



# Pews News

## 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### 2<sup>nd</sup> of Advent



#### Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power  
and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy  
may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

#### Post Communion

Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him  
in the humility and purity of his first coming  
that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2nd Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 11. 1-10, Romans 15.4-13, Matthew 3.1-12

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

## Reflection for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Here's a poem John Betjeman wrote for Advent Sunday:

The Advent wind begins to stir  
With sea-like sounds in our Scotch fir,  
It's dark at breakfast, dark at tea,  
And in between we only see  
Clouds hurrying across the sky  
And rain-wet roads the wind blows dry...  
And how, in fact, do we prepare...  
We raise the price of things in shops,  
We give plain boxes fancy tops  
And lines which traders cannot sell  
Thus parcell'd go extremely well  
We dole out bribes we call a present  
To those to whom we must be pleasant  
For business reasons. Our defence is  
These bribes are charged against expenses  
And bring relief in Income Tax  
Enough of these unworthy cracks!

'The time draws near the birth of Christ'.  
A present that cannot be priced  
Given two thousand years ago  
Yet if God had not given so  
He still would be a distant stranger  
And not the Baby in the manger.

*John Betjeman, from Advent 1955*

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

**Among those in special need:** 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](mailto:johnsamwood@me.com)

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

***Remember those whose Year's Mind falls this week:*** Greta Cullen

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

**The next Ladies Breakfast will be held on Saturday 13th December at 9.00 at Taste Cafe** which is next to the Museum and St Peter's church on High West Street, Dorchester, DT1 1XA. All are most welcome to join us. If you have any queries please phone Ginny Farmiloe on 01305 26281.

Our final **Parish Men's Breakfast** of 2025 is on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at the Engine Room at Poundbury Garden Centre. 9am as normal. There is ample on-street parking and if you would like a lift, I can arrange this. If you plan to come, please advise by telephone on 07776 256537 or by email at [davidelliott220@btinternet.com](mailto:davidelliott220@btinternet.com). The Engine Room ask that we pre-order and I will forward the menu to you. Many thanks. David Elliott

**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

**Festive fun at Poxwell Manor** (Hardy's Oxwell Hall) Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2pm -5pm £20 THS members £30 non members mulled wine, readings, choir conducted by Mark Chutter  
<https://www.hardsociety.org/oxo/828/christmas-at-poxwell-manor/r>

**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](mailto: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.

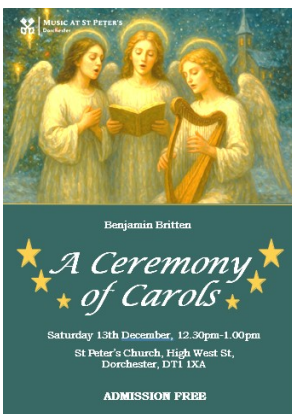
An invitation is extended to anyone wishing to join the **Bible study group** which meets every Monday at 2.30pm at 30 Grosvenor Road, Dorchester. For further details please phone Rosemary Briggs 01305 757444. (Own transport essential.) We look forward to welcoming you.

**Christmas Cracker Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December.** We'd be grateful if people could bake cakes to serve at the refreshments at Christmas Cracker. Please bring them to church next Sunday. Thank you.



***Peter Oakes is organising a Carol Service at St Peter's Church on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 feast of festive music awaits you at St Peter's. Our **Lunchtime Concert** on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December will be devoted to a performance of **Britten's Ceremony of Carols** performed by a vocal consort accompanied by the brilliant young Cambridge based harpist Marni Lai. More Advent music by Judith Weir and Philip Stopford in the **Choral Eucharist** at 10.30am on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December when the setting will be Schubert's delightful Mass in G. Our ever-popular **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** is on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 4.30pm and **Choral Midnight Mass** at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve includes Charpentier's *Messe de Minuit*, (accompanied by an instrumental ensemble) Will Todd's *My Lord has come* and Lauridsen's ever popular *O magnum mysterium*.

## **St Mary's Church**

[www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Dorchester-672844449522662](https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Dorchester-672844449522662)

**On Sundays each week Sung Eucharist** at 9.45am

**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 . Wednesday's at 5pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Mary's. Come and join us for 20 minutes of silence.**

Please note the group will meet 10th of December 2025 . 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

**On the first Sunday there will be a Said Eucharist at 8am. Taize Worship at 6pm**

**7<sup>th</sup> December 6pm Taize Service for Advent at St Mary's Church** a service of song, silence, prayer and contemplation on the theme of Waiting for the coming of the Light.

**The Sanctuary Lamp Candle** is given in the memory of Diane Keir by her friends at St Mary's, whose years mind falls on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**House of Opportunity Charity** To all who contributed again this year, we sent 23 Christmas boxes from distribution from Sofia in Bulgaria to orphanages and refugee groups etc. Much appreciated and thanks Di.

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

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

**The Bible Study Group** meets once a fortnight at the Vicarage 17a Edward Road on Monday evenings at 7.30pm. The gathering on the 8<sup>th</sup> December is cancelled, The next one will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**St Mary's Christmas card**, giving details of our services, events and contacts, is to be delivered to our neighbours in roads local to our church. We need some deliverers, please take a bundle of cards from the back of church if you are able to deliver some. Thank you, and to all who helped fold the cards.

**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.

**Sunday 7 December** – At the 9.45am Sung Eucharist Toy Service you are invited to bring donations of toys, toiletries and gift cards as Christmas presents to donate to the You Trust Paragon team who work with women, children and teenagers affected by domestic abuse. Gift bags and wrapping paper also can be donated but please do not wrap your gifts. Thank you.

**Our plans for the distribution of Christmas hampers** this year have been thoroughly checked to ensure that the day – **13<sup>th</sup> December** will flow smoothly. Working from Dorford Baptist Church over 240 families will benefit from YOUR support. It would be nice if we became obsolete but sadly I do not think this is likely. Your continued help both financially and prayerfully is vital in allowing this work to continue. It's a very practical way of showing our support to families struggling at this time of year when expectations are so high. Thank you. Kath Joslin – [joslinkath@gmail.com](mailto:joslinkath@gmail.com)



## **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.

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 TREE FESTIVAL – NEXT WEEKEND, from Friday 5th December 6pm to Monday 8th at 5pm.**

We are looking forward to our annual Christmas Tree Festival but as normal need some help with homemade cakes for the cafe, people to make tea and coffees over the weekend and help setting up the festival after the service on 30th November and setting up trees from 1.30pm on Thursday 4th. Sign up sheets will be at the back of church. If you can help please talk to Revd.Cora or any of the Events Cttee.

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 6 PM CAROLS ON THE GREEN, FORDINGTON

(NB SATURDAY NOT FRIDAY THIS YEAR!)

**CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND SERVICES** in addition to our regular services:

SATURDAY, 13TH DECEMBER 4 PM CHRISTINGLE SERVICE. Everyone welcome!

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

**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](mailto:revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com) Closing date for completed applications 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. Shortlisting and Interviews week of 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com)

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

### **December services**

7th - Morning Prayer at 11.15

**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 8th December**

**10.30am War Memorial Garden, bottom of South Street**

**Tuesday 9th December**

**2.15pm Borough Gardens by the Bandstand**



**Team Rector & St Peter, High West St:**

Revd Keith Magee 07766 645135

[Keith.magee@btinternet.com](mailto:Keith.magee@btinternet.com)

**Curate:** Rev.d Heidi Merrett 07706 058676 [revheidimerrett@gmail.com](mailto:revheidimerrett@gmail.com)

**St George, Fordington** Revd Cora Yarrien 01305 262421

[revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com](mailto:revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com)

**St Mary, Edward Road** Revd Jimmy Holden 01305 266502

[revjimmyholden@gmail.com](mailto:revjimmyholden@gmail.com)

**St Andrew, West Stafford** Revd Cora Yarrien 01305 262421

[revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com](mailto:revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com)

**The Winterbournes and Compton Valence Churches** Rev Teresa

StewartSykes 01305 549242 email [revteresa@outlook.com](mailto:revteresa@outlook.com)

**Parish Office: 01305 250719** [dorchesterpcc@gmail.com](mailto:dorchesterpcc@gmail.com)

**open 9-1, Tues, Thur, Fri.**

***Looked after by June Jenkins & Gill Hartnett***

**The Benefice Website:** [www.dorchesteranglican.org.uk](http://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/>