midnight Communion Service at UCD on Christmas Eve this year. However, there will be Communion Services at the following churches in Dorchester:

St George's, Fordington, at 11.15pm  
St Mary's, Edward Road, at 11.30pm  
St Peter's, High West Street, at 11.30pm.

### Christmas Shoe Boxes

23 shoe boxes have been collected to send to the Salisbury-based charity Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion to take to eastern Europe.

### Weekly notices to your inbox via e-mail

You don't need to wait to pick up the printed notices on a Sunday (and also save paper and ink). The notices can be sent to you via e-mail from the office on Friday. All you need to do is let the office know that you would like to receive the notices by e-mail and you will be added to the list. Contact [office@unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk](mailto:office@unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk).

### Journey to the Stable

[Journey to the stable](#) is an interactive experience helping to explain the true meaning of Christmas. This is ideal for adults and children alike. The journey takes 20 – 30 minutes. There are seven stations focusing on a person or a part of the Christmas story with readings and reflections. At each there is a small activity or object for you to take away, so you leave with a bag of reflections and goodies.

Help is needed to set this up on Wednesday December 7<sup>th</sup> from 2pm; we have school visits booked, and the Journey is open to the public on Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 12, and on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 3pm. For these public openings we need stewards to welcome our guests. If you are able to help, please put your name on the rota in the hall. We will also need help to take it down on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> after 3pm. For more information, please speak to Peter Jenner, Diana Leeming or Mary Martin.

#### Dorchester Christmas Cracker

[The Church will be open](#) from 12 midday to 4pm on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> for community carol singing with the brass ensemble, and we will be serving teas and coffees and seasonal refreshments. All are very welcome.

#### Joy at Christmas

Open Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 10am -12.30pm.  
[Come and see lots of nativity scenes](#) and have a few minutes' peace surrounded by music and candles. Stewards are needed – please put your name on the rota in the hall.

#### Concert in aid of Dorchester Poverty Action

Dorchester (Dorchester's Community Orchestra) are [performing a concert](#) in aid of Dorchester Poverty Action on Sunday 4 December at 4pm in the United Church. Every penny raised will be used to support people living in DT1 and DT2 who are currently struggling financially. The charity have seen the need treble over the last few months.

#### A Slice of Christmas Flutecakes

[Jolly music for the festive season](#)  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm  
at the United Church  
In aid of the Child Contact Centre  
Entry free but retiring collection and refreshments

#### Carol Singing for Christian Aid

There will be [carol singing for Christian Aid](#) outside Barclays Bank in South Street from 9.30 to 10.30 on Christmas Eve. Everyone is welcome.

#### Carol Singing for Action for Children

There will be [carol singing for Action for Children](#) in South Street, outside the United Church, on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 12 noon. Everyone is welcome.

#### Church Christmas Card

Why not send Christmas greetings to your friends in the Church by signing the large card available in the foyer throughout December? If all the money you save on cards and stamps is burning a hole in your pocket, make a donation to Christian Aid.

#### Churches Together Ecology Group Community Litter Pick - Saturday 3 December - 10-12 noon

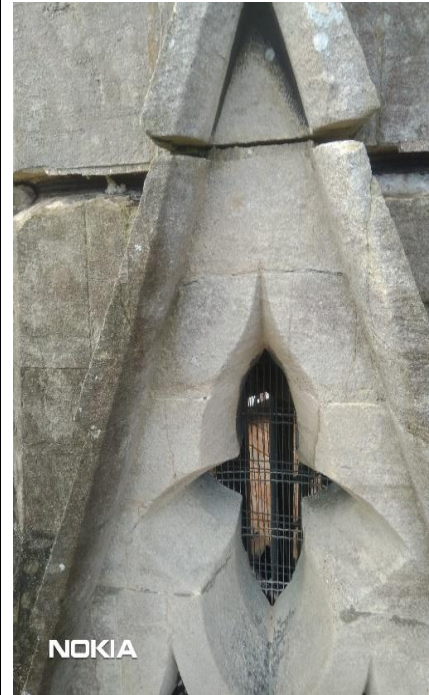
Do come and join us for our final community litter pick of the year, taking place on Saturday 3 December. We will be meeting at Dorchester Baptist Church at 10am and will look to pick up litter from the top of the town and hospital area. Refreshments will be available at the Baptist Church from around noon.

### Works to the Church Spire

The structure of the church spire has deteriorated over the last 160 years. To stop the lower sections of the spire spreading outwards under the weight of the upper sections, iron rings were set in certain rows of stones. These ferrous rings have rusted and lifted the whole of the spire above each ring, but not uniformly all the way round.

A contract was commenced in August 2022 and early in October it was discovered that cracking of the stonework around the iron rings was more extensive than anticipated. So additional scaffolding was ordered so the structural engineer could assess the extent of the cracking and agree the necessary remedial works. This was achieved on 16<sup>th</sup> November. A photograph of one crack is attached.

Another site meeting is planned and it is hoped that the cost to complete the project will be available in time for the church meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November. At this time the necessary works to the tower to make it water tight will be considered in detail. If extensive repointing is found to be required this will be scheduled for some time after the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2023.



Line of the crack



### Quiet Christmas

[A short \(30-minute\) service](#) will be held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm followed by light refreshments. This is an ideal service for those who find sitting difficult for lengths of time. It will be café style in the church with refreshments served where you sit. Please let anyone know who might find this just the right Christmas service for them.

### 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.

### Urgently Required: Secretary for Churches Together in Dorchester

The Enabling Committee meet about six times a year including the Annual General Meeting. The main duties involve drawing up the agenda for meetings in liaison with the Chair; taking the minutes and distributing them, looking after the email account and communicating with the Enabling Committee. There is remuneration of £25 per month.

If you are interested please contact [Tony Boyden](#).

### Come and visit our shop!

As well as stocking a wide range of Christian books, we have Fairtrade foods and household goods, greetings cards, and ethically produced gifts. [Pop in to chat and browse](#), you're always welcome.

Please note the change in the days we are open: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings, 10am—12.30pm. The shop entrance is at the back of the church building, in Charles Street.

Susy will be doing the last **Traidcraft** order before Christmas on 5<sup>th</sup> December. You should know that Traidcraft have serious supply issues and not all products will be in stock. Please email Susy asap if you need anything urgently.

### Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the January news sheet is Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December. 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.