



Pews News

14th December 2025

3rd of Advent



Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

3rd Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 35. 1-10, Magnificat or James 5. 7-10, Matthew 11 2-11

4th Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 7.10-16, Romans 1,1-7, Matthew 1.18-end.

Reflection on Matthew 11 vs. 2-11

‘Are you the one to come, or should we expect someone else?’

It does come as a bit of a surprise that in today’s Gospel reading John, the great forerunner expresses doubt as to whether Jesus is really the Messiah! John the Baptist, so well known for his prophetic role in preparing the way for Jesus, calling for repentance and baptising those who responded. Declaring to all that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. How could such a man have doubts?

John was in prison at the time of this conversation. He would have been uncertain about his future. Being in a prison cell for having upset the man who has the power to order your execution must have had a powerful affect on him. For us, it is a salutary reminder that the strongest of faith can waiver in the face of adversity. John reveals his human vulnerability.

Jesus does not, however, respond with a simple positive answer to the question posed. Instead he sends back evidence of his healing miracles and his raising of the dead. He connects with the expectations of the scriptures and his work in fulfilling prophecies. This is proof of his divine nature.

Perhaps the most powerful aspect of this passage is the statement ‘Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.’ Faith and doubt can sometimes coexist and I suspect that so many of us have experienced this.

Thankfully we have much to help us in times of doubt. Scripture, reason, the church and more. Today however we are reassured that we can remain steadfast in our belief despite our human frailties.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

Among those in special need: Jo Weir, Fran Griffiths, Mike & Jenny Ford, Lesley, Gabrielle and Matthew, Fr David Harris, Lesley Harris, Edwin; Rupert; Carol, Paul & Linda Buckingham; Jean Howarth; Helen Lange; Christopher; Katharine; Jonathan Davis; Morag & Robert Curtis; Alan Woods; Tessa Bullick; Margaret Morrissey; Jill Smith; Ruth Davis; Pam Revell.

Many thanks to everyone who's helped me to update the list and asked me to retain the names of these people, who continue to need our prayerful support. As always, please contact me at any time to update the list – please phone 01305 268749 or 07800 962672, leaving a message if necessary; or email johnsamwood@me.com

Among those who have recently died: John Lomax, Maureen Spracklen, June Williams

Remember those whose Year's Mind falls this week: Anita Wyatt, Dorothy Andrews, Betty Hollywood, Mary Madden, Christine Trott, Pat Howell, Marion Dennett.

Dorcas MU next meets on Wednesday 14 January at 10am at 4 Bellever Court, Poundbury for prayer, bible study and fellowship. Newcomers welcome. Contact: Janet 01305 260259.

TEA TOAST and TODDLERS Calling all under five's and their grown ups. Do come along on a Monday (term times) 9.30-12pm and have company and fun with lots of toys and activities. Drinks are available and tea and coffee. Fruit, toast and cake are also available. Suggested donation is £2 per family. This is a joint Benefice activity held in St George's Church Hall. For more information contact Ruth McGee Tel. 07984 021132

St Osmund's Middle School with 720 pupils under Wessex Multi Academy Trust is looking for 2 **Foundation governors and a Chair** to join the board. As a Church of England school, we seek governors who can offer support and help promote the Christian foundation our school is built on. Our school values of Hope, Respect, Community and Love are the backbone of everything we do at St. Osmund's and as a Board. The governing body meets 6 times a year for 2 hours. The monthly commitment is 5-8 hours. For more information on the role or application process, please contact Emily White (Vice-Chair of Governors) via email ewhite@stosmunds.wessex.ac or 07779263554

St Peter's Church

The church is open **daily from 10am - 4pm during the winter.**

Sundays BCP Eucharist at 9am & Common Worship Eucharist 10.30am.

Mid-week - Morning Prayer at **9.15am** on Monday & Thursday

Midweek Eucharist Our Midweek Eucharist is at **10.00 am on Thursday**. This is always followed by refreshments. Please do consider joining us.

Pastoral Visiting - If you would like to receive the Eucharist at home please contact **me by phone or email. Keith**

Storehouse Church Food Larder During the next weeks in the lead up to Christmas, as well as the normal food and toiletries, please could you consider donating seasonal items such as biscuits, cake and puddings. The more vulnerable families in our town would greatly appreciate them.

An invitation is extended to anyone wishing to join the **Bible study group** which meets every Monday at 2.30pm at 30 Grosvenor Road, Dorchester. For further details please phone Rosemary Briggs 01305 757444. (Own transport essential.) We look forward to welcoming you.

If you have any **Christmas Cards** or **Nikki's Sponsorship** monies to pay, please can you hand these to David at either, Men's Breakfast, the Ceremony of Carols or at the Sunday services. Thank you.



***Peter Oakes is organising a Carol Service at St Peter's Church on Monday 22nd December at 7.00 pm.** The choir of 50 will be made up of former staff and students, going back 40 years!, who were in the Thomas Hardy Singers (which used to be called 'The Chapel Choir'). Peter hopes that lots of people with Hardy's links will want to be there and perhaps meet old friends, and he is keen to say that anyone is most welcome to attend the service.*

Christmas Music at St Peter's

A special invitation from Ian Davis (Director of Music at St Peter's)



Please join St Peter's Choir for the **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** on **Saturday 20th December** at 4.30pm. From the moment that the solo voice of one of our fabulous choral scholars opens the service with the first verse of *Once in Royal David's city* by candlelight, through the wonderful choral setting from our magnificent choir and with all your favourite carols adorned with glorious descants and the incredible organ playing of David Beeby FRCO, this will provide a wonderfully atmospheric start to the Christmas season. Please also join us for **Choral Midnight Mass** at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve when the music will include Charpentier's iconic *Messe de Minuit* accompanied by an instrumental ensemble along with Lauridsen's *O magnum mysterium* and Will Todd's *My Lord has come*.

St Mary's Church

www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Dorchester-672844449522662

On Sundays each week Sung Eucharist at 9.45am

On the first Sunday of the month, next is 4 January, there is a Said Eucharist at 8am and Taize Worship at 6pm

Gluten Free Communion is available—please ask the Sidesperson

Morning Prayer on Tuesdays at 9am followed by Said Eucharist at 9.30am.

The Contemplative Prayer Group on Wednesdays at 5pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Mary's. Come and join us for 20 minutes of silence.

There will be NO group on 17th, 24th or 31st December. The group will restart in the new year on Wednesday 7th January 2026 . Everyone from across the Benefice and beyond is welcome

The Sanctuary Lamp Candle is given by Audrey Buckingham in thanksgiving for family & friends.

Our organist this Sunday is Simon Clarkson

Please pray for all the groups who will be coming into our church in the coming weeks

Tuesday 16th December – because we have the St Osmunds Christmas Services in Church we won't be having our normal Tuesday Services.

*Jimmy and Lydia invite you to join them for a **Christmas Party on 20th December, 7pm at the Vicarage (17A Edward Road)**. There will be seasonal drinks and snacks and maybe some carols....*

The Bible Study Group meets once a fortnight at the Vicarage 17a Edward Road on Monday evenings at 7.30pm. The next one will be on **22nd December**.

St Mary's Carol Service is at 6pm on Sunday 21 December, followed by mince pies & mulled wine. Everyone welcome.

Mince pies wanted! If you are able to provide a dozen mince pies for our Carol Service on **Sunday 21 December at 6pm** please add your name to the list at the back of church. Thank you.

St George's Church

The church is open every day from 9.00am to 4.00pm for private prayer.

Sunday Services

8.30am Holy Communion (NOTE NEW TIME!) 1st and 3rd Sundays

A quiet traditional BCP service in the Edward Chapel.

10.30am Holy Communion followed by refreshments in the church hall.

Dragons, our children's group, meets in the church hall during the 10.30 service in term time. All school age children are welcome.

6.30pm Pizza and Praise, first Sunday of the month. A new monthly service for youth and families.

Weekday services:

Wednesday 9.30am Morning Prayer at the back of church.

Thursday 11.00am Holy Communion followed by refreshments.

Other regular activities:

Monday: 9.30-12 Tea, Toast and Toddlers in the hall

Monday: Bible Study group 7.15pm weekly in members' homes. Details from Cora or Gerry.

Wednesday 12.30-1.30 Community Lunch and Food Larder welcomes anyone who needs company, lunch, or food in times of hardship. As the weather gets colder the hall provides a warm space to meet with friends and members of St George's Congregation.

Thursday: Fellowship group 12.00-1.00 in church. A new informal time of prayer and Bible reflection over a sandwich lunch (bring your own!) All are welcome.

TEA, TOAST AND TODDLER PLAYGROUP are asking for people to save their ice cream tubs for their Christmas craft please. All donations of empty clean ice cream tubs (the Carte D'Or ones with the rounded edges are ideal) can be left at the tables at the back of church by the 15th of December.

Our **COMMUNITY LUNCH AND FOOD LARDER** is currently much busier and we welcome donations. We'd love to treat our clients to some Christmas items, either food or toiletries.

Also needed are: Cereal, long life milk, biscuits, microwave rice, pot noodles etc; tinned meat/fish, custard/rice pudding; loo rolls, washing up liquid etc. Best times to bring items are at Sunday services, or pop into the hall on a Wednesday from 12.15 - 1.30. All are welcome for soup and a sandwich!

Thank you for your support. **The last lunch before Christmas will be Wednesday 17th December, closed 24th December and re-opens on Wednesday 31st December.**

A BIG thank you to all who took part in the Christmas Tree Festival.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH - As usual St George's will be organising a Lunch on Christmas Day, in St George's Church Hall (turkey and all the trimmings) at 12.30 for 1pm. All are welcome but to assist the catering please phone Val Scriven

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND SERVICES

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER 10:30 AM NATIVITY SERVICE

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER 6 PM CAROL SERVICE.

WEDS 24TH DECEMBER, CHRISTMAS EVE:

4 PM CRIB SERVICE

11 PM MIDNIGHT COMMUNION with the United Church

THURS 25TH DECEMBER **CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE 10:30 AM** combined with Dorchester Family Church

Candles for Ukraine - We are collecting candles and candle wax for Ukraine again over the Christmas period. Candles can be left in St George's at the back of church in a bag or box marked FAO Emma & Martin, or can be dropped off at our house - please email raggedtigerwrites@gmail.com for details. (no scented candles, please)

Job Advert - Heritage Event Organiser and Administrator - 10 hrs per week - £15/per hour ideally this role will be self employed and paid by invoice. For further information and an application form please contact: revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com Closing date for completed applications 31st December 2025. Shortlisting and Interviews week of 5th January 2026

St Andrew's Church

MORNING PRAYER Every Tuesday at 9.45am - all welcome.

PRIVATE PRAYER & REFLECTION

The church is open every day from 10am to 4pm.

HOME COMMUNION If you are unable to go to church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home then please contact Revd Cora Yarrien on 262421 or email revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com

Services are at 11.15am on first and 3rd Sundays and 9.00am on 2nd and 4th Sundays. Gluten Free Communion Wafers are available, please ask.

December services

14th - No morning Service

"Carols by Candlelight" at 6pm followed by Seasonal Refreshments

21st - Matins at 11.15

23rd - Christingle making at 10am

24th - Crib & Christingle Service at 4pm, Bethlehem Midnight Mass at 9pm

25th - Christmas Morning Family Service at 9am

28th - Said Holy Communion

BRASS CLEANING - on **Sunday morning 14th December** there is no service so brass cleaning will be done from **10am**. Please come along if you would like to help - materials supplied but bring your own gloves! Coffee and mince pies provided.

January services

4th - Morning Prayer

11th - Holy Communion

18th - Matins

25th - Holy Communion

Coffee and Chat - Saturday **10th January** from 10am to noon

Church Contacts:- Team Vicar: Revd Cora Yarrien - 262421

Secretary : Janet Ranger-Dennis 07752 634773




St Simon and St Jude, Winterborne Monkton

Holy Communion is celebrated at **11.15am** on the first Sunday of each month. The church is open every weekend 10am-4pm

or by arrangement with

Judy Norman 01305 262719

CAROL SERVICE
ST SIMON & ST JUDE, WINTERBORNE MONKTON
DORCHESTER DT2 9PT



SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER 2025

AT 3PM
SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS
ALL WELCOME

Dorchester Strollers:

Monday 15th December 10.30am Behind Poundbury Garden Centre

Tuesday 16th December 2.15pm Borough Gardens by the Bandstand



Team Rector & St Peter, High West St:

Revd Keith Magee 07766 645135

Keith.magee@btinternet.com

Curate: Rev.d Heidi Merrett 07706 058676 revheidimerrett@gmail.com

St George, Fordington Revd Cora Yarrien 01305 262421

revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com

St Mary, Edward Road Revd Jimmy Holden 01305 266502

revjimmyholden@gmail.com

St Andrew, West Stafford Revd Cora Yarrien 01305 262421

revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com

The Winterbournes and Compton Valence Churches Rev Teresa

StewartSykes 01305 549242 email revteresa@outlook.com

Parish Office: 01305 250719 dorchesterpcc@gmail.com

open 9-1, Tues, Thur, Fri.

Looked after by June Jenkins & Gill Hartnett

The Benefice Website: www.dorchesteranglican.org.uk

QR code



As the final edition of the benefice magazine approaches, please remember that you can find news of services, events and celebrations on the website.

Also, there are a number of sermons to listen to or read. And, coming up soon, a complete guide to all the services and concerts in the Advent and Christmas season.

<https://www.dorchesteranglican.org.uk/>