

# NEWS

## United Church Dorchester



**JULY/AUGUST 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

### Sunday Services

<b>6<sup>th</sup> July</b>	
10.30 am	Rev John Yarrien Holy Communion
4.00 pm	Tea-Pot
<b>13<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Action for Children</b>
10.30 am	Mr Peter Jenner
<b>20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	
10.30 am	Major Shelagh Clift
5.00 pm	Circuit Service at Tolpuddle
<b>27<sup>th</sup> July</b>	
10.30 am	Rev John Yarrien United Service
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> August</b>	
10.30 am	Rev Jane Wilson Holy Communion
4.00 pm	Tea-Pot
<b>10<sup>th</sup> August</b>	
10.30 am	Rev John Yarrien
<b>17<sup>th</sup> August</b>	
10.30 am	Mr Chris Warren
<b>24<sup>th</sup> August</b>	
10.30 am	Rev Brenda Stephenson
6.30 pm	Rev John Yarrien
<b>31<sup>st</sup> August</b>	
10.30 am	Rev John Yarrien

### Church Family News

At the end of May we said goodbye to Sally Burton, who is moving to Crowborough in East Sussex to be nearer her sister.

We send our very best wishes to Nigel Hewish, who retired at the beginning of June after working at Kingston Maurward for 34 years.

In May we welcomed the family of Ellie Paige, great-grandchild of Sue and Colin Gannaway, on the occasion of her Christening.

We send our best wishes to Claire Wallis, daughter of Paul and Joy, on her marriage to Gaetan Martin in June in France, just north of Rennes, near the groom's home.

We pray for Paul and Joy Wallis and Maureen Parker, who are in the middle of house moves within Dorchester.

We are sad to announce the death of Shirley Guppy, a former member of UCD who, following the death of her husband, John, moved to Northumberland to be nearer her family.

### Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns

The next two Tea-Pots are on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> July, and Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August, in the Hall at 3.30pm for 4pm, until 5.30pm.

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July our [Action for Children](#) 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.

**Market Day Services**  
Wednesdays at 10.45 am

2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Rev Neil Riches	6 <sup>th</sup> August	Mr Peter Jenner
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Rev John Yarren	13 <sup>th</sup> August	Mr Chris Warren
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Rev Steph Jenner	20 <sup>th</sup> August	Rev John Yarren
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Rev Brenda Stephenson	27 <sup>th</sup> August	Rev Brenda Stephenson
30 <sup>th</sup> July	Rev Peter Clark		

**Open House**

Friends, Cora and I would like to invite you to an “open house” event at the Manse, 7 Capitol Close, on Thursday 20th August. We will open the manse for **Tea, Coffee or Cold Drinks & Cakes** from **2.30pm to 4.30pm** or for a **BBQ** from **6pm until 9pm**.

Do come along, these are informal events, come for a little while or for the whole session, we’d love to see you for a time of fun and fellowship together. We are hoping and praying for sunshine but, in the event of wet weather, we will have gazebos available so the events will still take place.

Blessings, John

**New System for Booking Rooms at UCD**

We will be implementing a new booking system for the hiring of our premises. This will commence from Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The new booking system will allow any user to:

- view all current bookings and make new bookings
- see when rooms are available
- amend or delete a booking

All current bookings have been transferred to the new system. The booking system can be accessed from <https://hallbookingonline.com/ucdorchester/> or through the [church website](#)

Process

Hirers have the facility to request their own bookings on the website. The booking is then reviewed by the Administrator and a confirmation email is sent. However, hirers can still email the [UCD Office Administrator](#) if they prefer.

We hope that this new system will provide more flexibility and control and reduce the amount of administration work. There should be no reason why the room for any church meeting or activity is not booked in advance. We do not want groups turning up and finding their room has been taken by another group.

If you have any queries about the new system, please speak to Peter Robinson.



**Come Walk With Us**

All are welcome to join Gill & Peter Robinson and Enid & John Parson on a leisurely walk of about 4 miles on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, starting at 2 pm from Moreton. There is free parking in a field on the left-hand side as you enter the village from Crossways. Please meet at the signpost outside the [Old School House](#) in the middle of the village. For further details, please contact one of us.

[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.

### Rev Neil Riches

For the last few years, the Rev. Neil Riches has been the minister of Hope and Radipole United Reformed Churches in Weymouth. He has also preached at UCD, principally at our services on Sunday evening and Wednesday morning. Now, unfortunately, he is going to have to retire because of ill health. His final services at UCD will be on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> June, at 10.30am and on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, at 10.45am. His final service in Weymouth will be at [Radipole United Reformed Church](#) on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> July, at 10.30am. We should like to thank him for leading our worship here at UCD, and we give him our best wishes for his retirement.

### Rev Ruth Lownsborough

You are warmly invited to attend Rev Ruth Lownsborough's leaving service, to be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 6 pm at [Easton Methodist Church](#) (Easton Square, Easton, Portland, DT5 2AL). Tea and cakes will be served from 5 pm to give us the opportunity for conversation and fellowship.

### Children and Family Events in July and August

[Story Tots](#) had its annual seaside trip to Weymouth on 19<sup>th</sup> June, which was enjoyed by all who went. The ice creams went down a treat.

We need help on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July to set up Story Tots at 8.30am and clear up at 10.45am, and a couple of people to stay for the full session, 9.30 – 11.00. Please have a word with Pauline Humphrey if you can help. Story Tots Plus will be on Thursdays 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August. Again, if anyone would like to come and help during the summer period please see Peter Jenner.

### [Forest Praise](#) at St George's, Fordington

The date for the July Forest Praise is Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July. The theme will be festivals as we will be in the main holiday season. Lots of things outside including a bouncy castle, ball pool and ice cream. There is NO Forest Praise in August. If you know any families, please do tell them about Forest Praise and encourage them to come along and find out for themselves what we do.

### [Dorset County Show](#) – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September

Plans for this year's Show are progressing well. On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July we are having a Volunteers' Open Evening, as we did last year, from 6pm to 7.30pm here at UCD. The volunteer role descriptions for each of the five areas we offer will be available to read so that it's quite clear what we need volunteers to do in our marquee. Tea, coffee and cake will be available.

Peter Jenner, Children & Families & Outreach Lay Worker

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 5pm  
Dorchester's Community Flute Choir  
proudly present

### [Flute Cakes Favourites](#)

Enjoy a varied programme of some of our favourite pieces followed by a drink and a slice of cake. All proceeds from the sale of hot beverages and cake and/or donations go to **Action for Children**

### [Dorchester Poverty Action Cream Tea](#)

in the Manor House gardens,  
Martinstown, DT2 9JN  
(village hall if wet)

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2.30 – 4.30**

£5 for cream tea + £3 for a glass of fizz  
Parking on road in village  
Everyone welcome

### Communion Stewards

We need a couple more communion stewards who are able to serve in the balcony, which includes carrying the trays of wine upstairs. If you can help with communion 4 times a year, please see Wendy.

### Wednesday Coffee Morning Charity Stalls

The charities booked in for July are:

July	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Action for Children	9 <sup>th</sup>	Dorchester Poverty Action
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Parkinson's Society	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Durnovaria Ladies for Julia's House
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Julia's House		

At the time of writing (20<sup>th</sup> June), we have no charities booked in for August. 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

#### Cards & Games, Cake & Chat

July 17<sup>th</sup> and August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2.30pm-4.30pm in the coffee lounge  
Bring along your favourite game and/or a pack of cards. Everyone welcome - contact [Ruth Magee](#) or Elizabeth Haynes.

#### 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.

### Hearing Loop

There is a loop system in both the church and the hall. If the speaker is using a microphone then, by pressing the "loop" switch on your hearing aid, you will be connected to the loop and, as one person said, it will sound as though the speaker is speaking directly into your ear. If you use a hearing aid, try it!! John Hilton

### Church Tower Stairs

During the fire drill a couple of months ago, some people leaving the church gallery by the Tower Stairs found these stairs difficult as they are steep, have two turns in them and have only one handrail. It seemed that with the stairs being less than 1 metre wide (by 50mm!) a second handrail could not be installed. However, advice from an architect corrected this impression. The Building Regulations Approved Document B states :

#### WIDTH

D4 c For a stair, the clear width between the walls or balustrades. *On escape routes and stairs, handrails and strings intruding into the width by a maximum of 100mm on each side may be ignored.*

So, a new handrail less than 100mm wide can be installed on the wall side of the Tower Staircase. The architect also suggested a second handrail might be installed on the upper part of the main gallery staircase. Documentation for application to the URC LBAC is in preparation and a resolution will be drafted for the next Church meeting, to approve an application being made to the LBAC for permission to install the handrails. Paul Smith



### United Church Shop

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

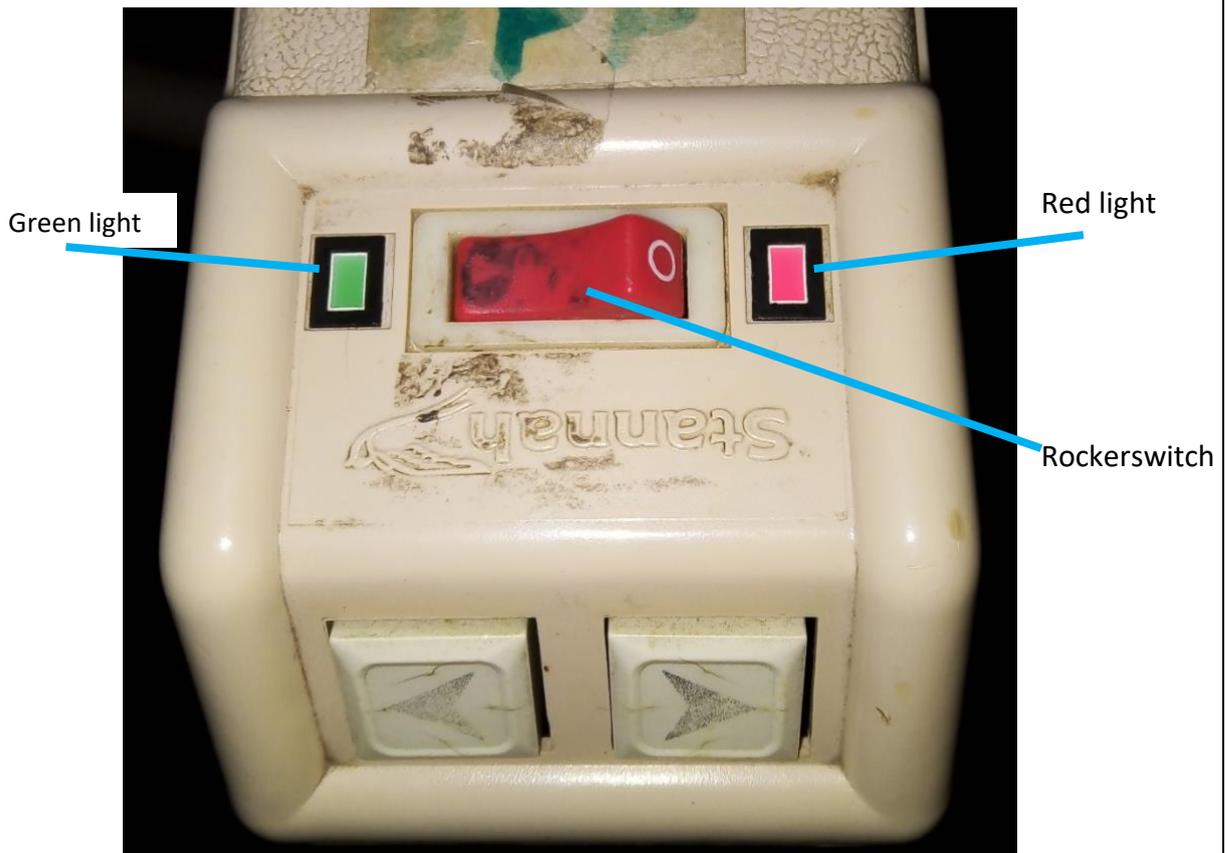
[The shop](#) is in Charles Street, at the back of the church  
building, opposite Dorchester Library

We've got new stock from Shared Earth, so do  
come and take a look!

### No. 51 chair lifts

There are two chairlifts on the staircase in number 51. They are powered by rechargeable batteries but, lately, someone has been switching the system off so that it will not recharge and the batteries are flat when someone wants to use them. In order to recharge the batteries, BOTH the red and green lights on the arm should be lit. If you use the chairlift or go past and notice that only the green light is on, please either move the rocker switch on the arm so that the "O" shows and the red light comes on again or notify one of the property committee or one of the stewards.

Many thanks, John Hilton



### **Dorchester Family Support**

Last year Dorchester Family Support helped just under 200 families with weekly food parcels in the summer holidays and this year we do not expect numbers to reduce. We estimate that each parcel will cost around £28.00 and feedback from families highlighted the need for dental products for the children, which will now be included. Volunteer rotas are currently being put together and, as usual, we shall be working from the Thomas Hardy site from 24 July.

If you could support us with a donation we would be very grateful. Details can be found [on our website](#) or alternatively I am happy to accept any offers of support.

Thank you. Kath Joslin

### **Notices for news sheet**

The deadline for the September news sheet is midday on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> August. 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.