

NEWS

United Church Dorchester



JUNE 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

Private Tel & email removed from web version

Sunday Services

1st June
10.30 am Rev Gwyneth Owen
Holy Communion

8th June **Pentecost**
10.30 am Rev John Yarrien
4.00 pm Tea-Pot

15th June **Trinity Sunday**
10.30 am Rev John Yarrien

22nd June
10.30 am Worship Committee
6.30 pm Rev Neil Riches

29th June
10.30 am Rev Neil Riches

Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45 am
4th June Rev Peter Clark
11th June Mr Chris Warren
18th June Rev John Walker
25th June Rev Steph Jenner

Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns

The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 8th June, in the Hall at 3.30pm for 4pm, until 5.30pm.

Church Family News

We are sad to announce the death of Lorna Bumphrey at the end of April at the age of 99. Many will remember Lorna and her husband Rev David Bumphrey, who preached and worshipped regularly at UCD. Please remember her and the family in your prayers.

Congratulations to Diana and Ian Leeming who celebrate their golden wedding anniversary at the end of May.

At the May communion service we welcomed into membership Katie Wilkinson, Janet Keen and Claudia Webster.

Revs Alan and Anthea Wickens visited UCD in May while on holiday. It was good to catch up with their news. Alan was our URC minister about 25 years ago.

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.

Pentecost Sunday

Please would anyone be able to co-ordinate a bring and share lunch following the morning service on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th? Have a chat with Linda Gundry or any member of the worship committee.

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

Vision and Property

We aspire to be a beacon of God's light and love for all in Dorchester and the building is a means to that end. We want the best building we can have for that purpose, not forgetting that upkeep and full utilisation of the building takes a lot of resources. Our most valuable resource is volunteers and we must recognise that in many areas of our church life the limiting factor is, and is likely to remain, the number of volunteers able to offer their services. This is why we had to consider whether new ways of using the building were needed.

We have had many meetings, large ones like the special church meeting and the AGM, meetings of committees and working groups, meetings with those who manage important areas of church life such as the recent one our minister had with those who manage the shop and coffee lounge. We want to consult widely but not to get lost in the mass of information, opinion and ideas which are generated. The difficulty is made worse by one potential project impacting on another, so that we need, together, to make difficult decisions about whether to delay project A because it would be more cost efficient to do project B first although B takes more planning and time! So we need to keep a clear head and sense of direction.

We want to keep you informed about progress and this is the first of a series of short articles in the News sheet on 'Vision and Property'.

- The idea of moving the shop to the South Street foyer has received little support.
- Having the shop and coffee lounge in the same area, originally suggested as a way of reducing the number of volunteers needed, has many positive features, making shoppers more likely to have a snack and snackers more likely to shop! The combination could enhance what is already a very important point of contact of our church with the wider community. If we were to put new toilets where the shop currently is and incorporate the current toilet area in the shop/coffee lounge it would solve the problem of refurbishing the toilets. A more attractive shopfront is a possibility. There are many problems to be solved, but further discussions are going to occur with those involved and, if the project appears to offer long term gains for our vision, we will ask an architect to assess the plan for feasibility and cost.
- We haven't forgotten the more radical suggestions of using the upper floor for offices or a caretaker's flat. We will try to assess the practicality of these ideas (for example, is office space currently sought after in Dorchester or is there an excess?).
- The identification and introduction of a digital management system is ongoing and could give major gains in terms of decreasing tasks and time on the premises for volunteers.

You'll hear from us again soon!



Come Walk with Us



All are welcome to join Enid & John Parson, Gill & Peter Robinson on a leisurely walk of about 4 miles on Saturday 7th June, starting at 2pm from Tolpuddle. Park in village and meet by Martyr's Tree. For further details please contact one of us.

Date for your diary

Dorchester Poverty Action Coffee Morning

in the United Church hall on Saturday 5 July

10am – 12 noon

Refreshments, cakes & savouries, books, plants, new & nearly new and Bric-a-Brac stalls.

Donations for stalls can be given to Wendy or brought on the day.

Wednesday Coffee Morning Charity Stalls

The charities booked in for June are:

June	4 th	Salvation Army	18 th	Murugi Community Trust
	11 th	Marie Curie	25 th	Vacant

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.

John Parson

The charity booked to have a stall on the 18th June is the [Murugi Community Trust](#). The trust is based in Weymouth and works to relieve poverty, and to advance education and improve health for the public benefit primarily, but not exclusively, in the Murugi community area of Kenya by providing grants, items and services to Individuals in need, and to those organisations that support them. Those going out to Kenya return with bags, jewellery and crafts made by a group of single mothers in the Eastleigh District of Nairobi, and it is these which will be on sale at our Coffee Morning. All profits are used by the Trust to relieve poverty in the Murugi area. Do come along and see what these Kenyan ladies have made.

Keeping safe online

Several million cases of fraud and of computer misuse are reported to the police every year, but many of those crimes could have been prevented by making a few small changes in online behaviour. Being a victim of internet fraud has happened to members of this church within the last year. To avoid becoming a victim of online crime you don't need to be a computer expert. Developing a few good online habits drastically reduces your chances of becoming a victim of cyber crime, makes you less vulnerable and lets you use the web safely.

[Dorset Police](#) will be [giving a talk](#) on **Thursday 29 May at 2.30pm** in the church. Information will be available on how to shop online safely, spotting e-mail scams, identifying fake websites and even social networking. The majority of church members use a computer, mobile phone or I-pad and we can all be safer. Everyone welcome - church members, friends and anyone who feels they could benefit.

Action for Children

UCD's [Action for Children](#) team are inviting you to the following events this summer:

Action for Children Garden Party

On Saturday 21st June, 2 – 5 pm, at 51 Coburg Road. Come and join us for cream teas, cakes and refreshments in [Sue and Colin's garden](#). Plant and Cake Stalls and Bring and Buy Sale. Any donations to the stalls would be greatly appreciated.

Action for Children Sunday

On Sunday 13th July, 10.30 am at UCD, our Action for Children Sunday Service will be led by Peter Jenner and the AFC team. Please bring along your [League of Light boxes](#) if you have them; there will be a retiring collection for AFC.

Please come and support us, for fun and fellowship and to raise much needed funds for Action for Children and their important work with children and families.

Children and Family Events in June

Story Tots will be having what has become its annual seaside trip to Weymouth on Thursday 19th June. We go by train from Dorchester South and families can bring a picnic with them if they wish to eat on the beach. If you know of any families who have children between new-born and 4 years old please do tell them about Story Tots, which is held in the hall on Thursday mornings from 9.30 to 10.45am. We have a very lively group of children with parents/grandparents with toys, craft activity and drinks.

Forest Praise at St George's will be on Saturday 21st June NOT Saturday 28th. This is a morning for children and their parents. Story, crafts, songs, food, baby corner and outdoor activity. It's a fun morning with lots to do.

See Peter Jenner for further details.

Church address books (printed) are now available from Wendy Hilton. If you would like an electronic version, please e-mail Wendy.

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



Silver Jubilee

This month, both the [church shop](#) and the [coffee shop](#) are celebrating 25 years since they first opened in June 2000. Their existence came about as the result of a Vision Day held in September 1997 and led by our then minister, Rev Barrie Snook, who challenged the members and friends present with the question "What does God want us to be and to do?". From this, the Millennium Project was born, about which Susy has written at greater length in the April/May Vision magazine.

The shop is open four mornings a week and there are photographs of all the current volunteers on one of the boards in the Hall. Christian bookshops are increasingly rare and visitors to the town are often delighted to find us. As well as the books, cards, gifts and household items, we've got a popular plant stall, we act as a ticket agency for church events, people come in to ask directions, or for a chat or to ask for advice. We do far more than sell things! We would welcome new volunteers, for as many or as few sessions as people are able to manage so, if you're interested, please call in when the shop is open to find out more.

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the June news sheet is midday on Sunday, 22nd June. 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.