

Dorchester Benefice Diary

Mondays (except the 3rd Monday in the month) 2–4pm

Craft Group in the choir vestry. Just bring along anything you are doing, knitting, sewing, painting, drawing, etc. and come and have a cuppa and natter. Contact Cynthia Fry on 01305 5730762 for further details.

First Monday of each month 2–4pm

Dorchester Stitchers. In United Church (the main hall), South St, Dorchester. Expertise is shared and occasional workshops arranged as are visits to exhibitions. Annual subscription £5 plus £1 per meeting to cover costs.

Wednesdays at 5pm

The Contemplative prayer group meets each Wednesday at 5pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Mary's and at the Quiet Space every Thursday at 6.30pm. All are welcome.

Tuesday 4 December at 7.30pm

Dorchester French Circle at AgeUK, 4 Prince of Wales Road, Dorchester DT1 1PW, for "Jeux de Noel.

Thursday 6th December, 6.30pm

Community carol singing with short readings, suitable for all ages, in the Engine Room, Poundbury. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Saturday 8th December at 9am

Mens's Breakfast at Taste Brasserie, Trinity Street, Dorchester DT1 1UB. All welcome to join us for excellent food and great conversation in this Taste of the West Gold award winning hidden gem. For further details please contact David Elliott on 01305 259236, 07776 256537 or by email at davidelliott220@btinternet.com.

Saturday 8th Dec and Wed 12th – Sat 15th Dec 11-3pm (Fri 14th 11-2pm), Mon 17th – Sat 22nd 10- 2pm (Wed 19th 11-2pm)

Journey to the stable in United Church, South Street, Dorchester. In the busyness of all the Christmas shopping, writing the cards and icing the cake take a few minutes to be still and reflect on what Christmas is all about *The true meaning of Christmas.*

Journey to the stable is an interactive experience helping to explain the true meaning of Christmas. This is ideal for adults and children alike. The journey takes 20 – 30 minutes. There are seven stations focusing on a person or a part of the Christmas story with readings and reflections. At each there is a small activity or object for you to take away, so you leave with a bag of reflections and goodies.

Sunday 9th December 4 – 6pm

Inclusive Carol Service at Dorchester Baptist Church, Dorford Centre. Carols, puppets and crafts call 262405 to ensure enough food for tea.

Monday 10th December

The Monday Club closes 2018 with our annual Christmas lunch, this year to be at the New Inn, West Knighton, when we shall be having a convivial and well-fed outing!

Wednesday 12th December at 10am

Dorcas MU Bible Study group meet at 155 Damers Road. Mary & the Bread of Life. Luke 2:1-7, John 6:1-15. Newcomers & visitors welcome. Details 260259.

Saturday 15 December at 7.30pm

Christmas Concert by Weymouth Choral Society at St John's Church, Greenhill, Weymouth DT4 7SS. Guests: Weymouth Concert Brass and singers from the Dorchester Area Schools Partnership. Tickets £10.00 (free for under 16s) available from Harmony Music, Dorchester (01305 260360); Weymouth Pavilion (01305 783225); on the door or by ringing 07712 135150.

Thursday 20th December from 10am

Brass Cleaning morning until noon in the vestry St Mary's Church. This is a social occasion with tea/coffee - and sometimes doughnuts!

Before Christmas

Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum in Dorchester will be opening its café and the spectacular Grand Jury Room after visiting hours for parties. The spacious and airy café can host up to 200 people, with wine and canapes starting at just £10 per head, or why not get into the festive spirit with mulled wine and mince pies, for more information please visit www.shirehalldorset.org.

Sunday 30th December at 9.45am

Healing Services. At St Mary's prayers for healing are offered after our 9.45 am service every Sunday and our next Sung Eucharist with the laying on of hands and anointing will be on Sunday 30th December at 9.45am when our preacher will be the Revd Canon Thomas Woodhouse.

Saturday 12th January at 9am

Mens's Breakfast at Café on the Green, 7 Dinham Walk, Poundbury DT1 3WU. They normally start 30 minutes later, but are happy to open earlier for us. There is ample free parking adjacent to the venue. For further details please contact David Elliott on 01305 259236, 07776 256537 or email at davidelliott220@btinternet.com.

Sunday 13 January at 3pm

Dorchester French Circle meets at the Wessex Royale Hotel, 32 High West Street, Dorchester DT 1 1UP, for a tea party.

Wednesday 16th January at 10am

Dorcas MU Bible Study group meet at 10 Weatherbury Way. Walking with Old Testament Women. Rahab (Part 1). Joshua 2:1-24. Newcomers & visitors welcome. Details 260259.

Saturday 19th January at 9.30am

Ladies Breakfast. Third Saturday of each month excepting for the month of December. The January breakfast will be held at Carluccios, Dorchester. Contact Maureen Shaw 01305 261771.

Sunday 20th January at 1pm

The Incredible Mrs Van der Elst by Brian Bates in The Shire Hall, Dorchester. Tickets £6.50 (inc. soup and roll). Pop in for a bowl of soup and an incredible insight into the life of this extraordinary woman! Mrs Van der Elst spent a quarter of a century campaigning against the death penalty, with her self-made wealth. Learn more about how this scullery maid turned business entrepreneur's unconventional methods of protest earned her a reputation and place in the history of capital punishment. For more information visit shirehalldorset.org.uk or call 01305 261849.

Monday 21st January from 2.30pm to 4pm

Monday club Illustrated talk on Handel's Messiah by Jane Howard. As usual we shall meet in St Mary's Hall, Alexandra Road, Dorchester, followed by a raffle and refreshments, all for the reasonable sum of £2.50. Please do come and join us, or for more information speak to Rosemary (262615) or Jill (263757)

Wednesday 30th January at 10am

Dorcas MU Bible Study group meet at 4 Kingsbere Crescent. Walking with Old Testament Women. Rahab (Part 2). Joshua 6:1-27. Newcomers & visitors welcome. Details 260259.

Thursday 31st January from 10am

Brass Cleaning morning until noon in the vestry St Mary's Church. This is a social occasion with tea/coffee - and sometimes doughnuts!

