

NEWS

United Church Dorchester



MAY 2023

Registered Charity No: 1137996

Methodist and United Reformed
Part of Churches Together in Dorchester

Minister (Rev John Yarren):
On Sabbatical from 10th April to 10th July

Pastoral Support Assistant: [Ruth Magee](#)
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		Church Family News
<p>7th May 10.30 am 6.30 pm</p> <p>14th May 10.30 am 4.00 pm</p> <p>21st May 10.30 am 4.00 pm</p> <p>28th May 10.30 am 6.30 pm</p>	<p>Vocations Sunday Rev Gwyneth Owen Rev Neil Riches</p> <p>Aldersgate Sunday Rev David Cuckson Tea-Pot</p> <p>Pentecost Rev John Yarren Churches Together United Service at the Storehouse Church</p>	<p>Congratulations to: Ken and Rosemary Mills, who will be celebrating their platinum wedding anniversary (70 years) on 23rd May. Maureen and Ben Parker who celebrated their emerald wedding anniversary (55 years) in April. Peter and Irene Green on the birth of their first grandchild to their daughter Francesca.</p> <p>Julia Young would like to express her heartfelt thanks for all the cards, flowers, well wishes and prayers following her recent knee replacement surgery.</p> <p>Renewal of Wedding Vows On May 28th, Pentecost Sunday, Steph and Peter Jenner will be renewing their Wedding Vows and receiving a blessing from John Yarren following 20 years of marriage. Jonai Da Silva and Brian Savage will also be renewing their Wedding Vows and receiving a blessing, after over 17 years of marriage. This ceremony will take place at 12 noon in the Church, after the coffee and cake which will follow the 10.30am Sunday Service. It is expected to take about half an hour. All members and friends are warmly invited to return to the Church in order to share in this very special occasion.</p> <p>Jonai and Brian wish to thank all friends at UCD for their prayers, love and support. Jonai had emergency, life-saving surgery on April 19th to remove a tumour. He is recovering at Dorset County Hospital from the successful operation, and hopes to be home soon to continue the longer-term treatment process.</p>
<p>Market Day Services Wednesdays at 10.45 am</p> <p>3rd May Rev Peter Clark 10th May Mr Tony Boyden 17th May Mr Peter Jenner 24th May Rev Ruth Lownsbrough 31st May Rev Brenda Stephenson</p> <p>Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 21st May, in the Hall at 3.30pm for 4pm, until 5.30pm.</p>		

New Pastoral Support Assistant

Thank you for welcoming me to be the pastoral support assistant. I am excited to be part of the UCD family walking with and alongside you. Before moving to Dorchester I lived in Leicester and worked in childcare. We were living in the city when the football team won the premiership. Unfortunately it's not looking so good for us at the moment, but we need to give the other teams a chance! I am married to Keith. We have one married daughter and a granddaughter. I look forward to getting to know you all. I am regularly available on Wednesday mornings from 10 am and at other times by arrangement. My rest day is usually Friday. My email contact is pastoral@unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk Ruth Magee

St George's Day Fair

We had a wonderful afternoon promoting Forest Praise Café where we did various craft activities for children and gave out bubbles. I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Pauline and Michael Humphrey, Peter and Gill Robinson, Kevin Rogers, Anna Newbury, Alison Cocks and Ruth Magee for your support and help. It was very much appreciated. Peter Jenner

Christian Aid Week, 14-20 May

As is usual, Christian Aid Week begins with an **ecumenical service at St Peter's** on May 14 at 4pm, led by Revd Keith Magee with guest speaker, Revd. Martin John Nicholls. Those who have heard Martin before will testify to what an engaging and inspiring speaker he is. An occasion not to be missed!

The Committee has decided that events formerly planned for Christian Aid Week will be held later in the year with, for example, the Joint Market in October and the Walk to the River Jordan early in September. There will, however, be a 'Big Brekkie' event at Dorchester Baptist Church on the morning of Sunday, 14 May.

We are looking for volunteers to help our collection in South Street on Friday, 19 May and to deliver envelopes to houses during the week May 14-20. Delivering envelopes remains an excellent way both of relaying our message and raising funds. Envelopes **need not be collected** now as 'delivery only' envelopes can be returned to nominated shops referred to on the envelopes. However it's still possible to collect envelopes on the doorstep in the traditional way if volunteers would prefer.

United Church members have a tremendous record of raising awareness of Christian Aid and gaining funding support. Please give some thought to how you can help this year. If you would like to help or need further information please contact Tony Boyden (['Christian Aid Contact'](#)) via the UCD Contact form.

All Ways to Praise

This is our Movement in Worship group, who meet once a month in the church. It has now evolved to include other expressions of worship, such as poetry, song, use of flags or staves, favourite scriptures, prayers and testimonies.

Everyone is invited – but not obliged – to contribute. It is good to share, but also a blessing to receive. So one may lead us in prayer while another will bring a dance to present or to teach the group. One will bring a poem while another will share scriptures... We warmly invite you to join us for what is such an uplifting time of worship.

We will next meet in June. For details contact Dorothy Smith.

United Church Shop

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings from 10.00 to 12.30

Come and see our colourful and eco-friendly Shared Earth goods, which are proving very popular. More stock is expected in early May. Fairtrade peanut butter and honey are now back in stock!!

We take payment by cash, debit/credit card and cheque.

Prayer Chain

If you would like prayer for yourself or others at any time, please contact [Enid Parson via e-mail](#). Details can be given anonymously, and confidentiality within the prayer chain is absolute unless there is a safeguarding risk.

2023 Church Address Book

The new church address book is now ready. There are two formats, a printed booklet and a digital format which is on the members' area of the church website. This address book is solely for the use of those at United Church Dorchester who have given consent (GDPR) for their details to be kept on the church's database. It only contains details of those who have given additional consent for their details to be printed, so you will not find everyone's details. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information presented is correct at the time of printing, but as soon as it is printed it is out of date. Please shred your old address book and do not just put it in the recycling. The address book is available from Wendy Hilton and is free, but donations can be put in the collection towards the printing costs.

If you do not already have access to the members' area of the church website, please contact the church office: office@unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk for the password.

Ukrainian Family

The United Church has received a letter from Nataliya, who, with her husband Serhii and their 11-year-old son Max, have fled Ukraine and are currently receiving warm hospitality from a family in Langton Herring. However, from September, Max will be starting at a new school in Dorchester so the Ukrainian family are looking for an apartment in Dorchester to rent. There is some extra financial support from the Council given to the owner of such an apartment.

I have further details and a contact number for Nataliya, so I invite you to [email me](#) if you think you, or someone known to you, may be able to help.

Many thanks. Brian Savage, Senior Steward

Methodists for World Mission: South West Region, Annual Conference

Friday 29th September to Sunday 1st October

At the [Ammerdown Conference and Retreat Centre](#), Ammerdown Park, Radstock, Somerset BA3 5SW
The theme is 'Islam and Christianity – Competition and Cooperation' and the main speaker will be Rev Dr David Thomas, Emeritus Professor of Christianity and Islam in the University of Birmingham. Further information is available on the leaflet in the porch and from [Martin Thorp](#) ('Methodists for World Mission Conference') via the UCD Contact form.

Pilgrimage Visit to Tolpuddle

On 6 May, the Circuit will welcome a group of pilgrims, led by Revd Richard Sharples and Revd Simon Topping, at the end of a reflective walk from the New Room, Bristol, to Tolpuddle. There will be a Service in the [Tolpuddle Methodist Chapel](#) at 10.30am on 7 May to mark the end of the pilgrimage. If you are free on that Sunday morning you would be most welcome to join us.

The pilgrims will be staying overnight on Saturday 6 May at the [Tolpuddle Old Chapel](#). A small group from the Circuit will meet them there to welcome them and share a meal. If you would like to join us, please email Peter Jenner ([‘Children and Families Worker’](#)) for further details.

The pilgrim prayer

O God, who raised up the people called Methodists to spread scriptural holiness throughout the land, renew us with your Spirit of grace and justice that hearts may be warmed and the world changed to reflect that new Jerusalem towards which we look in hope and longing. Through Jesus our brother, our companion and our Lord. Amen

Wessex Summer Camps are open for bookings

Do you know a child aged 7 – 12 or a young person aged 11 – 17?

Please consider passing on information about the [Wessex Synod Summer Camps](#)

This year the **Children’s Camp** will take place at [Oakwood Activity Centre](#) in Wokingham from
30th May – 2nd June

It’s a great event for children to have fun with others through a mixed programme of worship, activities, and workshops. The children will be enjoying many of the activities that the site offers including kiwi flying, bouldering, low ropes, bush craft and mountain boarding. Workshops will be creative and very interactive, with a mix of arts, crafts, music, outdoor games, sports and much more! Children will be staying in the Lodge which has rooms that sleep up to 6, in three bunk beds – and every room has en suite facilities!

We will be exploring the URC theme of ‘Love is...’ More than hearts and squishy stuff. Thinking about what Jesus’ love actually looked like.

The **Youth Camp** will take place at an exciting new venue, The [G.B Outdoor Centre](#) in Hook from
14th – 16th July

It’s a great event for young people to come together, relax, make new friends and explore a Bible based theme through a varied programme of worship, outdoor activities and workshops. The venue offers many of the favourite activities, high and low ropes courses, bouldering, archery, and campfire cooking. New to this year are laser tag and a host of resident animals, big and small. We will be following the URC theme of ‘Love is...’, focusing on how far God went to show the extent of His love for us. There will be group time to explore the theme creatively, and there will also be plenty of time for games and challenges. There are opportunities for young people to get involved with leading aspects of worship and music. Young people will be staying in ‘tepee’ style bell tents, each with 6 camp beds, and decking.

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the June news sheet is Sunday 21st May. 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.