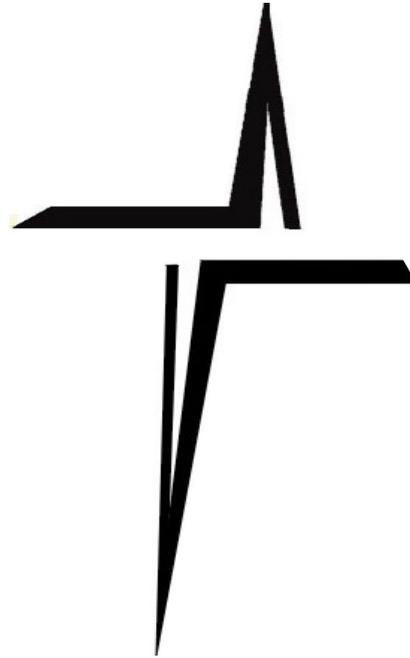


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Vision

Aug - Sept 2017

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From Peter, your Bridport based

*“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:14-17)*



Dear Friends,

As I write the church calendar moves into what is rather dully known as ‘Ordinary Time’ i.e. one of the periods of the year without a specific major (or minor) festival. Ordinary Time is a period when, unconstrained by the necessity to focus on Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost or whatever, (not that we would ever want to ignore them!) we are actually given the opportunity to explore our Bible texts more freely. Not that we always do so, but the option is there during ‘Ordinary Time’ to make it into ‘Extraordinary Time!’

And of course, there are many other ways of exploring our wonderful Scriptures, which, read untutored may often seem confusing and opaque. Many of us purchase Daily Readings Guides, programmes to read the ‘Bible in a Year’ or use a resource like Tom Wright’s ‘For Everyone’ series, which breaks each of the books of the New Testament into bite-sized chunks, which even have the text itself first in his own translation. I myself have found this latter resource very helpful, with each day being led though a mini sermon on the text and over time have read though every one of the series. Some more than once. Indeed John Goldingay has been commissioned to do the same

offering for the books of the Hebrew Scriptures, though I have to confess that personally, they weren't quite as impressive. Nevertheless they did make the Old Testament very accessible, so not altogether bad!

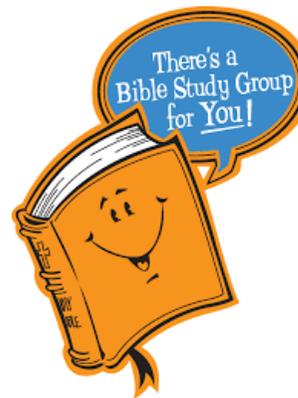
Recently in the United Church we have been exploring other ways of refreshing the existing Home / Fellowship / Bible Study groups that already meet and see if they can be even more helpful than they already are? So that is yet another way in which we have the opportunity to explore, study, and develop our faith. All of these I thoroughly encourage folk to consider if they are not doing so already, because frankly I do not think one hour on a Sunday morning is really enough.

But to all these choices, may I offer yet another one? This one is only any good if you have email and regularly check your emails. And particularly convenient if you pick up your emails on a tablet. It is called Daily Devotions from the URC and is an initiative that I signed up for nine months or so ago and have thoroughly enjoyed since doing so.

Essentially it is a daily email which arrives at 6:00am each morning and consist of a reading, a short reflection and a prayer. Mostly the reading is in a series from a book of the Bible or a series of Psalms and sometimes there are weeks when a series of classic hymns are offered. It is really interesting (and quite innovative) to read a bit of background and an offering of a new way of looking at these wonderful poems we mostly sing without thinking about very much, as we focus rather more on keeping to the tune! There are currently over 150 contributors, so even if occasionally the reflection is not as fulfilling as usual, fear not, there will be a different one in a different style tomorrow! And the lovely thing is that you can add these to your practice in addition to your current ones if you wish or, if you don't currently do such a thing, they are an easy way into such a way of developing your theological insight and spirituality.



If you are interested, the link can be found on <http://devotions.urc.org.uk/> where there is a great big blue box to click on if you wish to subscribe. If it doesn't ring your bells, then unsubscribing is equally easy. I recommend this as worth a go, even if unfortunately for you there will be my own first contribution in the first week of Advent ... when Ordinary / Extraordinary Time is but a memory!



## Home Groups/Bible Study Groups

There are some established and flourishing Home Groups/Bible Study groups in our church, but we also have many people who are not part of this network and we would like to try and rectify this.

Whilst established groups may like to continue as they are, some members may find it helpful to change especially if the groups are getting too big, members have moved and it is not so convenient, you find you know each other too well or other reasons. So we would like to hold what we have come to call a 'Home Group Amnesty'.

Please complete the form included within this magazine if you would like to join or change your home group.

You will be asked when you are available, whether you can travel, or offer lifts, whether you are prepared to host or lead etc and then with the stewards we shall try and set up some new groups.

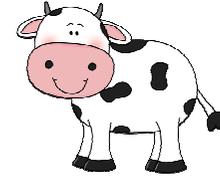
It would be wonderful if everyone signed up!

The new groups would look to start in the autumn.

Steph

## Dorset County Show Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd Sept

It is that time of the year again when the best of Dorset is on show to the public as people come from many a mile to enjoy all that is the Dorset County show. For the fourth year running United Church will be there amongst all the other stalls and attractions as we welcome parents and their children to marquee so that they can feed and change their off spring. We are again next to the WI refreshment marquee which is huge and attracts so many looking for refreshment (that includes those in our marquee who need to keep up their stamina).



Plans are still to be finalised as to what we shall be offering in the way of activities, but our theme will still be “**Love me, Change me, Feed me**”. We shall be asking our Young people if they will come and help on the Friday evening to put up our marquee and we will need people on the Saturday and Sunday to be available to help run activities, interact with parents and their children and provide a welcoming and loving place to be.

This is one of the best Outreach events that we do and it has to be right. Last year we were awarded a free pitch by the Show Secretary, but this year we have had to pay for our pitch of £540 PLUS VAT. This does not include the cost of our Marquee, which we get from another source at half price. We have also had to pay for tickets which are £10 each + VAT. So this year it would be really appreciated if those who “volunteer” to help could pay for their ticket. Once you have done your stint then you are free to explore the show for the rest of the day. We hope that you understand why we are asking.



If you are willing to help for a 2 hour slot or 2 x 2 hour slots please see either Lynne Antell or Peter Jenner. In due course we will put up a time slot list.

Any questions please ask Lynne Antell, Peter Jenner, Matthew & Heather Reed and Rev Steph

**Getting to know you**

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## **The Story of the Dorchester Minister who became a 'Founder of Massachusetts'**

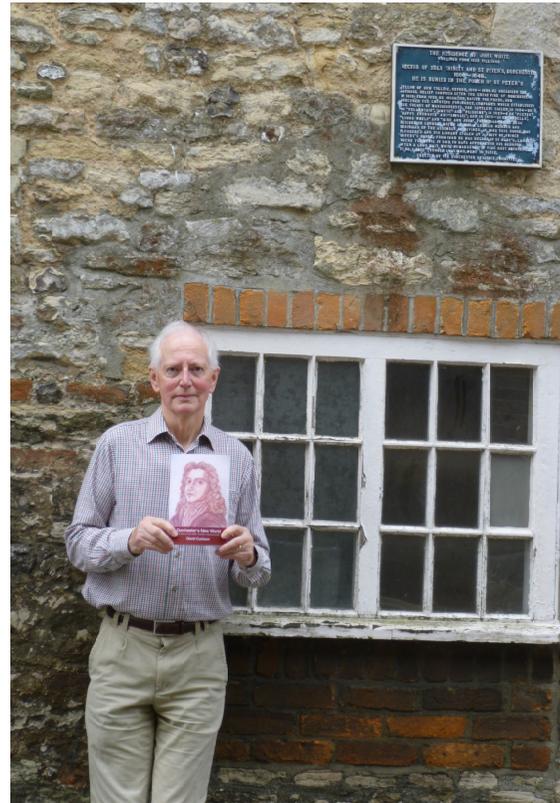
Local member and retired URC minister, David Cuckson, has written a new book about the Reverend John White, Rector of Dorchester during the troubled days of the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century, just as his old rectory in Colliton Street is about to be restored and incorporated as part of the £15 million planned new developments at the Dorset County Museum.

Under John White's leadership, after the disastrous fire that swept through Dorchester in 1613, the town was transformed into a model caring community, with systems of social welfare including a new school for the poor and almshouses for the elderly (which still continue today in West Walks and of which the Nappers Mite building in South Street was one). He then sought to export this model across the Atlantic and became

the driving force behind the Dorchester Company and the Massachusetts Bay Company, and he inspired many folk from Dorset and the surrounding area to emigrate and found a new Dorchester in Massachusetts, and later Windsor in Connecticut.

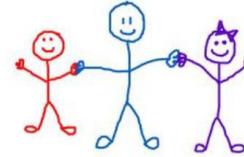
David Cuckson (seen here outside John White's Rectory) said, 'I believe that John White's legacy should be more widely known. The new initiative by the Dorset County Museum to bring the old rectory into the main body of the museum provides a great opportunity to celebrate his achievements both for Dorset residents and for visitors to the town from elsewhere, especially those from the USA seeking to explore the roots of their nation.'

The book (entitled *Dorchester's New World: The Vision of John White, 'Founder of Massachusetts'*) includes a foreword by Dr Peter Down, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society, and has been published by YouCaxton.co.uk. Julian Fellowes has commended the book as 'a fascinating account of the achievements of John White... He is one of the true founding fathers of America and his story deserves to be commemorated on both sides of the Atlantic.'



## Spot Light on Youth

**Overview of the Youth Activities we have at United Church AND across the Circuit and Pastorate.**



The ages of the Youth we cater for are from 1 month to 23 years old so quite a large age range. Various groups across the Circuit and Pastorate all do their bit and show the love of Jesus Christ in all that they seek to do with and for Young people. So we turn the spot light on:-

### **Storytots here at United Church , Dorchester**

Storytots, our toddler group, has been thriving since September last year. We generally have about ten children with their parent/grandparent/child minder, though we did once have twenty one children which, when you add the adults, made for an interesting morning! We all enjoy the time to play and chat.

On our last morning before the summer break we are having a picnic in the Borough Gardens.

To keep the group active we really need more helpers. If you could spare even one morning every half term please contact me or one of the Storytots team.

Thank you. Janet Evans

### **First Steps & Junior Church here at United Church, Dorchester**

We are a small bunch these days but that certainly doesn't stop us having lots of fun. We are very fortunate to have lovely facilities which include a fantastic playroom, which the children (of all ages) absolutely love. We meet every Sunday joining in with "Big Church" for the beginning of Worship before leaving to learn all about 'Gods love for us' in our own way.

So what do we do?

- ◆ We play games, we sing, we even play musical instruments!!!
- ◆ We love crafting & making things, we even love making a mess!!
- ◆ We look at Bible stories, sometimes acting out a particular story.
- ◆ We pray & love it when the children become confident enough to want to read the prayers themselves.



### Prayer walk

- ◆ We have enjoyed going out on a 'Prayer Walk', thanking God for all he gives us and we really loved going to the café for cake afterwards!
- ◆ We have enjoyed cooking & particularly enjoy our part in the annual Church Family Christmas meal & the Easter breakfast.
- ◆ We have enjoyed raising money for different causes; this year we have raised money to sponsor a gorgeous Puppy called Farah for "The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association"

The third Sunday of the month we have our own "**First Steps to Worship**". On this Sunday we don't join in with "Big Church" but have our own complete Worship upstairs. We enjoy this special time together and always end it with some refreshments usually squash & biscuits.

I'm sure we have missed something as we constantly search for new & exciting ways to learn about & enjoy Gods love for us. The children would love it if they had more friends to join us, so if you know anyone who might love what we have to offer, then we promise a very warm & friendly welcome

**Buggies and Brunch at Bere Heath Chapel** ( Part of Peter Jenner's work as Children and Families Worker )

We meet once a month on a Saturday morning between 10.30 am and 12 noon. The morning is for children and their parents, guardians, grandparents , whoever looks after them. Generally there is a structured theme which includes various crafts ( includes a lot of paint!!) bible story, planting bulbs and seeds, celebrating birthdays with cake, Parents getting their hands dirty helping their children. We always have brunch about ten past eleven with sandwiches, healthy options such as cucumber, carrots, tomatoes, and pies ,crisps and juice. We can have up to 15 children plus parents, who come from either Bere Heath or Bere Regis. An offshoot of this is, that I (Peter Jenner) go in with a team made up of Anglican, Congregational and Methodist into Bere Regis first school every two weeks for “Open the Book “ (Bible Society) and take assemblies acting out biblical stories. Working with the young people, their parents and Stewards from Bere Heath and Bere Regis is an absolute delight.

**Messy Church at Bridport United Church**  
(Part of Peter Jenner’s work as CFW)



We meet on the third Thursday of each month (except August ) from 3.30 – 5.30pm. Age range is from 1 month to 13 yrs and again they come with parents, grandparents, or whoever is looking after them. On average there are about 30 children plus parents and about 12-15 leaders. (all the leaders work so hard to prepare for Messy church and work very well together.) Messy church has been going now for five years and we celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> birthday in April. The sessions are themed and we cover the stories of Jesus in the Bible. The children when they come have a name badge, if it’s their birthday have a birthday badge, get a drink and then get on with at least four to five different activities, which always includes a food making table. At 4.30 pm we go into Church for a story, which we try and act out and can include things they have made in the activities followed by a couple of songs ( generally with actions). At 5pm we go back into the

hall where everything has been set for tea and we all sit down, say the Grace and eat . It could be chicken casserole, cottage pie, sausage hotpot, fish fingers & mash or picnic food and we always have pudding, banana & custard, chocolate bake & sauce, jelly & ice-cream to name but a few. Birthdays are celebrated (children & adults) with singing and cake (of course!). Messy Church is fun, noisy, fast moving, interactive, educational and brings parents and their children into a warm, welcoming and loving environment.

**EPIC at Broadmayne Methodist Church** (Part of Peter Jenner's work as CFW)

We meet on a Friday evening (term time) from 4pm to 5.30pm. The age range is from 9 to 13yrs, which is school years 5 -8. The young people that attend go to school on coaches and return on them. We do various crafts, watch DVDS, play games, get messy, have outings and try and make it a time of chilling out, after a week at school, so that they can enjoy the weekend . They eat copious amounts of toast with thick coverings of chocolate spread. ( you would think they were laying bricks !!) We also see the Friday club (First School) members, who meet at St Martins in Broadmayne, as they move into Epic when they are nine. They are collected from Broadmayne First School and taken to St Martins. Friday afternoon is a fun afternoon for all those who attend, the numbers are not high, but we are fulfilling a need in the village.

**Antics. For Young people across the Circuit & Pastorate aged from 13rs to 23 Yrs.**

Steph and I meet with this group on the first Friday of each month (except August) either at the manse or in parents homes. We run from 6.30pm to 8pm. Food plays an important part at the beginning of our time together, giving a chance for the young people to catch up with each other and find out what they have been doing, both about school and whatever else they wish to share. There is no set pattern, we take each month

as it comes. We may have discussions, watch a DVD, talk about what's happening in the world and decide about things that they would like to do as a group. Some of them help with putting up our Marquee for the Dorset County Show first weekend in September and helping during the weekend. They also help with the Easter breakfast and the Church Family Christmas meal. We try to make it a chill out time where they are with people of their own age and where they can be free to share their views and concerns, because after all they are the next generation.

Steph and I, Janice and a Dad, are going along with three of the young people to Greenbelt at Broughton Hall, Kettering, Northamptonshire over the August bank Holiday Weekend. If you do not know about Greenbelt it is a place to learn, to experience and to be. As well as music, the festival hosts a selection of various talks, workshops, debates exploring contemporary issues, Faith, Social Justice, Politics and more. Well worth attending.

If you know any young people, please do let them know what we do across the Circuit & Pastorate. They are the people of the present, but also of the future and we always make them feel welcome and very much part of our Church family and must not be ignored.

### **Dorchester Child Contact Centre**

Many of you will remember the setting up of the Child Contact



centre many years ago and the UCD's involvement with that.

The Dorchester Child Contact is now a charity in its own right. We are accredited by the National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC). They carry out re-accreditation visits every three years and we have just been notified and are preparing for this in January 2017.

NACCC's aim is promoting safe child contact for children with their non-resident parent or Grandparents within a national framework of child contact centres.

Dorchester Child Contact Centre sessions are run by volunteers on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month at UCD. It is somewhere children can enjoy the company of the parent they are separated from. The children are always the centre of our focus and volunteers create a warm and friendly atmosphere with plenty of toys and unlimited cups of tea and coffee. We remain a neutral non-judgemental service for both parents and try to support them to arrange on going contact for their children in the community.

If you would like more information about the work we undertake please contact Janice Young who is the Centre Co-

## **Pun-gent**

When asked by the preacher what thing might be given up for Lent, a young boy cried out "SOAP ! "

.....  
The Junior Church teacher was telling her class about the Prodigal Son. "When he returned, there was one who was sad and disappointed. Who was it? " she asked. A little girl piped up "The fatted calf !"

.....  
A lad was making faces at the others. His teacher told him that, when she was young, if she made ugly faces, her face would freeze and would stay like it for ever. He replied "Well,

## Encouraging – Instructive – Reflective – Humorous

You will find books in our church shop that fall into all the above categories.

**Encouraging:** In many parts of the world there is enormous growth in the numbers of people turning to Christ. Two books which tell of this are 'China's Opening Door' and 'A Wind in the House of Islam'.

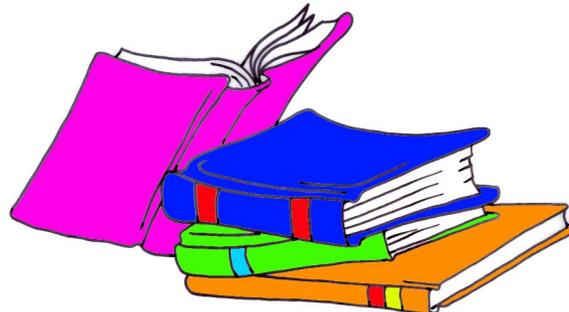
**Instructive:** How much do we know about our faith? R.T. Kendall (who was minister of Westminster Chapel for 25 years) has recently written 'Prepare Your Hearts for the Midnight Cry' based on the parable of the ten virgins told by Jesus and about the Second Coming. This author has also written many other books about the Christian Faith.

**Reflective:** We have devotional books by favourite authors like Eddie Askew, Joyce Meyer and Jennifer Rees Larcombe amongst others. These can cause us to pause in our busy lives and consider them from a Christian context.

**Humorous:** Adrian Plass writes amusingly about church life. 'The Church Weekend' and 'All Questions Great and Small' are two of his books.

You can, of course, buy books on the internet, but why give more profit to Amazon when we have this great facility in our church. Hope to see you soon in the shop!

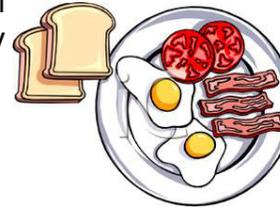
Pat Smith



## The Lunch Club

The Lunch Club for families entitled to free school meals will once again be held each Thursday in August. We are very grateful to Dorford Baptist Church for allowing us the use of their premises. The format is that families who register beforehand can come and pick up fresh fruit, vegetables, dairy produce and meat to take away and cook throughout the week. We provide tea, cake, drinks and toys for the children to play with and a listening ear if anyone needs additional support.

As always such schemes come at a cost. Our overheads are very low but if anyone felt able to support this work by offering to help financially or with making a cake we would be very grateful! More importantly, if you could remember these families in your prayers that would be even better. If anyone would like to contact me directly, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



## Family News

We give thanks for the lives of John Dean, father of David and Norman Mollison who was the first manager of the church shop.

We also mourn the death of Revd Griselda Langdon who died on 12<sup>th</sup> June and her funeral was held on what would have been her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was a resident of Southfield House for 12 years and URC

minister who served at Radipole in Weymouth. She will be greatly missed by family and friends. We remember them all and their families in our prayers.

We pray for all our young people, who are starting new schools, universities and jobs.

## **Volunteers wanted**

### **Wednesday market day service**

Volunteers are needed to be door stewards for the Wednesday market day service. This involves working with one other volunteer to help open up (about 10am), greet people and stay for about 30 minutes at the end of the service to welcome visitors. If a few more volunteers can be recruited, this duty would only be about 4 times per year.

Sheila King, who organises the rota, is also looking for someone who would be willing to take over the co-ordination of the rota. It is already completed until the end of 2017.

Please see Sheila King if you can help in any way.

### **Website Post**

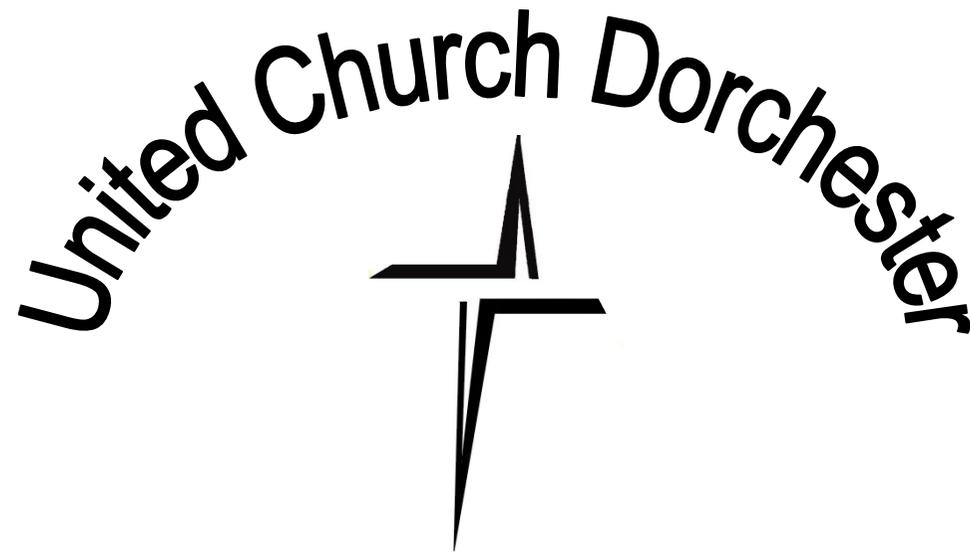
Due to work load and other commitments Trevor Antell, our Webmaster, is having to step down from his post of keeping the church website up to date. If you feel that you could undertake this task, please speak to a Church Steward. I am sure that Trevor would be happy to offer any guidance to the person, or persons, who come forward to do this. This is another way of offering information about who we are, what we are and what we do to anyone who looks at our web page." Carol Illingworth

### **Pastoral visitors and communion stewards**

Due to some people retiring and others moving away from the area, a couple more communion stewards and pastoral visitors are needed. Please see Wendy Hilton if you can help.

<b><i>THE MAGAZINE TEAM</i></b>	
<b><i>Editor</i></b> <i>Wendy Hilton</i>	<b><i>Advertising Manager</i></b> <i>Ronnie Boyden</i>
	<b><i>Photocopying</i></b> <i>Shirley Hood</i>

**Deadline for Oct/Nov  
edition is  
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Please e-mail to Wendy  
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Charles Street entrance  
Thank you**



## **Vision statement**

Our purpose is to worship God and, helped by the Holy Spirit, to love each other, to care for those in need and to share the love of Jesus Christ with all those around us"

The United Church Dorchester is a Christian Community welcoming everyone. We value our diversity. Whatever our age, background, culture, gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity, we each have something special to share with others.

In Jesus Christ's name, the United Church Dorchester

- ❖ seeks personal and spiritual growth, together as a worshipping community and also individually, and encourages all in faith,
- ❖ cares for and supports all within and beyond the church community,
- ❖ works in partnership with other churches and local groups in Dorchester and district,
- ❖ serves the community and the wider world by caring for the earth and striving for a just and peaceful world, combating poverty and disadvantage, and
- ❖ fosters a deeper understanding of and respect for other

**Rev Steph Jenner**

7 Capitol Close  
Dorchester  
Tel. 262421

## MINISTERS

**Rev Peter Clark**

Bridport  
01308 425978

## 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.

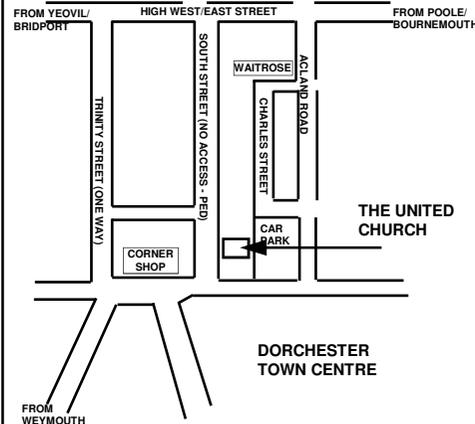
**Prayer Groups:** Prayer Chain, Prayer & Meditation Meetings.

**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, Mary Martin

Your Pastoral Visitor:

**United Church  
Dorchester,  
South Street**

**Methodist and United Reform**

**Reg Ch No 1137996**