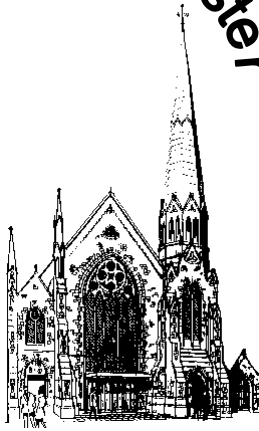


# NEWS

## United Church Dorchester



**APRIL 2025**

Registered Charity No: 1137996

**Methodist and United Reformed**  
Part of Churches Together in Dorchester

**Minister** ([Rev John Yarrien](#)) 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:** [Michael Humphrey](#)  
**Church office:** 01305 457477  
**Website:** [unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk](http://unitedchurchdorchester.org.uk)

Private Tel & email removed from web version

### Services

<b>6<sup>th</sup> April</b> 10.30 am	Rev John Yarrien
<b>13<sup>th</sup> April</b> 10.30 am 4.00 pm	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Rev Peter Clark Tea-Pot
<b>17<sup>th</sup> April</b> 7.30 pm	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>Tenebrae Service</b> Rev John Yarrien
<b>18<sup>th</sup> April</b> Churches Together Walk of Witness	<b>Good Friday</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> April</b> 10.30 am	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Rev John Yarrien Holy Communion
<b>27<sup>th</sup> April</b> 10.30 am 6.30 pm	Worship Committee Rev Neil Riches

### Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45 am	
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Mr Chris Warren
9 <sup>th</sup> April	Rev Brenda Stephenson
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Rev John Yarrien
23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Rev Steph Jenner
30 <sup>th</sup> April	Rev Neil Riches

### Church Family News

We are sad to announce the death of David Horsfall. He regularly came to the Wednesday market day service and into coffee usually before the service. We are sad to hear of the death of Rosemary Lees who for many years helped in the coffee shop and sang in the choir. She moved to Ferndown to be nearer her family. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

Congratulations to Marion Cox who celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in May.

Congratulations to [Trevor Antell on recently receiving the Dorset Police Chief Constable's Commendation](#) award for 20 years' continuous service to DORSAR (Dorset Search and Rescue). Trevor is one of the founding members of [DORSAR](#) and gives many hours of his time to this charity. A great achievement.

### Volunteering at United Church

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our Church and there are many opportunities for members and friends to be involved. A list of the roles available from each team needing more help will be displayed on the Hall noticeboard over the coming weeks. Please speak to a member of the team to learn more.

### Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns

The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> April, in the Hall at 3.30pm for 4pm, until 5.30pm.

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

## Holy Week and Easter

### **Maundy Thursday**

On Maundy Thursday, we remember the final meal of Jesus with his disciples, now called The Last Supper. During the meal, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat, this is my body". Then he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and gave it to them saying, "Drink it, all of you, this is my blood poured out for many, my blood which seals God's covenant". There can surely be no more appropriate time for us to celebrate Holy Communion. Our service will be led by Rev John Yarrien at 7.30pm, and will include the Service of Tenebrae.

### **Good Friday**

On Good Friday, when we remember Jesus's crucifixion, there will be a Walk of Witness organised by Churches Together. This will start with a short service at St Peter's Church at 9.30am. We will then cross the High Street and walk slowly behind the cross, down South Street, pausing to sing a hymn at the Town Pump and outside Barclays Bank, and finishing with a short service at the War Memorial. A slow procession has more impact if it is done in silence, so we hope that those taking part will do that.

### **Easter Sunday – The Greatest Day in the Christian Year**

On the first day of the week, at about sunrise, some women went to Jesus's tomb with spices to anoint his body. But his body was not there, and they learnt that he had been raised from death and restored to life. On Easter Day, our morning service will be at the usual time of 10.30am. It will be led by Rev John Yarrien and will include Holy Communion. But earlier in the morning there will be a short Sunrise Service at Maumbury Rings at 6am. This is early in the day for many of us, but it is a wonderful experience to be with Christians from all the other churches in town celebrating the great central truth of our faith.

### **Christ is Risen – He is Risen Indeed – Alleluiah**

### **Holy Week - Stations of the Cross - "Walk With Me" - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

This year we are opening the church so that people can "Walk With Me" as they go round the 14 Stations of the Cross, which are a series of pictures or images representing the different incidents in the last journey of Christ from Pilate's house to entombment.

As you pause at each station there will be things to reflect on, touch, and take away. The church will be open from 9.30 to 10.30 a.m., then Rev John Yarrien will lead the Market Day Service at 10.45 and then, after the service, the Stations will be open until 1pm. The pictures along with the words that accompany them help us walk with Jesus during Holy Week. Peter Jenner

### **Children and Families - What's On in April**

Story Tots will be meeting as usual during April but not on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April, which is Maundy Thursday. On 24<sup>th</sup> April it will be Story Tots Plus so older children can come with their younger brother/sister.

Forest Praise will be joining in with the St George's Fair on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April at [St George's, Fordington](#). The gazebos will be up so that children can do various craft activities no matter what the weather is. A fun afternoon for all the family. Peter Jenner

### EASTER COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00 -12.00 in the Church Hall

Stalls include:

- Cakes
- Crafts
- Plants
- Books
- Jigsaws
- Bric-a-Brac
- Guess the weight of the hamper
- Refreshments – Tea, Coffee, Cake and Hot Cross Buns



Please support – all proceeds for The Leprosy Mission  
Donations of cakes and items for stalls will be gratefully received.  
If you are able to offer help on the day please contact [Gill Robinson](#)

### Annual Church Report

At the Church Annual General Meeting on 1st May we present our Annual Church Report. This includes short reports each covering aspects of our activities over the last year, written by our members. Please let me have your submissions by Monday 31st March [via email](#).

Michael Humphrey

### Church Steward

At this time each year we ask members to consider becoming a Church Steward as existing Stewards complete their term on the Church Council. This is an opportunity to be at the centre of our Church life and help lead us in our Vision: 'A Christian Community seeking to be a Beacon of God's Light and Love for All'.

Being a church member is a requirement. The Stewards meet monthly and the length of tenure is 3-4 years. For more information contact our minister, Rev John Yarrien, or one of the Church Stewards: Rev David Cuckson, Michael Humphrey, Jenny Mair, John Parson, Gill Robinson, Linda Scott, Paul Smith or Frank Wells.

### Wednesday Coffee Morning Charity Stalls

The charities booked in for April are:

April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Freedom from Torture	April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Leprosy Mission
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Dorset Blind Association	April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Weldmar
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Leprosy Mission		

If you know of any charities who might be interested in having a stall in future months (we only have one charity stall each Wednesday) then please put them in touch with me. Our next vacancy is on the 18<sup>th</sup> June.

John Parson

### Prayer Chain

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

### Church address books

Printed copies of the church address book are now available from Wendy Hilton. If you would like an electronic version, please request it [via e-mail](#).

### Lent Lunches

We will be serving [Lent lunches](#) every week until Easter. On Wednesdays from 12 noon until 1.30pm, Sue Gannaway and her team of helpers will serve a variety of salads and a delicious selection of desserts, all accompanied by a cup of tea or coffee. The lunches will be served in the hall immediately after the Coffee Morning. Why not come along and enjoy a lovely meal in good company? The charge is £7.50, with all profits going to [Christian Aid](#) and [Action for Children](#). Last year, Lent lunches raised £1200. Let's do even better this year.



### Marathon Runner

Do you fancy supporting a local runner in the [London marathon](#)?

Helen Dell of Broadmayne, a member of Dorford Baptist Church, who is a nurse at DCH, has been given a place in the Marathon and is running in aid of [Dorchester Poverty Action](#).

If you would like to support Helen and donate to DPA, you can access her [marathon web page](#).

### Saturday Men's Breakfast Meetings

The next Men's Group meeting will be at 8.30 a.m. on 12<sup>th</sup> April but please contact Paul beforehand to check. Any reasonable breakfast suggestions welcomed, otherwise it will probably be a fry-up.  
Paul Wallis



### Come Walk with Us



All are welcome to join Enid and John Parson, Gill and Peter Robinson on a leisurely walk of about 4 miles on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April, starting at 2pm from the Visitor Centre Car Park, [Thorncombe Woods](#). For further details please contact one of us.

### Offer to Fellowship Groups

The Monday Fellowship Group kindly passed study books on Ephesians to us. We have now finished with them and would like to offer them to another group. There are five copies. Please be in touch with me, either when you see me or by email, if you would like them.

Chris Warren

### World Day of Prayer

Our World Day of Prayer service this year was held at St Mary's Church, Edward Road, on 7<sup>th</sup> March. The Christian women of the Cook Islands [wrote the service](#), which was celebrated all round the world. Those who came enjoyed a service of thanksgiving based on the scripture 'I am fearfully and wonderfully made' (Psalm 139:14).

After many years representing our church on the local Committee, I would like to step down and hand over to another to enjoy the ecumenical fellowship during preparations, as well as learning of the lives of Christian women in other countries of the world. Next year we look at Nigeria.

Dorothy Smith



### United Church Shop

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday,  
10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

[The shop](#) is in Charles Street, at the back of the church building, opposite Dorchester Library

Easter cards, various designs in packs or single cards at very reasonable prices, are on sale. We also have attractive and colourful items, which would make excellent gifts, from the eco-friendly and ethical supplier Shared Earth. Do come and have a look!

### Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the May news sheet is midday on Easter Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> April. 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 – please [send in](#) any information about [Events](#) taking place at the church, or [Latest News](#) items that may be of interest.

### 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.