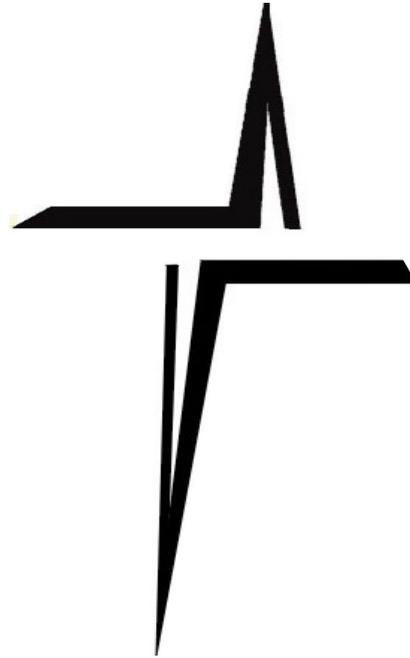


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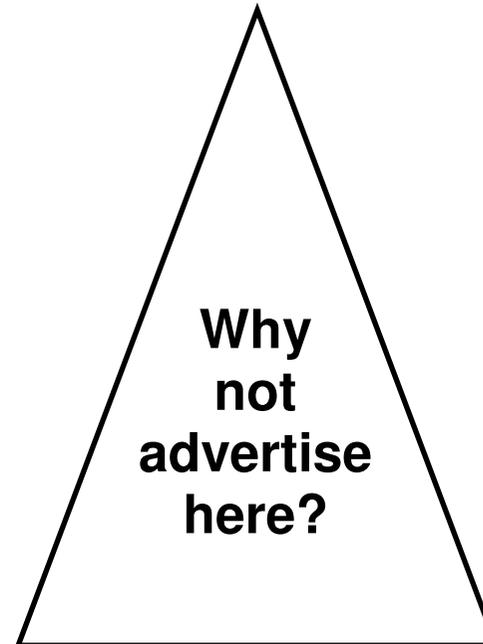
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““Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" (John 18:38)

From Peter, your Bridport-based Minister



Friends,

There is an old Chinese Proverb I am told that say, “May you live in interesting times.” Actually I may be wrong, it may indeed be an old

Chinese curse! And interesting times we do indeed live in, as I write in the aftermath of a bruising, controversial, divisive and at times highly charged Referendum campaign. We all know the outcome of the vote but few if any of us actually know how it will pan out in the end and how the negotiations will end.

What I found the most disappointing thing about the campaign was that, despite the absolute conviction being expressed by politicians, the vast range of statistics, figures, projections, assurances and promises (not to mention downright lies, hence the quote from Pilate above!) being spewed out by both sides of the argument, it was all going into a vast sea of cynicism, scepticism and an overwhelming feeling that this was not democracy’s finest hour.

It can be summed up in the following things frequently said now during any recent election; “They’re all the same!” “They’re all in it for themselves!” “Voting never makes any difference!” Oh I could go on but I think that’s enough of these - especially as I can surely be right in asserting that this vote will most certainly make a huge difference over time even if other votes made no difference (which I have to say I’d strongly contend!)

Having watched as I have the politicians from the two main parties behaving in a way that is, to say the least, disappointing, exhibiting rank levels of disloyalty, personal ambition and hubris you may be surprised to read the next sentence:

We are truly blessed to live in this nation.

Yes really! For in many, many nations, just suggesting that politicians are at fault, leave alone corrupt or some such accusation, would be enough to cause you to be taken in an roughed up at the very least (at worst 'disappeared.')

In many places the democratic process is worse than dubious and in others entirely absent. At least in this nation we are not only free to take part in the democratic process, we are free to criticise it and ask for ourselves the big questions such as "What is truth?" Churchill described democracy as something like the 'least worst' of systems and I think flawed as it is, it is at least better than many of the alternatives on offer. And if I were to add another positive note, I have in fact met many politicians and folk deeply involved in the political process and, despite the public perception, I have to say that overwhelmingly they were decent, principled people who passionately believed they were seeking the common good.



Being 'in the world but not of it' includes our duty as Christians to partake in the society we are born into and to take part in the decisions, based upon our Christian principles, its teachings and its values. In the aftermath of this particular event, we need to **pray**, **speak out** and **engage** in action **for** unity, peace, justice and **against** the bigotry, divisiveness and racial hatred that appear to have been unleashed. We should also thank God that as British Citizens we are blessed to be free and able to do all three!



On a far more frivolous matter but one very close to my heart and, since the sponsorship raised goes towards the UCD Refugee charities collection, obtusely connected, can I give a massive thanks to all of you who have encouraged and sponsored me in my weight loss campaign. As I write I have passed the '1 stone lost' point and am in sight of my target weight. We have also raised approaching £150 so good news all round (well less round actually!)



Your still-reducing Minister,

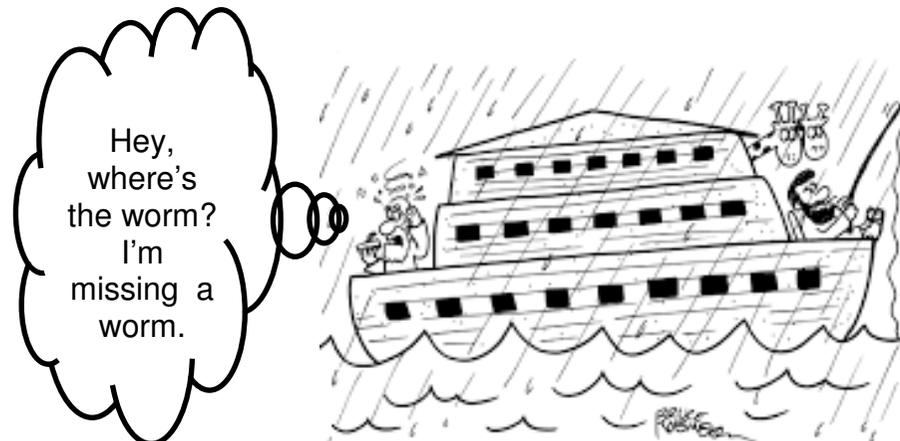
Outreach slot



Have you noticed the sayings which are up in the rooms? The idea is to offer a thought for consideration – either by users or for us to share.

The thought inserts in the menu holders in the Coffee Shop are changed frequently and a new one has been put in recently. They are worth reading.

Chris Warren



Can we see God outside the church

YES. We are thrilled to hear that Revd. Thomas Woodhouse, Rector of Dorchester and Chair of Churches Together in Dorchester and Area has been invited by our new Mayor, Tim Harries, to be Mayor's Chaplain. He will also share a 'reflection' at the start of Town Council Meetings.

Further, in June, Peter Jenner and I went to a Chaplains Conference in Winchester where we heard of the exciting things happening in that city as well as in Newbury and Poole. The others were interested to hear what was happening in Dorchester through our Retail Chaplains. They were also really surprised that we had only been going a little over a year! We were reminded of the importance of this work in representing Christ and the churches in the workplace.

We are blessed with a great team including Peter, John Saunders and Mike Jacobson from our church and four others who visit the shops in South Street and the Arcades for about two hours each week. We have not been able to expand beyond that area due to the high uptake. Over 90% of the shops and firms said yes! Ours is a negotiated presence i.e. by invitation. We are present (where people are), pastoral (caring for people in their daily needs) and prophetic (bringing the vision of the Spirit to challenges as an independent person). We go to listen, to let those we are called to serve set the agenda. Meaningful conversations do follow.



At Easter we wondered how to say 'Happy Easter' to those visited. We decided to give a daffodil to those in each shop and I hope you saw the great publicity this received in the Echo and free papers. The gift was really well received.

We have just done another Introductory Course and two more people will become Chaplains.

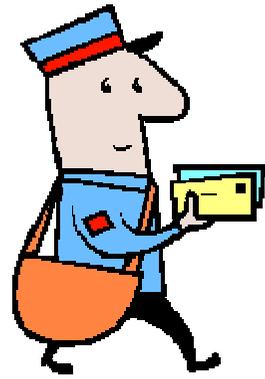
There are significant opportunities¹¹ to develop the work so if you

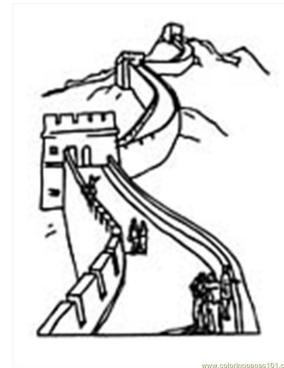
Getting to know you

Not included in the web vesion









A reflection from Mary Brayley of a trip made with her husband Dennis in 2001 to this ancient church

Onze Lieve Vrouwebasiliek, Maastricht

Among the network of old streets in Maastricht, in a tree-lined square, we came across a massive building like an old castle. Many people entered under an archway into a black interior. We followed to see what was inside.

First came a bank of lighted candles, then a big door into an experience like that of going into a cinema after the picture has begun.

Incense hovered in the shafts of weak sunshine filtered through narrow slit-like windows filled with modern glass of many rich colours. I could just make out the solid square slabs of pillars, and an unlit chandelier. White-robed people and some priests in the distance were lit up. The service had started; the huge building was full of devout people and the only seats for us were behind a large pillar.

The Mass continued (in Dutch, presumably); we could make out some words like 'helige gaest' - Holy Ghost, many times and '---nacht' -- on the night he was betrayed. In spirit, we joined in the Creed, recognising some of this and enjoyed the beautiful tones of the great organ and a gifted cantor singing a familiar piece of music.

For over half an hour we worshipped with the congregation - a different, yet similar service from ours at home and with a great sense of worship.

Afterwards we heard that it was a confirmation service – one of many held through the years in this eleventh century basilica, in war and in peace. We wouldn't have missed being part of this Christian witness.

We only had a few hours in the town and went on to enjoy seeing whole families - father, mother and children – walking and playing in a green park outside the city walls and moat, also a fair and bowls contest in a very noisy square! What struck us was the cleanliness and lack of graffiti and the politeness of the people in the cafes (no shops open on a



Dear God,
Help me spend today 😊
with a *Smile* on my face,
Love ❤️ in my heart,
Joy in His grace, 🧠
and my *thinking cap* on all day.
Amen

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) looks back one year after the Nepal earthquake struck

Without warning, the ground began shaking. In remote parts of Nepal, homes, schools, and other buildings collapsed. Some people were able to flee, but many were buried beneath the crumbling structures. Roads and trails disappeared as mountainsides gave way. In some cases, entire communities were buried. Some 8,900 people were killed, 605,000 homes were destroyed, and another 81,000 houses were badly damaged. 'Nepal will forever remember 25 April 2015, when the 7.8 earthquake struck. And then the 7.3 quake followed on 12 May. So many villages and suffering people in the mountains were cut off,' said John Woodberry, MAF disaster response and security manager.

'Aid groups were in Kathmandu wanting to help, but there was no way to get to those remote communities. That's when MAF was able to step in and, with God's help, provide a solution. Within days of the quake, MAF had mobilised a response team. Through the gifts of many supporters, including a grant from UK Aid, MAF enlisted the services of *Fishtail Air*, a Nepalese helicopter company. Working together, MAF and Fishtail provided helicopter transportation for more than 8,000 relief workers from 96 organisations to 340 isolated communities, carrying food, water, shelter, medical aid, and other desperately needed services.'

The community of Langtang was particularly hard-hit. Where a thriving village used to be, a huge grey mass of rubble 100 feet deep now fills an entire Himalayan valley. More than 150 people are buried there — about one third of the population of the Langtang Valley. Some 100 families lost their homes. 'Using helicopters to reach the people in Langtang Valley at a small fraction of the true cost is critical for us and we are very

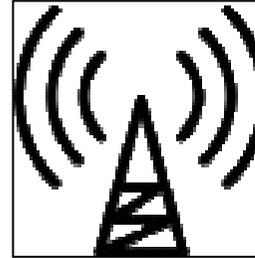
grateful to MAF for making our relief and rebuilding ministry possible,' said Jonas Häberle, Operation Mobilization's (OM) relief project manager in Nepal. OM has been using its expertise to rebuild shattered homes and improve their earthquake resistance. The organisation is also providing other supplies to help villagers prepare for the hard winter months. MAF has a contract to work with Fishtail Air until December 2016.

'The helicopters have been averaging 42 hours of flying per week, so the need is still there,' says Stan Unruh, MAF's country director in Nepal. 'But many of the people and groups working in the mountains will no longer be able to afford the flights. MAF is looking at several options for providing the transportation to these isolated places with so many needs. We are considering possible fixed-wing operations in western Nepal. In north-central Nepal we are more likely to use helicopters, due to terrain and needs there,' said Stan. 'We're looking at several operational models that use helicopters. It could be a logistics model, similar to our current relationship with Fishtail. There is much to be explored and decided.' 'One thing is for certain: after several years of seemingly fruitless work in Nepal, God unexpectedly opened a door for MAF. We've stepped through it, and are excited to see what He has in store for this country and its people.'



Ed - MAF was our world mission project in 2005

“Synod calling”



...the first of a series

One of the many good things about the United Reformed Church is the way in which local churches come together to form Synods to support each other in their mission and to do together those things that are best done in a wider forum. The work of Wessex Synod is only possible because of the many individuals who give their time to serve on Synod committees and groups, so that things get done. It is amazing to think that over 100 volunteers are involved in one way or another – sharing their gifts with the wider church.

But, of course, no-one wants to do the same job forever and so we normally ask people to take on a task for a period of 4 years; which means that every year we are looking for new people to bring their unique God-given gifts and insights.

Here are some of the areas of our work:

Church and Society Group – working on issues such as Fair Trade, poverty, racial justice, and climate change.

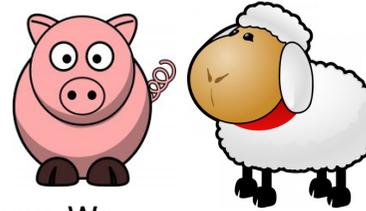
World Church Group – developing our links with congregations in France, Zambia and elsewhere.

Area Pastoral Committees in each quarter of the Synod – developing strategies to deploy and support ministry in local churches, especially in times of change.

You can find out more about these and the other work we do by looking at the Synod website www.urcwessex.org.uk which is really easy to use.

If you are interested in serving God in this way, or know someone else who might find this a rewarding thing to do,

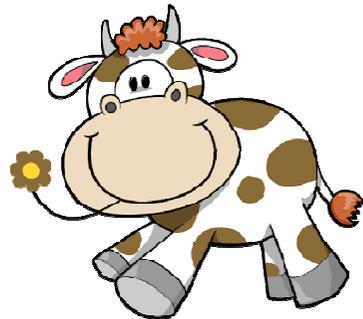
Dorset County Show 2016



This year's show is on Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th September on the County Show ground. United Church, for the third year running, will be there at the show. We shall be offering a lovely relaxed, free, family-friendly area, which will include baby changing, a discreet, comfortable baby feeding area, free ball game and badge making for children and the ever popular "dog watering hole". We shall have display boards which will show the different activities and groups we have at United Church. This is a great outreach and community opportunity. This year the County Show organizers decided that there would be Eight Free Of Charge Stands and applications could be made for them. We did apply and **YES** we were one of those chosen which meant that a cheque was returned to us for £325. This just shows how valuable our work is viewed by the Organizers.

We shall be looking for people to 'Man our Marquee' during the Show and this year we want to get a few folk from across the Circuit to help as it is the Dorset County Show and will help ease the workload from United Church. We are looking for people who can do a two hour stint, have a break (look round the show) and then do another 2 hours within one day. This saves having to swap tickets about. If you can do

this your ticket is free, but for those who can only do two hours (which is fine) a donation to the cost of a ticket would be appreciated. There will be a list for people to indicate what times they can do, on the notice board in the hall in August.



Please have a word with Lynne Antell or Peter Jenner for any more information that you may require.

TGI Monday

TGI Monday is a weekly online chat show featuring a panel of Christians, including clergy and a theologian, answering questions sent in by viewers. After a successful three-month trial, reaching thousands of viewers, the show launched at the beginning of April 2016 and has already caught the attention of the national church and media.

A venture from the Diocese of Lichfield's Online Pastor, Dr Ros Clarke, TGI Monday is filmed at Little Drayton church in Shropshire, and uses online media to reach out beyond the pews and into everyday life. Viewers are invited to send in their questions on any aspect of life and faith, for a panel from Lichfield Diocese which represents a broad range of Christian views within the Church of England.

Ros said: "Former Chief Rabbi Lord Sachs recently won the £1.1m Templeton Prize and said 'We are trying to work out how we can speak to this You Tube short-attention-span generation which nonetheless have hearts of gold and are waiting for a positive altruistic message.' Well, this is our answer."

Earlier this month, BBC Songs of Praise came to check out the project and presenter, Connie Fisher, appeared as a guest on the TGI show

Revd Zoe Heming is a curate in Shropshire. She said "We don't always agree with each other and that is a strength of the show. Being a Christian is open to everyone, whoever you are, whatever your background or life circumstances."

Revd Dan Stork Banks is a curate in



six rural parishes in Shropshire. He said “People watch because we offer something spontaneous, unpolished and authentic - something you can trust. On TGI Monday we answer real questions, sharing what the church has to offer in Jesus Christ.”

Revd Hywel Snook, vicar of Christ Church, Little Drayton, said: “We agreed to do a three month trial, and we’ve just been blown away by the response. So many questions have come in that we’ve started doing TGI Extras, giving short answers to questions we don’t have time to cover on the show.”

Simon Jones, Bishop’s Chaplain & Communication Officer, who previously spent twenty years as a TV sound recordist, oversees all the technical aspects also occasionally providing a lay, non-theologian’s perspective to the discussions. “Through the internet and new technology, people can peer in and gain insight into our Christian faith, in all its glorious Anglican variety from the comfort of their phone or laptop”

Since its launch, TGI Monday has featured in the Church Times, BBC Local Radio, the Church of England’s Podcast, the Archbishop Cranmer blog and even the Spectator magazine!

The weekly programmes can be found on Facebook, YouTube and as an audio-only podcast as well as the programme's own website.

*The TGI Monday Mission Statement is:
TGI Monday seeks to be a safe place for anybody to ask questions on Christian faith and spirituality wherever they are in their faith journey, from people who are curious about Christianity through to those with many years in the pew. We offer perspectives from across the Anglican tradition from Evangelical to Catholic, Conservative to Liberal, because we believe that the church is a family and we all have something important to learn and to share. Using the latest social media technology, we want to engage your honest questions with our*



Migrants or expatriots

As you will know the church via the World Church Committee has chosen to

support refugees, particularly from Syria, as its overseas project for 2016.

A great deal has been said about the 'Migrant Crisis' in the run up to the European Referendum. Whilst not wishing to deny that the numbers can be daunting, I think it is important to put the issue into perspective. I find it interesting that when Europeans move to another country, quite often for economic reasons or to improve their lifestyle, they are known as Expatriots, but when people fleeing repression want to come to Europe they are labelled 'Migrants' and seen as a problem.

In an article on Migration in 'Ninety-Nine' magazine (Challenging the power of the 1%) Alex Scrivener makes the case for a Europe that defends freedom of movement.

"The truth is there is no 'migrant crisis'. There is a war crisis, a poverty crisis and an economic equality crisis. The people trying to get to Europe are escaping war or poverty. The real solution involves dealing with the root causes. At the very least, we need to stop our government pursuing policies that make things worse. That means not arming a Saudi Arabia that is aggressively bombing Yemen. That means not making dodgy deals with Turkish Government that is more interested in repressing the Kurds than stopping ISIS. That means not pushing unfair trade deals that lock poor countries into poverty.

Of course, we also need to take our share of refugees. Remember that, for all the headlines, the vast majority of people fleeing conflict in Syria are not coming to Europe. If Lebanon, a country half the size of Wales, has taken in over a million Syrian refugees, the UK should

take many more than the 40,000 it has pledged to accept over the next five years.”

The latter statistic was confirmed by Stephen Dominy, from Christian Aid who spoke at our World Church Service in April, which focused on refugees.

We are just beginning to find out what is being done locally to help refugees who may come to Dorset, an initiative that is largely in the hands of the Red Cross.

At a future date we might want to look at what we as a church, or as individuals, can do to welcome and help any refugees, who fleeing from war, poverty, or oppression, may arrive on our doorstep.

A Prayer for the Refugee Crisis

Heavenly Father,
you are the source of all
goodness, generosity and love.

We thank you for opening the hearts of many
to those who are fleeing for their lives.

Help us now to open our arms in welcome,
and reach out our hands in support.

That the desperate may find new hope,
and lives torn apart be restored.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ
Your Son, Our Lord,



Gardening God's Way

Plant three rows of peas:

Peace of mind

Peace of heart

Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash;

Squash gossip

Squash indifference

Squash grumbling

Squash selfishness.

Plant four rows of lettuce:

Let us be faithful

Let us be kind

Let us be obedient

Let us really love one another.

Garden also with some turnips:

Turn up for meeting

Turn up for service

Turn up to help one another

To conclude our garden

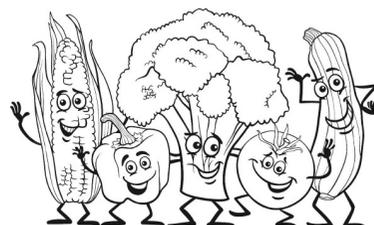
We must have some thyme:

Time for God

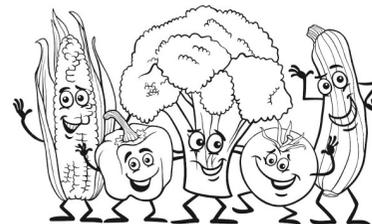
Time for study

Time for prayer

Water freely with patience and
cultivate with love.



There
can be
much
fruit in
your
garden



Volunteers needed

Pastoral visitors

More pastoral visitors are needed. This entails having a group of people that you get to know and visit on average once every two months with the Vision magazine. However some may need more pastoral care depending on the circumstances. See Wendy Hilton for more information.

Family News

We give thanks for the life of Janet Walker. The number of people attending Janet's thanksgiving service demonstrated the high affection in which she was held both in her own right and as a minister's wife. We remember her and her family in our prayers.

We pray for all our young people receiving their exams results and thinking about their future. We pray especially for those who are moving schools or embarking on a new stage in their life, as they move on to university. Also to those finishing university and moving into the world of work. We also mustn't forget their parents, who will also need support to adjust to the changes. .



Congratulations to Mary Brayley who celebrated her 90th birthday in July, and also to Sue and Colin Gannaway, who celebrated their golden wedding and to Paul and Pat Smith their ruby wedding, both in July.

THE MAGAZINE TEAM

Editor Wendy Hilton 33c London Road Dorchester	Advertising Manager Ronnie Boyden 268726
e mail address: Jandwehilton @waitrose.com	Photocopying Shirley Hood

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SERVICES

Holy Communion (2nd Sunday in the month)	Sunday	9.00am
Morning Worship (Junior Church, Crèche, Coffee)	Sunday	10.30am
Evening Worship	Sunday	6.30pm
Shoppers Service	Wednesday	10.30 - 10.45am

NUMBER FIFTY ONE

Church shop	Mon to Sat	10 - 12.30pm
Coffee Shop / Hall	Tues to Sat	10 - 12.30pm
Quiet Room	"	"

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Worship Groups: Church Choir, Instrumental Group, Informal Singing Group, Brass Ensemble, Drama Group, Dance group

Bible Study/Discussion Groups: Fellowship Groups.

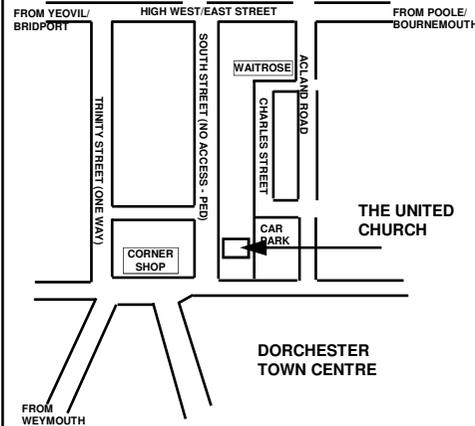
Prayer Groups: Prayer Chain, Prayer & Meditation Meetings.

Children's/ Youth Groups: Junior Church and Crèche, Antics youth group, Storytots

Social Groups: Thursday Night Out, Picnic People, Solos, Knit and Natter, Coffee Mornings, Art Group, Badminton Club, Country Dancing, Book Circle, Solos, Men's Group

Christian Activity Groups: Overseas and Home Missions, Methodist Homes for the Aged, Christian Aid, Bible Society, NCH Action for Children, Dorchester Poverty Action Group, Churches Together in Dorchester

How To Find Us



For more information about the Church or any of its activities please contact either Minister or the Senior Steward, Penny Fennell pennymf65@gmail.com

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