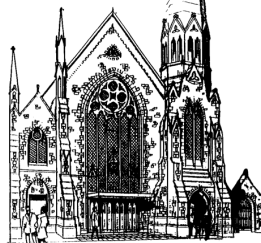


NEWS

United Church Dorchester



DECEMBER 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

We are a Christian Community seeking to be a Beacon of God's Light and Love for All

Services

7th December

10.30 am Rev Dr Michael Hopkins
Crib Service

14th December

10.30 am Mr Tony Boyden
Holy Communion
4.00 pm Tea-Pot

21st December

10.30 am Rev John Yarrien
6.30 pm Rev John Yarrien
Carol Service

Christmas Eve

4.00 pm Christingle
11.15 pm Joint Midnight
Communion at St George's

Christmas Day

10.30 am Rev John Yarrien

28th December

10.30 am Worship Committee

Church Family News

We are sad to announce the deaths of Maureen Spracklen and Laurence Merry. Maureen attended regularly until her health deteriorated. Laurence has been attending on Sunday and Wednesday regularly for many, many years. It is only in the last few months, since he has been in hospital, that he has been unable to attend. Please remember their families and friends in your prayers.

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, who can be confused in the present but have good memories of Christmases past, for those who find sitting or concentrating for a long time difficult, and for all their carers and friends. Everyone is welcome to Quiet Christmas on **Friday 12th December at 3pm**. The service will be followed by tea and Christmas fare.

Market Day Services

Wednesdays at 10.45 am

3rd December Rev Peter Clark
10th December Mr Tony Boyden
17th December Rev Steph Jenner
31st December Rev Brenda Stephenson

Afternoon Tea and Favourite Hymns

The next Tea-Pot is on Sunday, 14th December, 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.

Wednesday Coffee Morning Charity Stalls

In the Hall from 9.30am until 12 noon

December 3 rd	Parkinson's Society
10 th	Freedom from Torture
17 th	Cats Protection

If you would like to run a stall in aid of a charity which you support, please contact John Parson. We have no vacancies before Christmas, but are taking bookings for the new year.

[Carol Singing in South Street](#)

(outside the church)

Wednesday 17th December at 11.30am

in aid of

[Action for Children](#)

[Christian Aid Carol Singing](#)

December 24, 1000-1100

outside Barclays Bank

Do come and join us

A great way to start Christmas!

Green Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th December, 10-12

Did you know that United Church Dorchester is an [Eco Church](#)?

Did you know that we are planning to put solar panels on the roof?

Did you know that we are part of the Dorchester Churches Together Ecology Group?

Come along and find out more while enjoying coffee and cake and raising funds for the new solar panels.

Ride and Stride, September 2025

Thank you to all those who helped me staff the church for the [Ride and Stride](#) event. Belated as it is, I wish to reiterate my own personal thanks to you all. We welcomed about 35 visitors and one four-footed friend to UCD, and over £600 was raised. And thanks to Eric and John who rode for us.

As many already know, I have been in hospital now for some time, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who have enquired, sent cards and messages and prayed for me. It is greatly appreciated.

Once again, many thanks, and God bless you all.

Shawn Board

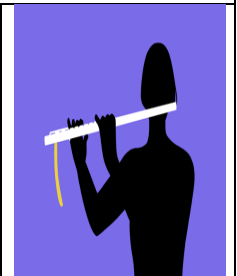
[Flute Cakes at Christmas](#)

Saturday 13th December at 5pm

Enjoy a varied programme of some of our favourite festive pieces followed by a drink and a slice of cake

All proceeds from the sale of refreshments and donations go to

[Action for Children](#)



[Journey to the Stable 2025](#)

A very big THANK YOU to all those who have signed up to steward and welcome the public to Journey to the Stable on Saturdays 6th & 13th December (open 11-2) and Friday 12th December (open 11-1.30) and those helping with the school visits (4 schools) from 4th to 9th December. This is the biggest outreach that we do as we remind people of the true meaning of Christmas in an interactive and informative way. The stable that we set up in the Quiet Room will stay in place until 28th December so that people can go and see it. Please remember Journey to the Stable in your prayers. See Peter Jenner if you wish to know more.

Family Fun Morning in Church - Saturday 20th December, 10 - 12 noon

We are having a Fun Morning for families before Christmas again this year on 20th December. There will be various things for children to do, crafts, icing biscuits, toys, refreshments, and children will be able to dress up in "Nativity" clothing so their parents can take a picture. The Stable will be open for families to visit. Baby changing and feeding facilities will be available. See Peter Jenner for more details.

Story Tots

There will be NO [Story Tots](#) on Christmas Day or New Year's Day and we start again on Thursday 8th January. We wish all our families a very happy and enjoyable Christmas and best wishes for 2026.

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 Meeting dates

Church meeting
Monday 16th February 2026 at 7pm
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 28th April 2026 at 7pm

All are welcome to attend

Saturday Men's Breakfast Meetings

The next Men's Group meeting will be at 8.30 a.m. on 13th December.

Paul Wallis



United Church Shop

Our [Church Shop](#) will be open as normal on Christmas Eve from 10-12.30 for any last-minute books, gifts, cards, and Traidcraft products. The shop will then be closed until we reopen on Tuesday 6th January.

The shop management team and volunteers would like to thank all our customers who have supported the shop in 2025 and look forward to your continued support in 2026. New customers are always welcome.

Christmas Shoeboxes

Thank you to everyone who made up a Christmas shoebox or gave individual items. 29 shoeboxes and 4 bags have been collected for the charity "[House of Opportunity](#)" in Salisbury. The charity works with families, individuals and children who live in poverty and hence are at risk of modern day slavery. These boxes will be going off to south east Europe as you read this. Thank you.

Reverse Advent Calendar

For the last two years we have encouraged our congregation to participate in a Reverse Advent Calendar. This involves taking a jam jar and putting a coin in it each day from Advent Sunday, which this year is on the 30th November, until Christmas Day. The coin may be of any amount, and it does not have to be the same amount each day. We would then hand the jam jar in on Christmas Day or one of the next two Sundays, with the money going to the [Dorchester Food Bank](#).

You should be aware by now that we hope to do several major repairs and refurbishments to the building. The church roof needs repairing; we hope to add solar panels which would reduce our electricity bills; the hall windows need to be replaced, which should also reduce our heating costs; we intend to refurbish the main toilets. All this will cost a great deal of money. We shall apply for grants, and Norma Leigh has identified about twenty grant-making bodies to whom we can apply. However, these organisations will expect us to raise some of the money ourselves.

The Council of Stewards considered this, and realizing that we would be asking our members to give generously towards all this work, the stewards decided that this year we should not ask members to give even more money via the Reverse Advent Calendar.

When some members learnt about this, they were disappointed, and some decided that they would put coins in a jam jar just as they had done in previous years. For them, participating in a Reverse Advent Calendar was clearly not about fundraising for charity, and in any case, if you put a 5p coin in each day, it will only cost £1.30 in total. For these folk, the Reverse Advent Calendar was a spiritual discipline during Advent, part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

Of course, each of us is free to take part in a Reverse Advent Calendar if we wish, and, if we do, each of us can give the money to whichever charity we choose. If you decide to take part in the Reverse Advent Calendar and to give the money to the Food Bank, you may, if you wish, bring the money to church on Christmas Day or one of the next two Sundays, and Enid and I will undertake to send all the money so raised to the Food Bank.

John Parson

Notices for news sheet

The deadline for the January news sheet is midday on **Sunday, 14th 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. 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.