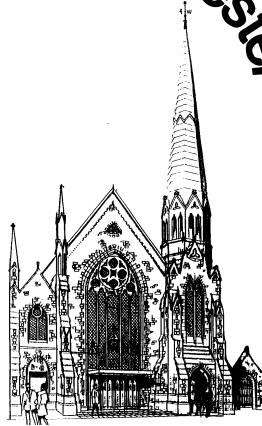


NEWS

United Church Dorchester



MARCH 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 March

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

14th March

Exodus 2:1-10 or

1 Samuel 1:20-28

Psalms 34:11-20 or

Psalms 127:1-4

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

or Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:33-35 or

John 19:25-27

21st March

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12 or

Psalms 119:9-16

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Church Services

Church services remain suspended at UCD at the moment. The Methodist circuit has issued a preaching plan for the March to May quarter. This does not imply that services will immediately recommence at any of the circuit churches, but is simply so that, when a church does re-start live worship, a preacher is already planned. When the Council of Stewards decides to re-start services, we will make every effort to inform all our members.

John Parson

Senior Steward

28th March

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1 – 15:47 or

Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

Church Family News

We have to announce the sad news of the death of Maurice Dale. Maurice has been an integral part of the United Church for many years. He has been the Treasurer and Gift Aid organiser, he has organised New Year's Eve parties, performed in most of the church pantomimes and much more. He will be sadly missed.

Congratulations to Shirley and Denys Hood, who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on 1st April.

Thank you to Shirley Hood, who has retired from volunteering and more recently managing the coffee shop for the last 18 years. A bouquet and card of thanks were given to Shirley. In due course, when the situation allows us to consider reopening the coffee shop, discussions will be needed about the best way forward.

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, 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.

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

Come and join the Lent conversation . . .

Holy Habits: Following Jesus

A Zoom Lent study group focusing on materials written by Andrew Roberts, helping us to journey through Lent, whilst beginning to form new habits in our discipleship journey.

Weekly on Mondays at 10.30 am led by the Rev Peter Clark or Tuesdays at 2 pm led by the Rev John Yarren. For further information, and the Zoom link, please contact Peter or John.

United Church Shop

Fair Trade Fortnight: February 22nd – March 7th

The church shop may be closed at present but Susy continues to provide a collection or delivery service of Traidcraft items, and we trust you are finding Fair Trade marked, and other fairly traded items, from other suppliers. (Look out for a coming display in the church window on South Street.)

Susy will be ordering a dozen **Real Easter Eggs**. Please contact her if you would like to reserve one. When they're gone, they're gone! **Easter Cards** will be available from the church shop by our 'courier service'. As we did for Christmas, a phone call or e-mail to Peter Jenner will get you a home delivery of a selection of cards from which you can choose. You pay for any items you want when you return the remainder to Peter.

All payments please for any sales by cheque to 'United Church Shop'. Any other queries to Margaret Knighton.

We will re-open as soon as regulations allow and look forward to seeing you then!

World Day of Prayer

The Dorchester World Day of Prayer committee have to announce with regret that the live service planned for Friday 5th March at 10.30 am will not go ahead due to the Covid pandemic. Instead we will collectively, in our own homes, view a pre-recorded video by the women of Vanuatu which will be made available on YouTube. Anyone who requires a service booklet to follow the service on YouTube or to read in private, or any further information, please contact either Ellie Stephens or Caroline McMeiken, both of whom are at St. Mary's.

New Ideas

I am writing in support of Linda Gundry's message in last month's Newsletter, asking for new ideas which we could use. Linda was writing as a long-standing member of UCD, whilst Enid and I arrived quite recently. Indeed, many of you have also come from other parts of the country in the last ten or twenty years, and so have experience of ideas which worked well in your previous churches. We can all also have picked up good ideas when visiting family and friends. (We saw something which worked well when visiting our son and daughter-in-law in Sussex.)

You might ask what was wrong with what we were doing already. The answer is, "Nothing", but there is a saying that the good is often the enemy of the best, and surely we want to do the best we can with the personnel we have available to advance the Kingdom of God and serve the community.

Some ideas would not work at UCD, but put them forward nonetheless; if we receive a good selection of ideas, we shall offer them to the other churches in the circuit. Any advance of the Kingdom in any church should gladden us all.

Please put pen to paper and let us know, or send the ideas by email, to our church secretary, John Hilton, or to me, John Parson.



Thank You

Dear Church Friends,

As the husband of Brian Savage, who is now recovering at home after a near-fatal illness in hospital, I would like to thank you for all the love, support and prayers shown to us as a couple of the same gender. While many of you have known Brian a long time, what overwhelmed and "blew me away" was the love shown to me in a wide variety of ways by folk in the United Church and also in the ecumenical Dorchester Town Chaplaincy Team of which Brian is a member. February was LGBT History Month nationally, so in 2021 you have added so positively to my experience which I can share so thankfully with other people, whether LGBT or not. I feel extra welcome in such an inclusive church. Thank you all again.

Warm wishes, Jonai Da Silva

Getting to Know God

During these months when we have not been free to meet in church for worship, the Rev Michael Barber, an associate minister in the circuit for over ten years, has written a small book entitled "Getting to Know God". In it he draws on his experience over 60 years of ministry. It has been printed locally at a cost of £6 per book and he is happy to sell copies at this price. He invites anyone who is interested to contact him.

CHRISTIAN AID CAMPAIGN: GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR VACCINATION

For the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the world, there is little hope of some vaccine roll-out. These people already face a lack of water, food and healthcare. Some are homeless. Some are living with underlying health issues such as HIV.

Christian Aid is already on the ground, helping keep people safe from coronavirus with practical support - but with a gift of thanks it can do more. Have you or your loved ones had your vaccine? Please give thanks with a donation to help protect our global neighbours while the vaccine is out of reach.

You can either do a BACS transfer to our bank account (details available from me) or by post to Colin Tizzard, who is Treasurer of Dorchester Christian Aid. Or if you would prefer to give direct then go to **christianaid.org.uk** and the 'Give thanks for your vaccination' section will give guidance on how you can donate on-line.

Prayer of thanksgiving

God of Hope, Sustainer of all life.

We give you thanks for the coronavirus vaccines,
for the skill and wisdom of scientists, NHS staff and key workers.
By the power of your Spirit, may we overflow with hope
and joy as we see our friends, families and neighbours protected.
God of Justice, Protector of the vulnerable,
may we be your well-washed hands and willing feet.
Move us to give and act,
to challenge the injustices that anger You.
May we seek to protect all Your children. Amen

Many thanks
Tony Boyden (Chair)

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the April news sheet is Sunday 21st March. 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.