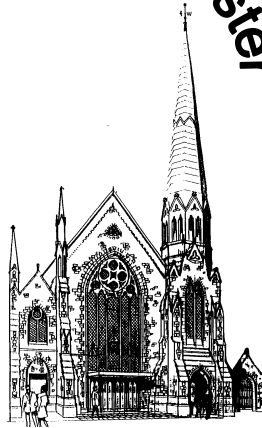


NEWS

United Church Dorchester



FEBRUARY 2022

Registered Charity No: 1137996

Methodist and United Reformed
Part of Churches Together in Dorchester

Minister:

Rev John Yarrien 01305 262421
Please contact one of the Church Stewards if necessary

Church Secretary:

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

6th February

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

13th February

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

20th February

Genesis 45:3-11,15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

27th February

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

Sunday Services

6th February

10.00/11.15 Rev B Stephenson

13th February

10.00/11.15 Rev J Yarrien
Holy Communion
18.30 Ms J Amey

20th February

10.00/11.15 Mr A Boyden

27th February

10.00/11.15 Rev R Lownsbrough
18.30 Rev J Yarrien

Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45

2nd February Mr A Boyden

9th February Rev J Yarrien

16th February Mr C Warren

23rd February Rev B Stephenson

Morning Services

Starting on Sunday, 6th March, we will return to having one morning service rather than two. The service will be at our usual time of 10.30am. We think that we can accommodate everyone whilst still maintaining social distancing. The social distancing of one seat between each group will remain the same. It would help if those who are able, are ready if needed to sit upstairs. If you already have a seat reserved because of disability or because you sit with a wheelchair user, that will continue to be saved. However, there may need to be some slight changes of location. If you need to have a seat reserved, please contact Wendy Hilton.

Evening Services

In the next quarter, March-May, we will have two evening services each month starting at 6.30pm.

Church Family News

Helen Luxford and Joan Allgood have both died recently. Some people will remember Joan and her husband Ralph, who moved to Weymouth a few years ago. Please remember their families and friends in your prayers.

Church flowers

During Covid it has been difficult to distribute church flowers to members who are ill, remembering a loved one or celebrating a special occasion. We would like the distribution role to be shared (rather than having yet another rota), so if pastoral visitors or members of the congregation know someone who would appreciate flowers, please let Gillian Daniel know. You can then collect the flowers after the Wednesday service, when Gillian can be around to help you if needed. Paper and gift tags are available.

Building works

By the time you read this, the scaffolding should have come down following the first phase of work on the church roof. The roof at the curved, east end of the church, including the roof over the organ, has had the tiles and straw insulation stripped off; new, more efficient insulation inserted; a new waterproof membrane added; the slates and hip tiles re-fixed (with more secure fittings) and the lightning conductor relocated. The two longer sides of the church roof still need to be done later in the year when we have submitted some grant applications to help cover costs. The next major building work is the spire, which has been in the planning for many years. The iron bands that hold the spire together are disintegrating and the work needs very specialist builders. The money for this work has been in a restricted fund and more scaffolding, mainly inside the tower, will appear in the spring.

Before that, the alleyway down the side of the church may also be shut on some days as the toy shop next door is having building works, following a few of our hip tiles damaging their premises. This is an asbestos roof so great care will need to be taken. Scaffolding will also be going up in front of the shop at no 51 to waterproof the brickwork. Finally a door from the Cerne Abbas room onto the flat roof has been fitted and it is just waiting for a plumber to come and reconfigure the pipework around it. This is an important piece of health and safety, as until now every time the roof leaked or whenever leaves needed clearing, someone would have to use a ladder to climb up onto the roof. It will now be much safer and easier to complete any work there.

Church Meeting

Wednesday, 16th February, at 7pm

The next church meeting will be on Wednesday, 16th February, at 7pm, in the hall. This is for all church members to attend. Come and hear what the church is doing and is planning to do. Come and have your say.

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.

De-Escalation Discussions

Twenty people gathered on 18th January to consider how, as a Church Community, we can manage challenging situations on our premises and elsewhere. Some observations expressed gave our Stewards food for thought. We recognised that often there are Mental Health issues involved, so it was good that Jonai Da Silva, who is a Community Mental Health Support Worker, facilitated our deliberations. Towards the end of the two-hour session, two helpful phone numbers were given for the Community Mental Health Team ([CMHT](#)) in Dorchester. During working hours (Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm) it's best to call the offices in Maiden Castle Road on 01305 214500. Outside these hours, it's best to call the free 24h emergency number which is 0800 6520190.

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer coffee morning will be on **Saturday 12th February** in the church hall. Please support this annual event to raise awareness and monies for the charities we support. Perhaps you can bake a cake/small cakes or make jam/preserves for the cake stall --- most welcome! A bric-a-brac stall is also asking for donations!

The actual service, held in churches around the world, will be on **Friday 4th March** in [Holy Trinity Church](#) at 11am. No coffee to be served afterwards because of Covid -- sorry! We look forward to seeing you there.

Pastoral Support Assistant

We are looking for someone with energy and empathy to work with the minister and the Pastoral Committee at the United Church Dorchester. You will be alongside members of the congregation and others, providing pastoral support in a range of forms. The successful applicant will be self-motivated, caring and able to empathise with fellow Christians and non-Christians alike.

This is a part-time appointment fixed term for 2 years in the first instance. Working hours are 10 hours per week, to be worked flexibly as agreed, including some weekends. The salary is £5850 (based on an hourly rate of £11.25). Satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from DBS will be required. For further information and an application package please contact Di Lawrence by [email](#) or phone (01305 457477). Closing date Monday 28th February 2022. There is an occupational requirement that the post holder is a practising Christian.

Half-Term Indoor Fun – Saturday 19th February, 10-12

We are hoping to open our church doors in South Street for children and their families to come in and have some chill out time by having toys to play with, things to do, DVD playing, having tea/coffee/juice. If you would like to help with the Indoor Fun morning please see Peter Jenner as soon as possible. Let's get half-term off to a good start for children and their parents/guardians.

Exploring our Faith

A Lent study group called "Seekers"

As we approach Lent this year, we are planning to hold a Lent Study Group called "Seekers". This will be an opportunity to explore the basics of what it is to be a Christian today and how we journey through life together as a community here at UCD.

Our Seekers course will run each week from Thursday 10th March through to Thursday 7th April from 7 to 8.30pm. We will meet in the Hall for part of the sessions together, where the theme will be outlined, and then there will be an opportunity to discuss the topic each week in smaller groups. Refreshments will be provided.

Flavour of topics to be explored include "Christianity: boring, untrue and irrelevant today", "Can we trust the Bible?", "Who is Jesus?", "Why does Jesus' death matter?" and "Why suffering?" For more information in relation to the course please speak to Rev John, Rev Brenda Stephenson, Peter Jenner, Paul Smith, Chris Warren, Brian Savage, Elizabeth Haynes, Penny Fennell.

Dorchester Family Support – Christmas 2021

On behalf of the trustees of Dorchester Family Support, I would like to thank all in the community who contributed to this project. During the Christmas holiday we supported 197 families with a seasonal hamper along with a small cash gift to buy a Christmas gift for the children. Many of the parents were overwhelmed by the generosity of strangers who made this project possible. Sadly, however, if you have children or grandchildren in any of our local schools, the chances are that at least one family in that class will have come to us this last Christmas.

Morrisons in Weymouth were our main supplier of goods and did an amazing job in very difficult circumstances due to Covid and distribution issues. Nothing was too much trouble and we are very grateful to them. We were supported by the Town Council, Waitrose, several churches in the town and many other organisations but it is to you, each individual, that I would like to express my most sincere thanks. Your kindness has made this possible and we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you.

Kath Joslin – Trustee, Dorchester Family Support



**United Church
Coffee Shop
Now open
Tuesday and Friday
10 - 12.00**



**Wednesday:
Coffee in the hall
9.30 - 12.00**

Church Shop

Open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10 - 12.30

Covid and Chaplaincy

When Covid lockdown came up on us in March 2020 it stopped our work in its tracks. When restrictions first began to be lifted our Chaplains put me under pressure to allow them to return. We checked with the authorities who said we were seen as an essential service, and were needed in person. So, following all the guidelines, the Chaplains returned and were greatly appreciated by the retail outlets we visit and also by the Town Council and BID.

However, Covid stopped people coming forward to train and we always need new potential Chaplains. In fact only one new Chaplain has started in the last two years! Now the infection figures have started falling quickly we are looking for new people to train. Already two people are interested so we are expecting to run the course in the near future. If you feel this is an area you may be called to explore please be in touch. Chris Warren, Chaplaincy Coordinator

Holocaust Memorial Day, 27th January

Dorchester Town Council, in association with other bodies, has commissioned a short film (less than 30 minutes) involving children from local schools to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. The 27th January is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in 1945. The film does not have to be watched on the day. It can be seen via the web site of the [Dorchester Town Council](#).
John Parson

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the March news sheet is Sunday 20th February. 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 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!