

# NEWS

## United Church Dorchester



**SEPTEMBER 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.

**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](http://unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk)

Private Tel & email removed from web version

### Sunday Services

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> September</b> 10.30 am	Rev Tim Meachin
<b>10<sup>th</sup> September</b> 10.30 am  4.00 pm	<b>Education Sunday</b> Rev John Yarren Holy Communion Tea-Pot
<b>17<sup>th</sup> September</b> 10.30 am 6.30 pm	<b>Harvest Festival</b> Rev John Yarren Rev Neil Riches
<b>24<sup>th</sup> September</b> 10.30 am	Rev Neil Riches

### Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45 am

6 <sup>th</sup> September	Rev Peter Clark
13 <sup>th</sup> September	Mr Tony Boyden
20 <sup>th</sup> September	Rev John Yarren
27 <sup>th</sup> September	Mr Peter Jenner

### Church Family News

We are sad to announce the death of Ben Parker in July. From Maureen:

I would like to express my gratitude for the many cards and flowers I have received. My special thanks to those who kindly sat with Ben, and to those who arranged it. It has meant more to me than words can say. Maureen Parker

From Joan Pruden:

I would like to thank all those kind folk whose prayers were such a comfort prior to my recent surgery. I have to say that I have never before experienced the power of prayer. My grateful thanks to everybody.

Congratulations to Denys Hood who celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and Norma Leigh who celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in August.

Congratulations to all our young people (children, grandchildren and great grandchildren) who have just heard the results of their exams and are now progressing to a new chapter in their lives. Our prayers go with you.

### Seeking Treasure...an invitation to Harvest Festival

Friends, we will be celebrating Harvest on Sunday 17th September. Our theme this year will be 'Seeking Treasure...in the invitation', linking Harvest with 'Back to Church Sunday'. Invitation cards will be available from the first Sunday of September. Please take one (or more) with you, with the purpose of inviting a friend, a family member or a neighbour to our service on 17th September. The challenge is for us all to prayerfully consider who to invite, and then to take that bold next step, to actually invite them! The invitation is the important act here, we leave the rest to God. If we are bursting at the seams for Harvest, then that will be a real joy and cause for celebration. We will also have a bring and share lunch after the service, please look out for a sheet in the hall to sign up. As we seek the treasure of intentional invitation, I pray God will call us all to be bold and courageous.

### Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns

The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> September, in the Hall at 3.30pm for 4pm, until 5.30pm.

### Action for Children

The [Action for Children](#) committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to the great success of this year's Garden Party, AFC Sunday and Wednesday charity stalls by helping, donating, attending and buying. Despite the awful weather, our annual Garden Party at Sue and Colin's house, accompanied by live music provided by Heather Reed, raised £568.95.

Our well-attended and -received AFC Sunday Service's retiring collection raised £382.20. The two Wednesday charity stalls in the church hall made another £102.80. The League of Light Boxes provided a total of £635.95, and a further donation of £69.10 was received. Altogether, we raised the enormous sum of £1759.00 to support the vital work of Action for Children in our communities.

#### Welcome meeting

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 3pm in the coffee lounge for those who are new to the church. If you are new this year you should receive a personal invitation to this event but, if you don't, please see Wendy Hilton or Ruth Magee.

#### Next Pastoral Visitors' meeting

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm in the coffee lounge  
Topic "The Hidden Role of the Pastoral Visitor" led by Ruth Magee, Pastoral Support Assistant

### QUIZ EVENING

on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm at the United Church  
£5 per person

Come as a team (max 6 people) or join a team on the night  
Coffee/tea and cake provided

Please pre-book if possible by contacting Peter/Gill Robinson via email using the [UCD Contact Form](#)

Proceeds to [Wheels for the World](#)

Please support

#### Dorchester Poverty Action

[Cream tea](#) £5  
at the Old Vicarage, The Green,  
Puddletown  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 3-5pm  
If wet in church hall  
Everyone welcome

#### CAP Money Course

A free course to help you manage your money better. On either Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2-5pm, or Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 9.30am-12.30pm, at the Dorford Centre. A £20 Co-op voucher reward for attendees who live in DT1/DT2 postcodes or work for the NHS. To book ring 01305 262045 or [www.dorchesterbc.org.uk/cap](http://www.dorchesterbc.org.uk/cap)

### CHRISTIAN AID WALK TO THE RIVER JORDAN

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 9.30 a.m.

An eight-mile walk (or shorter stages) from St Peter's Church to Bowleaze Cove, Preston.

Lunch: Picnic or Bowleaze Café. Return from Weymouth by public transport.

Sponsor forms available from Tony Boyden ([Christian Aid Contact](#)) or [United Church Shop](#).

### **Dorset Historic Churches Ride and Stride**

The [Dorset Historic Churches Ride & Stride](#) will take place this year on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September. If you are interested in taking part, please contact me - Shawn Board, your Ride & Stride local coordinator - [via the UCD Contact form](#) for further information. Half the money raised through sponsorship will be returned to this church.

As in years past, the church will be open and staffed between 10 am and 6pm, so if you could spare an hour or two on the day to welcome Riders and Striders to UCD, I would be pleased to hear from you. Once numbers of helpers are ascertained, I will then be in contact with you again and compile a rota. It is hoped that a sufficient number of people will come forward to operate a shift system as in past years, but whatever you can manage would be appreciated. The task involves offering refreshments, signing sponsor sheets, and directions to other churches etc.

I look forward to hearing from you, and thank you in anticipation.  
Every blessing, Shawn

Eric Young is planning to take part in the Ride and Stride event on 9<sup>th</sup> September - on his e-bike this year! - and would welcome sponsors.

### **United Church Shop**

Don't forget to come and browse in the [Church Shop](#), which is on Charles Street, at the back of the church building, opposite Dorchester Library. The shop is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings from 10.00 to 12.30.

We've got a good range of Bibles, Christian books, greetings cards for all occasions, some remaining Traidcraft items, CDs, and unusual, colourful and affordable gifts from Tilnar Art and Shared Earth which are fair trade, eco-friendly and ethical.

### **Free Library**

We now have a library of Christian books in the Church Foyer for everyone to use. Books can be taken without formality and there is no time limit on borrowing. In fact, we encourage people to share the books as widely as possible. To make the library accessible to all we have located the library on two bookshelves in the Foyer. Anyone visiting the Church can use the library when it is open for services, coffee mornings, etc. If you notice someone who cannot easily reach all the shelves, please offer them assistance. The newly tidied Foyer is a space for people to sit and browse.

The books range from autobiographies, fiction, in-depth theology as well as humour. There are also books that deal with life's challenges and what it means to be a Christian. Over the years many people have kindly donated helpful books to the Church and so we have used this resource to create our Free Library. Additional titles will be added and if you have any books that might be suitable, please pass them to Michael Humphrey or John Yarrien.

### **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.

### **Christmas Shoe Boxes for House of Opportunity**

We will again be collecting shoe boxes for the Salisbury-based charity, which has been renamed [House of Opportunity](#). Please start collecting now. Leaflets should be available at the beginning of October, but more information is available on [houseofopportunity.org](http://houseofopportunity.org). We expect the Christmas shoe boxes to be collected in mid- November.

### **New Trustee Wanted for the Dorchester Child Contact Centre**

This is an opportunity to join a small Dorchester based charity providing key services for the children of separated parents. [The Contact Centre](#) provides a safe and friendly venue for the children of parents who live apart to spend time with their non-resident parent. This is a vital service for children.

We are looking for a new trustee to take the role of secretary who has secretarial and IT skills. You will be committed to work with our other trustees in the management, development and sustainability planning of the Contact Centre. This is a volunteer and unpaid role. We have between 4-6 general meetings per year. We aim for diversity in our trustee membership and welcome all applications.

For further information please contact Tracey Parsons (chair of trustees) via the [Dorchester Contact Centre](#) option on the UCD Contact Form.

### **Rental Accommodation Wanted**

Dear friends in the Dorchester churches,

My wife Lydia and I have been hosting a Ukrainian family for the last 14 months: two parents and two children (one 20 y.o. and one 9 y.o). The family are now keen to move on to their own rented accommodation. A team at Dorset Council have been helping them to look for a place, without success so far.

The family really like Dorchester and have settled here well, finding stable work and education opportunities locally. They would like if possible to remain here, but the rental market is hard to get into, often requiring rent up front or significant support from guarantors. Please would you ask members of your congregations if they are aware of rental opportunities which would be sympathetic to their situation?

The family are good guests, and my wife and I would be willing to vouch for their character. If you are able to help or have questions, we can be contacted on 01305 266502.

Peace and all good,  
Rev'd Jimmy Holden

Team Vicar at St Mary's Church, Dorchester and the Winterbournes Team Ministry

### **Notices for news sheet**

The deadline for the June news sheet is Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.