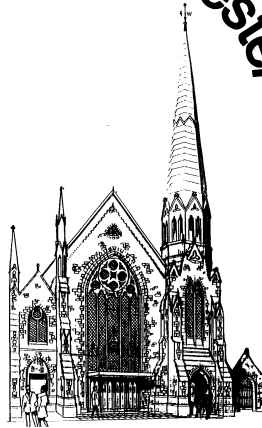


NEWS

United Church Dorchester



FEBRUARY 2021

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

7th February

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

14th February

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

21st February

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

28th February

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Church Family News

Congratulations to Rev Barrie and Mrs Grace Snook who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 21st January.

Church Closure

When the current lockdown came, the stewards decided that, for the safety of our congregation and for the safety of the community, it would be better to suspend all services. Although services can legally take place, many churches, including Salisbury Cathedral, have also decided to suspend them. The rate of infection per 100,000 in Dorchester increased from about 40 to over 500, although, thankfully, it has now come down but it is still very high. In one 24 hour period, 9 people died of Covid in DCH. To quote Chris Loder, our MP, in the "Dorset Echo", "If ever there was a time for the sake of our families, friends and neighbours, that we must stay at home and respect the government's guidance – it is now".

John Parson, Senior Steward

During Lockdown

Circuit Zoom service: Sundays at 10 a.m. Contact Jacqui Trent at weybaymc@yahoo.com, who will e-mail you an invitation each week.

Circuit YouTube service: available on DSW circuit and UCD church websites. There are also some earlier UCD recorded services.

Printed circuit service: available on DSW circuit and UCD church websites. Contact Wendy Hilton if you would like a printed version delivered.

Zoom prayer meeting: led by Rev John Yarrien on Thursdays at 9.30 a.m. Contact John for a Zoom invitation.

Zoom "Coffee and chat": on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. Contact Kevin Rogers for a Zoom invitation.

Support Service: if you are isolating or do not feel able to go shopping or to the pharmacy, the support service is there for you. Contact Peter and Gill Robinson.

The church website, www.unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk, includes lots of information including the monthly news sheet and up-to-date information about all the changes.

Church office: Telephone 01305 457477 and leave a message. The answerphone is checked regularly.

STILL URGENTLY NEEDED!

Recipes for our **Christian Aid Recipe Book** to raise much needed funds for Christian Aid

We're not looking for cordon bleu extravaganzas but recipes that your family and friends have enjoyed. They can be starters or main courses or desserts and if you have more than one, please send them on. Please send to Tony Boyden via email or post.

Final date: end of February

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. 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.

Reflection on Christingle Service held on 24th December

Nothing could stand in the way of the birth of Jesus which we celebrate at Christmastide. Our Christingle service has for so many families over the years been the start of their Christmas. Families making their Christingles, the orange (world) ribbon (love), cocktail sticks and sweets/dried fruit (the seasons), candle (the light that is Jesus). This service, led by junior church leaders, still happened four weeks ago, families still came, not as many due to Covid restrictions but nobody that wanted to come missed out as we had two services. The service flowed in its simplicity, all the elements of the Christingle were there, the Christingles assembled, Christmas story told using knitted characters, light shone as the candles were lit and "Away in a Manager" was still included, not sung but we learned how to use sign language. It was still, for those that came, the start of their Christmas. Peter Jenner

Thinking Caps on Everyone

Like many of you, I suspect, I have spent time during lockdown sifting through bits 'n' bobs of what I call my Memorabilia box! I tried to categorise it but that was difficult as much of it is interlinked.

There are many memories of things we used to get up to here at church over the many years I have been here and I wondered if they might be worth looking at again. I have also kept a few news sheets from other churches because there were ideas there that I thought we could adapt for UCD maybe.

Do you have any new creative ideas or examples of activities that you have seen in place elsewhere that might work here in Dorchester or at one of the other circuit churches? It could be linked to a part of a worship activity or a social event, an outreach project or a resource that might be useful, interesting or just lovely to look at.

Put pen to paper and let us know, or send the ideas by email to our church secretary, John Hilton, or senior steward, John Parson. Warmest wishes to you all. Linda Gundry

Window Wanderland

Window Wanderland is coming to Dorchester on 19th - 21st February (6pm-9pm) and they are looking for as many people as possible (households, shops and businesses) to get involved! This is a free community event - open to all ages!

Just register at www.windowwanderland.com/dorchester and decorate your window on the theme of 'A Brighter Future' to spread some much needed positivity....then enjoy a Covid-friendly evening walk and enjoy the whole community's uplifting creations! More info at Dorchester Window Wanderland Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/wwdorch>.

At the United Church we will be taking the opportunity to fill our South Street window with the Theme 'A Brighter Future'. If you would like to be involved in creating the window display please contact Peter Jenner or Rev John Yarrien. And if you want to decorate your window at home and be part of the wider project, just sign up at the link above, it would be great to be involved. Blessings, Rev John

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the March news sheet is Sunday 21st February. 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 who's who on the Council of Stewards; who's on what rota and when; addresses in the church directory; our governing documents; annual reports, church meeting minutes and AGM minutes for the last five years; policies and procedures. 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.