

NEWS

United Church Dorchester



DECEMBER 2023

Registered Charity No: 1137996

Methodist and United Reformed

Part of Churches Together in Dorchester

Minister (Rev John Yarrien)

On leave of absence due to illness.

Please contact [Rev Gwyneth Owen](#)

Pastoral Support Assistant: [Ruth Magee](#)

Church Secretary: Position vacant.

Please contact Senior Steward (see below)

Senior Steward: [Michael Humphrey](#)

Church (general number): 01305 262462

Church office: 01305 457477

Website: unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk

Private Tel & email removed from web version

Sunday Services

3rd December

10.30 am Rev Gwyneth Owen
Holy Communion

4.00 pm Tea-Pot

10th December

10.30 am Rev David Cuckson

17th December

10.30 am Rev Jane Wilson

6.30 pm Rev Gwyneth Owen
Carol Service

24th December

10.30 am Rev Steph Jenner

4.00 pm Christingle

25th December Christmas Day

10.30 am Rev John Yarrien

31st December

10.30 am Worship Committee

Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45 am

6th December Rev Neil Riches

13th December Mr Tony Boyden

20th December Rev Brenda Stephenson

27th December Mr Chris Warren

The church is open for Morning Prayer each Tuesday starting at 8.30am. All welcome.

Church Family News

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Mary Martin. Mary was a very active member of the church, having been a steward, senior steward, secretary, StoryTots organiser, Journey to the Stable co-ordinator, coffee shop volunteer and, as a nurse, was always there when someone felt ill in church. She will be greatly missed by so many people. Please remember her sisters Ruth and Suzanne in your prayers.

A Service of Thanksgiving for Mary's life will be held at the church on Thursday 30th November at 2pm. At Mary's request, Rev Paul Arnold and Rev Gwyneth Owen will be leading the service. All are welcome and refreshments will be served in the Hall afterwards.

Two of our church family have recently lost siblings. Pat Brown's sister Mary Goldsworthy has died. Mary and her husband Ron were very active members of the church before they moved away 20 years ago. Penny Fennell's sister Wendy has died on the Isle of Man. We remember their families and friends in our prayers.

In November, at an evening service, we welcomed into membership by transfer Michael and Sylvia Archer. Please welcome them and get to know them better.

Christingle Service, Sunday 24th December at 4pm

We will be repeating last year's very successful [Christingle in a Bag](#). Everyone will be provided with a DIY Christingle bag and we will all make our Christingles together, but in our own seat. The atmosphere of Christmas approaching and all is peaceful and ready will still be the same.

Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve

There will not be a Communion Service at UCD on Christmas Eve this year. Instead, there will be a united Communion Service at [St George's Church](#), Fordington, at 11pm. Rev John Yarrien hopes to be preaching.

Afternoon Tea and Advent Hymns

The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 3rd December, in the Hall at 3.30pm for 4pm, until 5.30pm.

Christmas Card

The church Christmas card will be in the South Street foyer on Sundays and Wednesdays in December. Rather than send individual cards to your friends in church, why not sign the card, wish everyone at UCD a happy Christmas and give a donation to [Christian Aid](#).

Quiet Christmas Service

Do you struggle to cope with a full church service but want to sing carols, listen to the familiar readings that tell the Christmas story, and share the joy and peace of Christmas with family and friends? "[Quiet Christmas](#)" is the service for you. This is a short 30 minute service with familiar carols and readings. It is aimed at people who have recently been bereaved, those who can be confused in the present but have good memories of Christmases past, those who find sitting or concentrating for a long time difficult, and all their carers and friends.

Everyone is welcome to Quiet Christmas on **Friday 15th December at 3pm in the United Church**. (Please note that the date in the December Vision magazine is incorrect). The service will be followed by tea and Christmas fare in the church. Everyone welcome.

Carol Singing in South Street

1. [Outside the front door of the United Church](#) on Wednesday 20th December, 11.30-12.30, in aid of [Action for Children](#)
2. [Outside Barclays Bank](#) on Friday 22nd December, 9.30-10.30, in aid of [Christian Aid](#)

Festive Flutecakes

Saturday 2nd December at 5pm

[A short concert of carols and other festive music](#)

followed by refreshments

Retiring collection for [Dorchester Child Contact Centre](#)

Christmas Shoe Boxes for [House of Opportunity](#)

We collected 25 shoe boxes and two large bags of assorted goods to go to Eastern Europe

Reverse Advent Calendar

Many of us buy an Advent Calendar each year. We open it each day in December and receive a gift, often of a sweet or chocolate. We are suggesting that this year, as we journey through Advent, we MAKE a small gift each day before we RECEIVE on Christmas Day the greatest gift of all, God's son, Jesus, to be our Saviour.

We hope that each of us will take a jam jar and put a coin in it each day from Advent Sunday, which this year is on the 3rd December, until Christmas Day. The coin may be 1p or 5p or 50p or even more; it does not have to be the same amount each day. Please hand the money in on Christmas Day or one of the next three Sundays. All the money will then go to the [Food Bank](#). Obviously, the Food Bank will not receive it before Christmas, but we are assured that they need money all the year round.

Please use one of your own jam jars if you can, but we hope to have spare ones available for you to take on Advent Sunday and the Sunday before, 26th November.

Journey to the Stable 2023

[Journey to the Stable](#) is an interactive experience helping to explain the true meaning of Christmas and is ideal for adults and children alike. The journey takes 20 – 30 minutes. There are seven stations focusing on a person or a part of the Christmas story with readings and reflections. At each there is a small activity or object for people to take away, so they leave with a bag of reflections and goodies.

Schools will be coming from Thursday 7th to Wednesday 13th December, 9.30-2.30pm, and public openings will be Saturday 9th, Thursday 14th, Friday 15th, and Saturday 16th December, 11-3pm (11-1.30 on the 15th as Quiet Christmas is at 3pm).

We will be setting up the Journey in the church and the quiet room on Wednesday 6th December at 2pm and taking it down on Saturday 16th December after 3pm. We need help with the setting up, school visits and public openings. If you can help in any way please see Peter Jenner, Diana Leeming, Val Gould or Wendy Hilton. There will be also be a rota (with time slots) on the notice board in the main hall for people to sign if they can help to steward the public openings.

[Family Fun Days](#)

Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st December, 10 - 1.30

We will be opening the church and foyer for families to come and relax and have a drink. We will have toys, crafts including icing biscuits, as well as a gazebo with the heading “Are you in the picture?” so that parents can take a picture of their children in a stable setting wearing a costume, plus baby changing and feeding facilities. We will need help with this so please see Peter Jenner, Diana Leeming, Val Gould or Wendy Hilton.

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.

Church Shop

[The shop](#) is on Charles Street, at the back of the church building, opposite Dorchester Library, and is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings from 10.00 to 12.30.

We have a range of Christmas cards at very good prices, various books and attractive Shared Earth goods that would make ideal presents. We look forward to seeing you. We take credit/debit cards and cheques as well as cash.

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the January news sheet is Sunday 17th December. 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, 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.