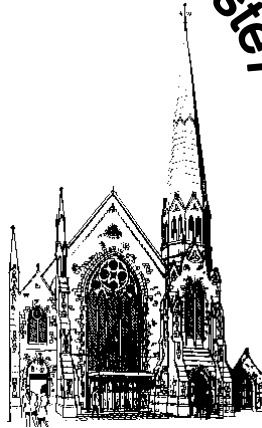


NEWS

United Church Dorchester



FEBRUARY 2023

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

Private Tel & email removed from web version

Sunday Services

5th February

10.30 am Rev John Yarren
Holy Communion
6.30 pm Rev Ruth Lownsborough

12th February

10.30 am Worship Committee
4.00 pm Tea-Pot

19th February Transfiguration

10.30 am Rev Brenda Stephenson
6.30 pm Rev Neil Riches

26th February First Sunday in Lent

10.30 am Rev John Yarren

Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45 am

1st February Rev Peter Clark
8th February Rev Steph Jenner
15th February Mrs Elizabeth Haynes
22nd February Rev John Yarren

Church Family News

We are sad to announce the deaths of Joan August, Bob Fox and Brian Owen. Please remember their families and friends in your prayers.

Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns

The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 12th February, in the Hall at 3.30pm for 4pm, until 5.30pm.

Church Flowers: Desperate Times

We all enjoy the lovely flowers in the church on a Sunday. However, the old system where people donated for special occasions or memories seems to have failed since lockdown and we are very short of money in the fund. Therefore, if you are able to and would like to donate any amount, the flowers usually cost between £15 and £20 a week, and we would be most grateful. Please see Sue Gannaway or take the money direct into the [church shop](#), where the funds are held.

Also, if there is anyone out there who would like to arrange the flowers, please see Sue. Thank you.

Church Meeting

The next Church Meeting will be held on Thursday February 23rd at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

Journey to the Stable

Thank you to all those who helped to prepare and steward the Journey to the Stable. It was enjoyed by lots of school children and other visitors. Thanks too to those who provided Nativity Sets and to those who helped to set up and steward for Christmas Joy. This did not seem to catch the public's attention in the way we had hoped. Do you have any suggestion of what you would like to see in our Church leading up to Christmas 2023?

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 by Saturday. 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

Prayer Chain

Penny Fennell and Pat Smith are stepping down from organising the prayer chain from February and Enid Parson will be taking over from them. If you would like prayer for yourself or others at any time, please contact [Enid via e-mail](#). Details can be given anonymously, and confidentiality within the prayer chain is absolute unless there is a safeguarding risk.

Applications sought for
Pastoral Support Assistant
at United Church Dorchester
10 hours per week

Main responsibilities – working with minister and pastoral committee to provide pastoral support, especially to those in care homes, hospital or with more complex needs.
Must be a current and active member of a Christian church or community
See [UCD website](#) for full details.
Closing date 17 February 2023

PowerPoint Displays

We have a small band of people who regularly prepare and project the PowerPoint displays during our morning services. It would be really helpful if we had one or two more members. If you have some basic computer skills, or if you would like to learn a new skill, you would find it easy to learn and the current team are always there to help if there are technical problems. You would prepare and present PP for about one service per month and a swapping system amongst the members allows us to cope if the rota date is not convenient. Presentations take about 2 hours to prepare. Our presentations are much appreciated by many members of the congregation and by the ministers, so please consider carefully whether you might be able to help. Please contact John Hilton if you want more details or want to volunteer.

[World Day of Prayer Coffee Morning](#)

In the hall at the United Church
on Saturday 11th February
from 10am-12 noon
All are welcome to come and
enjoy the various stalls and
coffee, biscuits and cake

Traidcraft

It is with enormous sadness that I have to announce that Traidcraft is going into administration. They have been struggling to make ends meet for some years but trading in the present economic climate has proved impossible.

We shall continue to stock Traidcraft products in the [Church Shop](#) until they run out, so please come in to buy them. We are already exploring other fair trade suppliers. Please pray for all the staff in Gateshead who will lose their jobs. It is a sad day for fair trade.

Susy

Address book

In January we started the preparation of a new address book. There has been a draft 2023 address book in the church foyer on Sundays in January and it will possibly be there in early February for you to check your details. Please sign beside your details if they are correct, but please let us know if any changes are needed. Also please let us know if you no longer wish to be in the address book or if your name is not there and you now wish to be included. The address book will only be available to members and adherents who are on the church database. We hope to have the address book completed and printed by the end of February.

URC News

Rev Clare Downing, the moderator of the Wessex Synod of the URC, is leaving her current post to take up the post of Synod Moderator in the North Western Synod at the end of March. There is a farewell service for Clare on Saturday April 1st at 3pm at London Street Church, Basingstoke, followed by tea and cake. All are welcome to attend; please let Deborah at office@urcwessex.org.uk know if you are intending to go.

The postponed URC 50th Anniversary service will now be held on Saturday April 15th; if you had tickets for the original date you not need to do anything but if you did not and would like to attend please visit urcwessex.org.uk or speak to Mary Martin.

There is a Wessex Synod Celebration Event on Saturday April 22nd at High Cross Church, Camberley.

There is much more information about activities and training opportunities in the URC at urcwessex.org.uk.

Have you ever considered helping in a wider role across our churches as a Circuit Steward?

This quote from the Rev Dr Jonathan Hustler (Secretary of the Methodist Conference) will hopefully give you a flavour of the role: "... Their contribution to the leadership of the circuit, their encouragement of the churches they engaged with in periods of change and transition, their conscientious stewardship of the resources of the circuit, and (perhaps most of all) their care for my wellbeing and that of my family, are things for which I will always be grateful"

In my 5+ years in the role we've had to manage Circuit mergers, recruitment challenges (lay and presbyteral), changing legal parameters within which we work (e.g. GDPR, Safeguarding protocol, Trustee responsibilities and so forth) as well as organising mission in a pandemic.

Overall, Circuit Stewards have an overview role which means we do not favour our home church when we make decisions regarding Circuit resources. We also willingly work across denominations in order to place the work of God's Kingdom above all else in the life of our worshipping communities. This link to a suite of resources may help you to decide if the role is for you: [Circuit stewards \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://circuitstewards.methodist.org.uk)

As you can imagine most of the role is listening to what colleagues across our churches say so that any decisions made are fair and lead to growth in our Christian communities. Please phone either me on 01308 427201 for a chat if you require more clarity or talk to the Rev John Yarren, who will also be able to help you decide.

Sue Bird, Senior Circuit Steward

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the March news sheet is Sunday 19th February. Please send notices for inclusion to [Myra Dawson](mailto:Myra.Dawson@urcwessex.org.uk)

Church Website

Don't forget to check out the [church website](http://www.urcwessex.org.uk), 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.