



Loving Jesus, Building Community and Blessing Dorchester

IN THIS
ISSUE

Dates for your Diary

Spotlight on Ministries

In Conversation with...

Reflections from from James

Book Review

Testimony

AND MUCH MORE...

A very warm **WELCOME** to our **September 2026** Edition of **Reflections and Connections**

Thursday

17

September

7:30pm

Volunteers Training Evening for our
upcoming Christianity Explored Course.

All are welcome - please come and explore how you can be involved.

Sunday

20

September

6:30pm

OUR PRAISE AND PRAYER GATHERING

Anthony will be leading us in a time of worship and James will be sharing a short reflection and guiding us through a time of Prayer. Please do come and join us for this precious hour of fellowship.

Monday

28

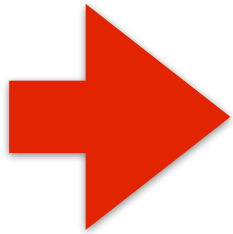
September
2:00-4:00pm

Dementia Ministry

There will be a follow-up session on Dementia Ministry continuing on from the one led by Mike Stear earlier in the year.

For further information contact Lucinda or the Church Office if you would like to attend.

DIARY DATES



Remember to book
your tickets.

LIGHT UP DORSET

VISION, WORSHIP, & PRAYER NIGHT

CHURCHES ACROSS DORSET ARE INVITED TO JOIN TOGETHER FOR A NIGHT OF VISION, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER.

THE LIGHTHOUSE THEATRE IN POOLE
17 OCTOBER • 7PM

FEATURING VISION FROM LOCAL CHURCH LEADERS, A MESSAGE FROM GRACE WHEELER, AND WORSHIP LED BY ELLE LIMEBEAR.

ELLE LIMEBEAR

GRACE WHEELER

FIND OUT MORE

WWW.LIGHTUPDORSET.COM

£5

SCAN TO BOOK TICKETS OR GO TO LIGHTUPDORSET.COM

PALAU UK

LIGHT UP DORSET IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CHURCHES OF DORSET AND PALAU UK & EUROPE.

Starting Thursday 22nd October 2026

“Christianity explored”...

Seven weeks. Seven Conversations. One Question that could change everything.

...will be taking place at DBC.

It is a space to ask the big questions about life in an introduction to the God of the Bible, (through the gospel of Mark), who claims to be at the centre of it all.

Please be praying about who you may invite, and how you might be involved.



Tearfund Big Quiz Night on- Saturday 21st November

Please do pop the date in the diary for our annual Big Quiz Night in aid of Tearfund. There will be refreshments, puddings and teas and coffees for this event, which will run from 7:00pm until 9.30pm. Prizes for the winning and bottom teams. All welcome. More details to come in October's Magazine.



What's
Happening
in
Dorchester...
And how you
can be
involved...

Dorset County Show Churches Together Dorchester Tent

This year's Dorset County Show is on **Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th September.**

We are asking for homemade Cakes and buns for the Churches Together Dorchester stand. We offer them before and during our Harvest Festival Services at 2:00pm on both days of the Show. If you are able to bake something it needs to have a list of ingredients with it or willing to buy a cake (which will have ingredients listed) that will be wonderful .

Please can you bring it to the United Church on Friday 4th September between 10:00am -12 noon and hand in to the Church Shop. Thank you . Peter Jenner

Churches Together Litter Picks

The next Church litter pick will be related to water - Dorchester has just become a Watermark town - on **Saturday 26th September.** For further details, contact Tony McDougal.

REGULAR WEEKLY PROGRAMME

Sunday	10:00-10:15am	Prayer
	10:30am	Morning Praise & Worship, Teaching & Fellowship - Creche, Children & Youth Groups
	1st Sunday	Communion Monthly
	3rd Sunday	6:30-7:30pm Praise and Prayer Gathering
Tuesday	9:30-10:30am	Revival Prayer
	10:00-11:45am	"Kids & Co" Toddler Group (during term-time)
Wednesday	10:00am-12:00pm	Cafe Refresh
	7:00pm	HEAT Youth Group (Term-time)
Thursday	7:00-9:00pm	All Inclusive Friendship Group (1st & 3rd Thursdays)
Friday	2:30-4:00pm	Friday Afternoon Games (Last Friday)

Life Groups meet throughout the week - please contact Dick Howard or David Warland for details

SERMON SERIES For the Autumn

From September through to Advent we'll be exploring an exciting section of the Exodus account. Starting at the miraculous crossing of the Sea of Reeds and ending at the terrifying presentation of the Ten Commandments, we'll be reflecting on the many lessons that our Father God taught His people.

At the beginning of our study, Moses sings these words: "You have guided them by Your strength to Your holy abode..." Our prayer is that this new series will look deeply into what this meant for the early Israelites and what it might mean for us today!

DUTY DEACONS

FOR
SEPTEMBER

6th Lucinda
13th Allan
20th Jules
27th Suzanna

“James’ Carefully Curated Cabinet of Clerical Cogitations”

Artificial Intelligence

It’s good to have access to some ‘insider’ knowledge and wisdom.

My eldest son has dedicated his working life to software engineering. He’s had a great deal of experience working for companies like Repositve (enhancing cancer research), Cyted (pioneering medical advancement in cancer detection using artificial intelligence), Gearset (building developer tools that employ artificial intelligence), and – until recently – a large and well known technology company (providing cyber security and running artificial intelligence at an enormous scale). As you might imagine, he’s a good person to have a chat with if you’d like to hear a Christian opinion on artificial intelligence (AI). He and I had several such chats when we enjoyed a week together in Holland earlier in the year.

My son started by asking me if I’d used AI when writing a sermon. The answer I gave was both no and yes (but, only as a little unpreached experiment).

I try to be intensely painstaking when preparing for and writing a sermon. For many years, my routine has remained much the same: pray at length, make initial notes, write my own translation; this is followed by writing a first draft sermon without the use of any commentaries or external human influences. This process produces a sermon based solely on what I currently know/understand. The next stage is to read commentaries and to see how the vast knowledge of the theological world adds to, agrees with, disagrees with, or otherwise informs what I’ve written so far. Lots more notes are made.

The famous author, Fred Craddock, describes all of the above as the ‘academic’ portion of sermon writing. Craddock argues very persuasively that this must be matched by time dedicated to a ‘creative/artistic’ time of writing that focuses on the spiritual question: how does God want me to share this with His people. The preacher must have a, “Eureka!” in each of the two sections of study – academic and creative. “Eureka! This is *what* God wants me to say!” in the first section and, “Eureka! This is *how* God wants me to say it!” in the second.

For those of you who wonder why sermons take me so many hours, there is your answer!

I must say, I've never felt the lengthy writing time to be time wasted. In the course of prayer, study and 'artistic' reflection, God graciously says a lot. There's a tangible, exciting (and enormously enjoyable) sense of Him opening one's eyes to some of His beautiful mysteries. I find myself immersed in far more than will be needed in a twenty minute Sunday 'sermon slot'. But, the enormity of what God chooses to say is in and of itself part of Him thoroughly preparing me for the privileged moment of preaching.

However... a few months ago, I became rather curious... I wondered what AI would come up with if you gave it a sermon title. And, one afternoon when no sermon was required of me, I tried typing a sermon title into ChatGPT to see what it would produce. In a matter of a few seconds, this most famous of AI 'chatbots' had trawled Bible commentaries, sermon archives, historical articles, etc. and presented me a polished and perfectly respectable sermon. ChatGPT stood on the shoulders of countless millions of Internet contributors and 'intelligently' constructed a gripping sermon. Then, it was kind enough to compliment me on the excellence of my question, tell me it liked working with me and ask if I wanted it to produce accompanying homegroup materials.

Subsequently, AI users have said that my experience would have been greatly enhanced if I'd used Anthropic's AI engine, 'Claude' instead of ChatGPT. It was also pointed out to me that my typical approach of refusing to part with any money whatsoever hampered and greatly reduced my experience. I'd seen what the most famous – but, not the best – could do for free and for fun. Do your research and pay your money and you get the maximal encounter with AI. What a sermon that would be! Also, imagine the compliments it would bestow on me if I'd coughed up some cash.

I have to say at this point that my sense of amazement at the advancement of AI was more than matched by the spiritual disquiet that seemed to hang over me throughout the whole experiment. In the truest way possible, this sermon was nothing to do with me. I'd not had two irreplaceable and precious days in my Father's Presence. I'd not been taught by His 'still small voice', whispering His profundity and grace through His Scriptures. I'd not been humbled and reassured that I was merely a messenger for the message of God Himself. With an AI sermon in my hands, I'm not a preacher of God's living word, I'm a reader of dead words, machine-gathered from where they fell.

Saying such things and making such a stance is all well and good. But, AI is now inextricably linked to every Google search, most areas of photographic manipulation and poster/flier making applications, even music production.

I wonder, do the researchers, graphic designers and musicians (to name but three) get a similar feeling of disquiet when they see their creative process eroded or entirely removed from their control?

How hypocritical is it to mightily rage against AI in all areas except the ones where I find it to be useful, time saving and comfortable?

What of the hundreds of millions of nameless internet contributors to *every* AI generated thing, whose hard work and God-given gifts have been stolen by AI?

As Christians, must we respond to the catastrophic environmental impact of data centres – the heart of all AI – that demand millions of gallons of cooling water?

All of these things (and, knowing us, so much more) my son and I spoke of as we walked along the beaches in Zeeland.

My dear boy had some specific questions that he wanted to ask me: “What is considered general church/Christian protocol for the use of AI for producing sermons?” I responded that the current protocol suggests that it must be made clear to a congregation if AI has been used for writing a sermon.

My son reflected a while and said: “I would not attend a church that said it used AI for the sermon.”

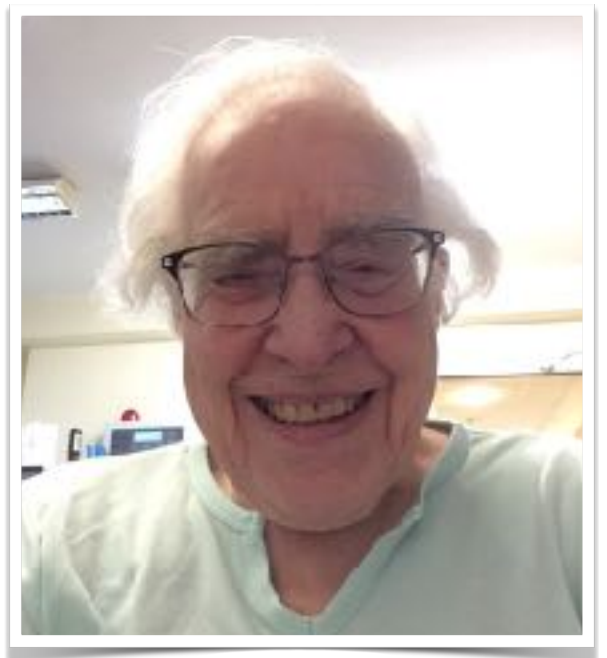
I asked him a question in return: “You understand AI in a way I don’t. What is it that really makes you uncomfortable about the whole ‘using AI for sermon writing’ notion?”

The response to my question is something I’ve thought about ever since it was spoken to me, “Who is invited into the room when you write a sermon, Dad?”

‘I will watch over you’... Wendy

If someone came up to you and asked you to write your testimony how would you feel? My first thought was how do you fit about 80 years of love, protection, fresh chances, forgiveness, etc onto a sheet of paper! – but I will try. My family roots (parents and grandparents) are in the East End of London – East Ham and Manor Park areas. I was born in the middle of the war in April 1941. My father was in the RAF so my mother was at her parents’ house, not a very safe place to be being close to the Royal Docks and the other side of the Thames to Woolwich Arsenal. There was a shortage of everything except love. (A few years back I was watching the news and suddenly had a flash back to being a toddler listening to the bombs falling!).

My parents and grandparents were Christians and my elder brother Peter and I, (and my brother Stephen 4 years younger), went to church and Sunday School at Manor Park Baptist from an early age. The young people’s group was great! I haven’t a date for when I became a Christian but was baptised when I was 14. My baptismal verse was Psalm 32:8 ‘I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. I will counsel you and watch over you.’ He has never broken that promise to me.



Moving on, having passed my A levels I was able to go to university (Bangor University North Wales) to study maths due to a council grant. There was a very lively Christian Fellowship and church. There was also a retreat near Snowdon just before every Spring term. (The trip from Bridgwater, where my parents now lived, to Snowdon in an old ambulance through the heavy snow and blocked roads of 1962/63 is another story!).

After leaving university with degrees in Maths & Applied Maths I worked at Winfrith Research Station which had only been open a few years and joined the Christian Fellowship there. Nearly every new computer that came in was allocated to the person I was working with – from paper tape with holes, to Apples and PCs as well as the big mainframes.

I went to Bridgwater every weekend until after my parents had died but during the week helped with Crusaders going to a number of camps with them.

When I was free to do so I joined DBC. The church organised a trip to the Holy Land in 1997. Led by John Pearce our minister and a Palestinian Christian guide (who always found a way through when the roads were closed. We were the only visitors in Bethlehem!), it was a never to be forgotten trip. I retired from Winfrith in 2001 and started up the church office. I was a deacon for 10 years and for 9 years was church treasurer leading up to the rebuild in 2005. That was a time of sorting out loans, grants etc but also a time of going round other churches to see what they had done, going to the Christian Resources Exhibition in Sandown Park to talk to architects etc.

All my life I have felt guided and protected. For instance, Anthony in one of his sermons talked about the flooded roads earlier in the year. This brought to mind a time when I was stranded in water. My mother was very ill in Bridgwater hospital who let us stay late with her. (In the early 1970’s so no mobiles.) I was driving back in the dark, using a short cut through Creech St Michael turned a bend and went straight into flowing water. The engine cut out. My usual prayer of ‘help me’. Round a bend on the opposite side headlights appeared. Car stopped and out got 2 angels dressed as policemen. They pushed my car back onto dry land, dried it out, and set me on my way. Thank you, Lord.

I now help out in the church office during the week and am on the visuals rota for Sundays. When I have had low times something has always happened to lift my spirits and let me know He is with me. In times of sadness and joy He has been there keeping His promises to me, forgiving me and setting me straight. His love never fails. ‘My maker, defender, redeemer and friend’.

IN CONVERSATION WITH...Debbie

1 Where were you born?

I was born in a small town called Marcona in Peru where my father was working as a mining engineer. We left Peru shortly afterwards and moved to the Dominican Republic where I lived until I was 12.

2 What is a random fact about you?

My interesting fact is that when I was a child I had 2 Dalmatian dogs who used to pull me around at great speed on my skateboard like a charioteer. I had no fear in those days!

3 Is there a skill you would like to learn?

There are so many skills I would like to develop but I would currently love to learn dressmaking. Watching the sewing bee is always so lovely and inspiring but I can only make a cushion currently.



4 What is something you could talk about for hours?

I am not as talkative as my other half 🗣️ but, like many parents, I could talk about my children for hours.

5 Have you ever travelled somewhere that has really changed your perspective?

I used to travel a lot for work when I was a marketing executive selling printing presses internationally. In this role I travelled to Malaysia for a trade fair. While exploring Kuala Lumpur, I felt very conspicuous and different to the local Malay and Chinese population. It made me much more aware of how being different makes people feel. It made me want to be more inclusive and friendly towards those who might not traditionally fit in.

6 What challenge has shaped who you are today?

My family background involved the separation and divorce of my parents which was very difficult at times. The challenge I faced was to try to be a good parent myself and to ensure a healthy relationship with my children. Through the Lord's grace and the example of many wonderful Christian parents I have met, I believe that He has blessed us in achieving this. I thank God every day for my family.

7 If you could give your younger self advice, what would it be?

The advice I would like to have given my younger self would be to choose to study something different at university. I was the first of my family to go to university and at the age of 18, I chose to study accounting at Birmingham University. Despite three happy years at university with many wonderful times, this was not something I found at all interesting and I did not wish to pursue accountancy as a career after graduating. I realise now that I am not motivated by earning money but like making a difference in people's lives. I would have encouraged my younger self to try for something in healthcare instead. I came to that realisation much later on in life and returned to university, as a mature student, to study radiotherapy which is my career now. I love working at the Robert White Centre in Dorchester and helping people who are dealing with a cancer diagnosis.

Ministry Spotlight

On...

The Treasurer

What is the Treasurer's role really at DBC?

The Treasurer has overall responsibility for the finances of the Church: but where is the time commitment primarily and who helps with these responsibilities? The main items probably are as follows:

- **Income:** dealing with cheques and cash received on Sundays; the office deal with all aspects of cash received including the banking; cheques are now very few, but those that are received are scanned into our bank account using the Lloyds Phone App; most giving is direct (bank to bank) and requires no input from the Treasurer.
- **Gift Aid claims** are made monthly by our Gift Aid claims volunteer and the Treasurer's responsibility is limited to sending them the monthly receipt details (an extract from the on line banking + Dona systems).
- **Lettings income** is handled by the office and overseen by the Letting Directors; the Treasurer has little involvement.
- **Payroll** including joiners and leavers has to be administered by the Treasurer – this is done by being the primary contact for the payroll bureau that we use (a local accounting firm); it's essentially a monthly task taking 1-2 hours in total normally.
- All other **invoice payments** are paid electronically and have to be set up and made by the Treasurer; this is probably the most time consuming regular task taking probably 3-5 hours a month (including clarifying what an invoice is for if not obvious and checking bank details of payees).
- All **bookkeeping** is carried out by our Church bookkeeper; the Treasurer takes the reports from the bookkeeping system to assess the financial position.
- **Monthly** the Treasurer prepares a report for the Diaconate; this takes around an hour or so; **quarterly** there will be reports to prepare and present to the Church Meetings, taking a similar length of time.
- **Annually** the Treasurer prepares a budget to assess what level of giving we need to plan for, important if there is planned to be a big change such as when we were considering taking on an Associate Minister; this will take a few hours and involve discussions with the Leadership and other Church Members.
- The **annual accounts** are prepared by another local accounting firm and the Treasurer is the primary point of contact; this is not a time consuming task.

You will know that I must stand down as Treasurer in November, having served on the Leadership for what will be 7 years. The above list may seem a little daunting but I am very happy to have an extended handover period with whoever takes the role after me for as long as necessary and without time limit so that the procedures can be fully understood (and potentially improved!).

So don't be afraid if you are contemplating helping the Church in this way: you do not need to be an accountant or a bookkeeper to do this role. You simply need to be comfortable with on-line banking which most of us have been doing for ourselves for many years now. *Jules*

Worship Song for September

- Please click the following links and enjoy.

A sea shanty inspired worship song for this month after our long hot summer!

Salt and light by Rend Collective.

<https://youtu.be/F9B-VE4C6j4?si=flU8uR97QKBZ3Yb0>



Youth Matters...the future of the Church

The first **HEAT** session of Autumn Term will be Wednesday 9th September.

Climbers & Youth Group will restart on Sunday 6th September.

We're really looking forward to welcoming the children back to **Climbers** as they settle into the new school term. It's been lovely catching up with many of them over the summer — along with a few visiting families too. A big thank-you to everyone who helped with cover in church during the holidays; your support made a real difference.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR ...

- ✦ All our young people starting school, moving up to a new school, college or university.
- ✦ Mums, Dads and families adjusting to new routines after the school holidays.
- ✦ Kids & Co - Toddler Group
- ✦ For our church family who work or are involved in our education system.
- ✦ That the new year at Thomas Hardy School will see a successful delivery of the 'Four Stories' course and that there will be continuing opportunities for James to deliver assemblies to the various student year groups.
- ✦ That the 'Four Stories' and other courses and counselling at Kingston Maurward College will continue to be blessed and fruitful.
- ✦ That the planning for a Nativity set in the Kingston Maurward Animal Park and Gardens will come to fruition.

Book Review by Bev

KIND WORDS FOR UNKIND DAYS – JAYNE HARDY

Whilst ill over the last 12 months I have received all sorts of gifts to entertain, make me smell wonderful or things to cheer me up, like flowers. The above book received from my daughter seemed very practical with short easily read chapters to help me with the highs and lows of long term illness.

The contents provide headings of what you might be feeling on a particular day – ‘words for the days that feel frightening’, ‘Words for the days that feel overwhelming’ ‘Words for the days when you feel stuck and frustrated’. Each section gives wonderful practical advice and to be honest served to identify exactly what I was feeling at various times and make me stop and think.

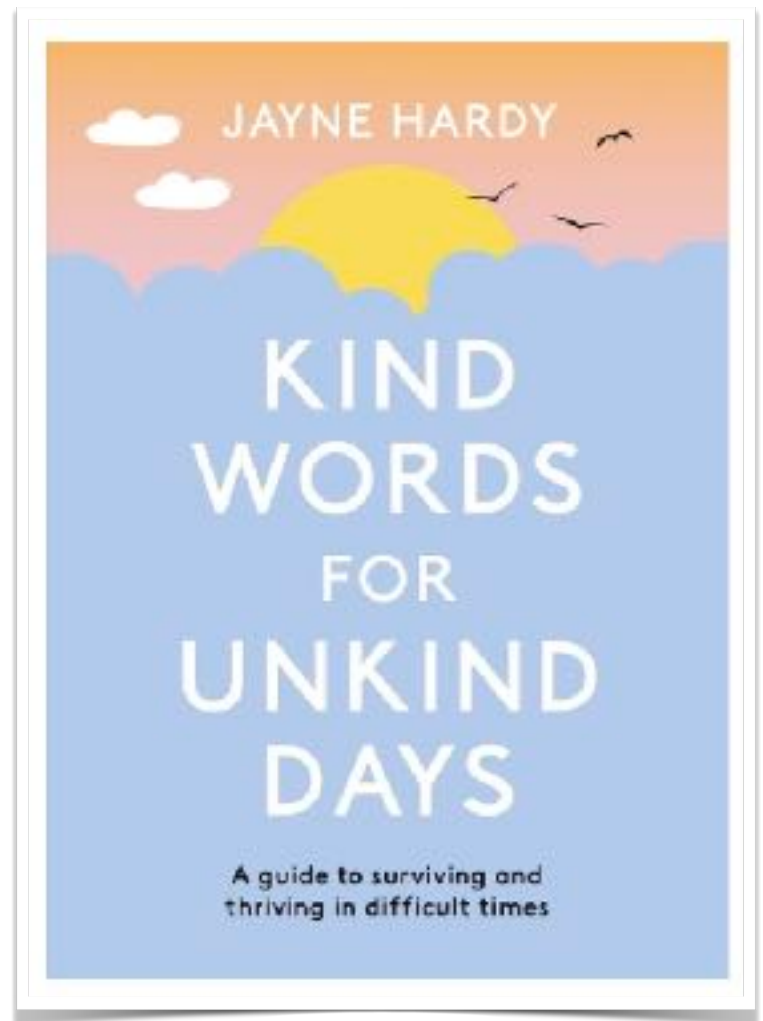
As a Christian it became very obvious to me that there was something missing from the book – the spiritual context to each situation. However, as time went on I found myself using this book as a bit of a thought catalyst extending the book suggestions as basis for prayer.

Whilst reading it I was constantly reminded of two scriptures from Paul writing to groups of believers.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – *Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus*

Philippians 4:11-13 - *Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to get along happily whether I have much or little. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of contentment in every situation, whether it be a full stomach or hunger, plenty or want; for I can do everything God asked me to with the help of Christ who gives the strength and power’ (Living Bible)*

I would recommend reading this book or having it to hand, whether you are ill or not, for some down to earth practical advice when things don’t seem what they should be and you find yourself heading into a downward spiral – but do keep in mind we have a loving father watching over us in whatever situation we find ourselves in. Once you have identified how you are feeling speak honestly to God in prayer and offer your situation up to him – I find it works !



NEWS & INFORMATION

“People’s Emergency Briefing” - Film plus debate

I (Tony McDougal), attended the film screening at the end of July at St George’s Fordington of the “People’s Emergency Briefing”. This is a new film from the National Emergency Briefing, a public information initiative to inform about the looming climate and nature crisis.

Through specialists and experts, the film presents the national implications of climate and nature breakdown on different areas of our lives, such as food, transport, health, defence and infrastructure.

It is a follow up on a presentation to more than 300 politicians by the experts - climatologists, meteorologists, naturalists and others - that took place at the end of last year, before this heat-fuelled summer. They presented talks on what would happen if the current global warming crisis remains ignored.

But the film also provides credible positive responses in an accessible way to show that if we all make changes to our lives and the government leads genuine emergency action, then all is not lost.

There have been a number of showings in Dorchester and the surrounding villages. At the St George’s meeting, which was organised by the Churches Together Ecology Group, and attended by more than 100 people, I was struck by the positive ways we might respond, both individually and collectively to the climate crisis.

Some of the ideas from the panel are worth taking forward:

- * Growing food in allotments
- * fitting solar panels
- * involving ourselves in school vegetable growing projects
- * supporting the Great Big Dorset Hedge project
- * Attending the Dorset COP at Kingston Maurward on 14th November 2026
- * creating insect friendly gardens
- * installing water butts, bird boxes, bat boxes and LED LIGHTING

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For more information on the event - <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6110/news/181699/peoples-emergency-briefing-screening-summary/>

The Chosen

There have been many films about the life of Jesus over the years.

Currently, we are watching 'The Chosen' on Prime TV. It's also viewable on 'The Chosen' app which is free to view.

The series was made possible by crowd funding, as the major studios weren't interested in making it. This was definitely not a wise decision on their part as The Chosen now has an estimated 200 million viewers worldwide.

None of the actors were stars before this project but it is a professional production made to a high standard and really brings the New Testament to life.

We are on series 4 (there are 6 so far and another in production) so you'll need to invest some time to watch this but it will be well spent! (once you get past the first two episodes!)

As a bonus, Bear Grylls has filmed a series taking the major actors into the wilderness, which is also available on Prime.

During the Bear Grylls episode with Dallas Jenkins, the creator of the series, he explains his creative approach to the show, noting that while Jesus is perfect, he wanted to portray Him as an "intimate God" who laughed with His friends and experienced real human emotions.

Dallas shares that his ultimate motivation in life is simply to hear the words, *"Well done, good and faithful servant."*

This is a dramatisation, but the words spoken from the actor playing Jesus are from the bible.

Blessings,
Neil and Carol Legg

Church Office Support Worker

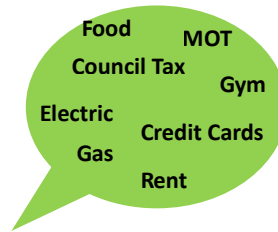
We are looking for some additional support in the church office following some recent staff changes.

For position details, an application form and any other queries, please contact Claire Collinge via Claire@dorchesterbc.org.uk

Help with cleaning the Church Kitchen

A huge thank you to Jan who has recently completed cleaning the church kitchen - this takes a lot of time and effort. It is something that is essential and needs to be done every three months. The next big clean will be on Monday 14th December at 2:00pm.

Please can you consider if you can be involved in this vital area of service and if you can offer your time on this date please contact the church office.



CAP Money Course

**Free, effective money
coaching in Dorchester**

**Saturday 19th September,
9.30am to 12.30pm**

at the Dorford Centre, DT1 1RR

£20 Co-op voucher for DT1/DT2 residents

For full details and to sign up,

scan the QR code

visit dorchesterbc.org.uk/cap

call 01305 262045



Next courses—to be advised

Created and administered by Christians Against Poverty. Registered Charity No. 1097217

LET US PRAY TOGETHER FOR EACH OTHER...

- ◆ Those who are experiencing health problems
- ◆ Planning and preparations for the upcoming Christianity Explored Course in October
- ◆ James & Anthony
- ◆ Leadership



The Pastoral Team

HERE TO HELP - ALWAYS

Please contact:- The Church Office

officemanager@dorchesterbc.org.uk

(01305 262045)

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

UNITED CHURCH SHOP



BOOKS



CARDS



FAIRTRADE - SHARED EARTH &
TILNAR ART

Opening hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
and Saturday mornings, 10am - 12.30pm.

Location: opposite Dorchester Library and
the Old Market Car Park.

St Mary's Church
Edward Road

On the first Sunday of each
month at 6pm

All are most welcome

Taizé Prayer

A service of
song, silence &
contemplation



BECOME AN OFFICIAL PRISON VISITOR

HMP Portland

Bringing the Outside In

*You could be
the only link
someone has
with the
outside world.*

Could you make a difference to someone who has little or no contact with the outside world?

Official Prison Visitors (OPVs) visit prisoners who rarely, if ever, receive visits from family or friends. For some prisoners, an OPV may be their only meaningful connection with life beyond the prison walls, which is why our motto is

"Bringing the Outside In."



TRUST. EMPATHY. UNDERSTANDING.

Through regular visits, OPVs build positive relationships based on trust, empathy and understanding. Conversations are confidential and provide an important source of support and encouragement. Confidentiality is maintained at all times unless there are grounds for concern relating to the health or safety of the prisoner, other prisoners, staff, or the prison estate.



ABOUT THE ROLE

- ✓ Volunteer position
- ✓ Independent of the prison and prison staff
- ✓ Regular visits to assigned prisoners
- ✓ Opportunity to make a positive impact on a person's wellbeing and rehabilitation journey
- ✓ Full guidance and support provided



WHO CAN APPLY?

We welcome individuals who:

- ✓ Are good listeners
- ✓ Can relate to others without judgement
- ✓ Have empathy and patience
- ✓ Can maintain appropriate boundaries and confidentiality
- ✓ Are committed to visiting regularly

Help bring
hope, connection
and encouragement
to those who may
otherwise have no
contact with the
outside world.



INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN OFFICIAL PRISON VISITOR?

For further information about this rewarding volunteer role, please contact:



Email: claire.carlin2@justice.gov.uk



Phone: 01305 715565



Contact: **Pastor Claire Carlin**
Managing Chaplain
HMP Portland



Role: Volunteer Opportunity

♥ YOUR TIME. YOUR COMPASSION. *A real difference.* ♥