



Reflections and Connections

OCTOBER 2026 ISSUE

TESTIMONY

REFLECTIONS FROM ANTHONY

IN CONVERSATION WITH...

POETRY

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AND MUCH MORE

**Loving Jesus, building community
and blessing Dorchester**

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

SUNDAY
11TH OCT
10.30 AM



HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

We come together to give thanks to God for His faithful provision, to remember the hard work of all those who help to supply our food, and reflect on our responsibility to support those in need, particularly in and around Dorchester.

During the service there will be a collection of thanksgiving offerings of (non-perishable) produce to support The work of the Dorchester Foodbank. If you are able to donate, please bring:

- ◆ Food items: Baked beans, tinned/packet soups, ready meals/snacks, tinned fish and meat, pasta sauce, custard, rice pudding, tinned fruit and veg, pasta, rice, tinned potatoes, instant mash, biscuits, cereal, porridge, jam, coffee, tea, UHT milk, and sugar.
 - ◆ Household and personal care: Laundry gel/tabs, washing up liquid, cleaning sprays/bleach, toilet rolls, shampoo, shower gel, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shaving gel, razors, and sanitary products.
 - ◆ Extras: Ketchup, brown sauce, mayonnaise, cooking oil, instant hot chocolate, squash/soft drinks, and confectionery.
- The Foodbank are unable to accept fresh, chilled or frozen food items. Thank you. The Mission Team

SUNDAY
18TH OCT
6.30 PM

OUR PRAISE AND PRAYER GATHERING

Clara will be leading us in a time of worship and Anthony 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.

SATURDAY
17TH OCT
7.00 PM

Don't forget to buy your tickets!!



THURSDAY
22nd OCT
7.30 PM



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



ELLE
LIMEBEAR

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



GRACE
WHEELER

FIND OUT MORE

WWW.LIGHTUPDORSET.COM

[f](#) [@](#) [@LIGHTUPDORSET](#)



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.

“Christianity explored”...Seven weeks...Seven Conversations.

One Question that could change everything.

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. There are many opportunities to be involved, from Catering, Table leading, Welcoming, Praying, Setting the scene and Publicity & Invitations.

Please be praying about who you may invite, and how you might be involved. Scan the QR code to find out more.

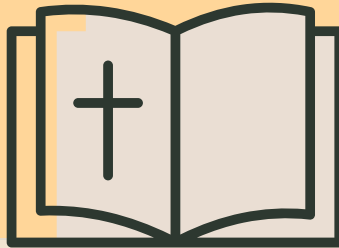
SATURDAY
28th NOV
7.00 PM

TEARFUND BIG QUIZ NIGHT

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. **Please note that the date has changed!**

tearfund

Sermon series for 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!

Youth matters... the future of our church

It was great to welcome the children back to Climbers after the summer holidays. Our first discussions with the kids this term sparked a new teaching theme: the J Series. They mentioned a few people in the bible they wanted to look at whose names began with J, so we've Started with Jacob and will journey through many more before reaching Joseph and Jesus as we head towards Christmas! Please continue to pray for the group, thank you. Summit Our Youth age children continue to meet on Sundays, and HEAT youth group meets on a Wednesday evening - do uphold our Youth and their leaders in prayer.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

DUTY DEACONS FOR OCTOBER

4TH - JULES

11TH - ALLAN

18TH - ANDREW

25TH - LUCINDA



LIFE GROUP WORD CLOUD

Thank you ever so much to everyone who shared their three words associated with life groups. The resulting word cloud is shown above and just shows that they are great places of fellowship and friendship. We firmly believe that these groups are a wonderful way to find fellowship, to grow in your faith and to study God's word. If you would like to join one, pick up a postcard invitation available in the foyer.

Anthony's antics

I was thinking about my Gran the other day. A most determined force of nature who had brought up three children; enduring war, the great depression and My Grandad.

As I remember those years, I remember my grandparents being there for me when I absolutely needed them most. The pillow fights we used to have when they volunteered to bring up a grieving teenager who often used to hide the kettle lead in the morning, just to prank their attempts to make a morning cup of tea.

Gran managed to see in the start of the 21st Century before she went to meet her Saviour. Grandad went ahead to make sure things would be ok for when she arrived (or for a bit of peace ... I'm not sure which).

But there are two things I remember my Gran saying to me often.

The first seemed an over spiritualised ditty ... but I remember it clearly. "Without the way there is no going, without the truth there is no knowing, without the life, there is no living". Only after her death did I come to realise she was quoting Thomas a Kempis. Such a spiritual giant.

The other thing she would say was that although she didn't expect to see the return of Jesus within her lifetime, I very well could. And her voice came back to my memory as I was listening to the news the other day as the News Readers heralded the potential end of humanity with an AI Extinction Event akin to a Terminator Level threat. Sky-net is becoming self-aware!

For my Grandparents generation who saw the Great War then the Second World War, the Cold War and the threat of nuclear annihilation to name a few, I can only imagine their expectancy that the end was increasingly nearer than it had been in their youth.

Yet every generation since the birth of the Church has had to contend with the possibility that their generation may be the last; that one day the images that John depicted in his Revelation would become a physical reality, or that as Paul would describe, Jesus will come to roll up history, having defeated all comers, and pass it back to Father God as the completion of his act of Worship. (1 Cor 15:24-28)

We live in the knowledge that one day, all that is, will end.

The World, it appears is hanging onto an ideal that somehow, things will continue as they have always done and anything that upsets the equilibrium that modern society has generated is to be feared and quashed; and seems quite happy to generate an environment of news-fuelled fear to the point of frenzy.

But I'm reminded that we know something the world does not.

Whatever fear the world generates does not extinguish the Love of God. And the Love of God drives out all fear. (1 John 4:18)

The Gospel writer wrote ... 'the light has shined in the darkness .. and the darkness has not overcome it.' (John 1:5) But I want to comment on what the writer then goes on to say about John the Baptist.

‘6There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.’ John 1:6-8

The fact that there is darkness has never diminished the role of the Church to be light. The fact that the World does not see Jesus does not mean the job of the church is over or that we have failed, just that there is more yet to complete.

Just because the World sits in fear because it senses that the end is coming does not change the mission of God or the role of the Church within it. But it should stir us to greater action. Just as my Gran infused the idea that Jesus may return with my lifetime, so we should be ready to receive Jesus at any time. We don’t know when, but he does.

We don’t know if AI is going to spiral out of control, but God does. The end has been written from the beginning, and as a spoiler ... Jesus wins and the forces at play on the earth are thoroughly resistant to that endgame.

But we are a people of hope, not a people of fear, and hope in God does not disappoint. The gospel writers recorded the Words of Jesus in regard to the end times in Matt 24 & Mark 13 when the world enters its fear fuelled frenzy - we are not to be alarmed. The end is yet to come and it comes because God has ordained it to be so.

Whatever the future holds, I have this in mind – it will happen only by the will of God according to his Word to us. But that is not a place of complacency.

Until the day, until the hour, until the very moment of Jesus return, we need to be as prepared to enter into the Glory yet to be revealed as Jesus described the Virgins of Matthew 25 and to be found attending to our father’s business.

Trim your wicks, top up your oil and keep your lamps burning in order to stay alert and watchful. Our moment will come and we need to be ready, not blinded by fear, lies or deceit which will only deprive us of our spiritual alertness and our joy at his appearing.

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. This is our truth and the darkness will not overcome that. But we ask, just as Paul did to the church in Corinth– Marantha – Lord, Come quickly.



WORSHIP SONGS FOR OCTOBER



click below to listen!

IT IS WELL

By Kristene Dimarco

Grander Earth has quaked
before

Moved by the sound of His
voice

Seas that are shaken and
stirred

Can be calmed and broken for
my regard...

EVERLASTING ARMS

By Lou Fellingham

He lavishes grace as our burdens grow
greater

He sends us more strength as our
labours increase

To added afflictions He offers more
mercy.

To multiplied trials He multiplies
peace...

Eagles Wings Ministries UK

Mike and Angie Stear are travelling to Rwanda
October 20th - 3rd November and have asked for us to
support them in prayer.

Please find the details of their itinerary below.



Tues. 20th -Wed.21st Flight to Kigali, Rwanda

Thurs. 22nd-Sat.24th "Marriage & Family Life" Conference (on the topic of -"Ten investments in marriage and ten investments in family"). Thursday & Friday are evening meetings and Saturday all day. Fifty couples are expected from two churches which worship in the same building.

Sunday 25th Attend the Induction of the new Archbishop of Rwanda

Mon. 26th-Tues.27th Hoping to meet Victor Imanaturikumwe who leads EVitabu, Rwanda (providing teaching notes in Kinyarwanda for online access - some EWM UK notes have been available this way for several years.) Plus, some time off.

Tuesday 27th Mike and Angie are joined by colleagues Cpt. Paul Warren and Rev. Dr. Allen Edwards

Mon.26th-Tues.27th Paul & Allen travel to Heathrow and flight to Kigali

Wednesday 28th Meetings with various people

Thurs.29th - Sat.31st "Leadership" Conference (main sessions will cover : Church Growth, Practical Holiness and Principles of leadership in the book of Nehemiah). Thursday & Friday are evening meetings and Saturday all day with fifty leaders drawn from both Rebero and Gikondo churches.

Sunday November 1st Invited to preach at three services. As there are three of us to preach two of us might be asked to preach at other churches in or around Kigali.

Mon. 2nd-Tues.3rd Flight to Heathrow and travel home

We will also have some Workshops looking at: Discipleship through Small Groups (Allen), Strategies for Evangelism (Paul), Prayer Ministry (Angie), and Developing vision (Mike).

Please pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit on the team and all who attend, straightforward travel, good health and rich fellowship.

Thank you for partnering with us in the Gospel through prayer.

Some people have kindly expressed a wish to contribute to the finances of the visit.

The bank details are:

CAF Bank: Eagle's Wings Ministries UK Ltd; Ac.No: 00021274; Sort Code 40-52-40

(names of donors do not always appear on the bank statement, so if you would like an acknowledgement please email ewmukltd16@gmail.com . Thank you.)



NEW WINE 2027

New Wine (NW) is a summer festival which started in 1989 as an Anglican Christian camping holiday with teaching for the whole family. NW has grown and developed with a relaxed festival feel, yet teaching and worship remains at its core and the focus remains 'local churches changing nations'. It is accessible with provision for those with additional needs and the site at the Bath and West Showground near Shepton Mallet is wheelchair friendly. People either camp on-site or stay off-site and travel in daily; and day tickets are available. During the year NW offers different opportunities for teaching and ministry around the UK, whilst the summer festival allows all to join and worship in one place. The aim of the festival is to equip individuals and churches and church leaders to return to their normal world having met with God over the days there. Trying to sum up NW in print is hard, it's brilliant teaching, amazing worship for all, encounters with the Holy Spirit, late night chats, hot chocolate, camping in the sun and rain(!), meeting old friends and making new, sometimes queues, happy youngsters being more independent and having fun.

For more information see www.new-wine.org. Also feel free to ask Gary or Helen Dell about the event.

WRITING POETRY by Milly East

Poetry can be a fantastic way to express and understand emotions. I have spent a lot of time reading and writing poetry. This simple and personal practice has guided me through lots of difficult emotions, it has been an irreplaceable time of peace and meditation in my routine. I know that not everyone enjoys reading or writing and I know that the concept of a poem can be overwhelming and embarrassing, in fact, most of what I write is kept completely private. I often cringe reading pieces back, because they sound silly or childish or too serious but I have never regretted the time I spent processing and thinking through each poem. A poem at its heart is a purposeful expression, an exploration of a moment or a feeling or a relationship. I wanted to write this article to show that poetry can be accessible to everyone because everyone has something they want to express. It would be lovely if our church community could spend some time this month expressing our relationship with God through poetry. Writing a poem can be as simple or complicated as you want. A good place to start is with a poem that you enjoy or with a template. I made a template for people to start with. Look below for my example and the template! Feel free to share anything you come up with!

My name is (name),
Today I feel like a (adjective) (noun)
(verb)ing in the (noun),
Sometimes I am a/an (noun),
God is always (adjective),
Sometimes I am a/an (noun),
God is always (adjective),
I ask him "(question)?",
The answer is like (the words from
line two).

My name is Milly,
Today I feel like a soft creature
sleeping in the forest,
Sometimes I am a dream,
God is always kind,
Sometimes I am a nightmare,
God is always forgiving,
I ask him "are you with me?",
The answer is a soft creature
sleeping in the forest.

In your version you can change it as much as you'd like, following wherever your faith and creativity takes you. Poetry often has no wrong answers, as long as you are having fun and expressing yourself it will come out well, because a successful poem is a poem you have had fun writing! It also might not make sense right away, this is perfectly fine! I find the best poems take a little while to fully understand and you can always change things around, a little creative experimentation goes a long way. Why not grab a notebook and give it a try?



A little of my story

by Andrew Webb



I was born in Newcastle. I am the second of five children born to missionary parents. Both my father and mother were Doctors and I travelled to South India when I was about a year old. My parents worked at the Christian medical college in Vellore, South India. My father was a paediatrician and my mother worked in child psychiatry.

As a young child my older brother and I went to a boys boarding school in the Nilgiri Hills in Southern India. At school my passion was sport. One story to tell – I wrote to a girl in another school (a daughter of a friend of our family), and hadn't had written permission, so I was beaten for the offence!

Our summer holidays were spent on Korakundah tea estate in the Nilgiri Hills. We would go fishing in the lakes, pick wild strawberries, and have long adventurous walks. Walking back through the woods in the dark, from a fishing trip, woods that at times contained wild leopards, tigers and elephants! I grew up eating curry and rice and gained a little of the Tamil language.

From the age of eleven I moved back to the UK for my education with my older brother. We went to boarding school and spent the holidays with a very accommodating uncle and aunt. The summer holidays were always spent in India with my parents and at that time, two younger siblings.

We went to church every week in India and back home in England. When I was 13, at school it was normal for the boys to be confirmed. When it came to my turn, I mentioned to the vicar that I was not sure that I was a Christian. He thanked me for my honesty and said it was okay not to be confirmed.

I originally wanted to be a vet, break the family tradition of medicine; but I had some time on a work experience with a vet in Cumbria. He said he wanted to be a vet because he preferred animals to talking to people. I decided then that perhaps a vet's life wasn't for me! I went to university in Newcastle where I studied medicine.

At this point my mother had moved back to the UK, with my two younger siblings, to have my youngest brother. My Father stayed on in India serving as the medical director at the Christian Medical College. He visited us annually.

I enjoyed university to the full and after I had qualified, I completed my medical pre-registration house job in Newcastle. For my surgical house job, I moved to Plymouth. This was where I met Maddy. She taught me how to sail and we were then married - 50 Years next year.

Maddy and I both loved to travel and we took up a three-year medical contract as doctors in Papua New Guinea. We travelled with a nine-month-old and had two more children whilst in Papua New Guinea. During our time in PNG Maddy started to become concerned about the world we were bringing our children into.

After our three years we decided to fly back to the UK via India, and stayed at the Christian Medical College in Vellore. One evening an English pastor gave a talk which spoke to Maddy and fuelled her desire to find out more about Christianity and the bible.

When we arrived back in the UK I was offered a position at Southampton Hospital. We started life in the doctor's accommodation on site. On the floor above us, a lovely Zimbabwean couple, with similar aged children became good friends. They were a Christian couple and invited Maddy to a course exploring the Christian faith. Maddy gave her life to Jesus and went to church regularly. I was not against but couldn't understand the faith that Maddy had found.

We moved to Dorchester and Maddy came to Dorchester Baptist Church. She asked a friend, Peter Green, if he would have a chat with me. We went on a walk together, climbing up out of Lulworth Cove and I could hardly catch my breath and talk. Peter simply said to me, "You know God loves you". I was completely blown away. My view of God was from boarding school and I saw God as being judgmental and being disappointed by my behaviour. To find out that God loved me and is my loving Heavenly Father was a revelation. I read a lot of books and over time, gradually came to believing in Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. I had realised that the stories in the New Testament were indeed true and God loved ME. I looked at Jesus's disciples – after they had seen the risen Christ, they were bold and confident sharing the good news of salvation despite the persecution they could face. They knew who Jesus is, the Son of God, and they couldn't fake it.

Maddy and I were baptised at DBC in 1988 and our three children were dedicated on the same day. I worked at Dorchester County Hospital as an Elder Care Consultant and then as Medical Director for a couple of years. Near my retirement I did a job share with a colleague which meant I worked for six months at DCH and then had the opportunity for Maddy and I to spend six months working in a rural hospital in South Africa – we did this on and off over a ten year period.

I am now officially retired, and spend my time looking after our six grandchildren, when needed, visiting our adult children, playing the occasional!! round of golf and serving on the DBC diaconate.

IN CONVERSATION WITH with Peter Satur



Where were you born?

I was born in India.

What is a random fact about you?

I love to read and would like to write a book.

Is there a skill you would like to learn?

Languages - mainly European.

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

The alps - the beauty of them. I grew up with very little self confidence and learning to ski changed me.

What challenge has shaped who you are today?

Sport - especially athletics and running competitively.

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

Be patient and read more books.

What is something you could talk about for hours?

My family - I am proud of them all.

Two old women prayed. An island was shaken.

The Hebrides revival 1949

In 1949, on the Isle of Lewis in the Scottish Hebrides, the churches were struggling to reach a younger generation. In the village of Barvas lived two elderly sisters, Peggy and Christine Smith, aged 84 and 82. Peggy was blind, and Christine was severely affected by arthritis. They could not travel around preaching. They could not organise great evangelistic campaigns. BUT they could PRAY, and they became convinced that GOD was going to visit their island.

The sister laid hold of the promise of Isaiah 44v3, "I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground". Night after night they prayed in their little cottage, sometimes for hours at a time, crying out to God for the young people of Lewis. Peggy became convinced that God had shown her the church filled with young people and that revival was coming. They challenged their minister, Rev. James Murray Mackay, to gather men from the church and see God with them.

While the two sisters prayed in their cottage, men began meeting in a barn to seek God. They prayed for weeks. Then one night, a young deacon stood and read from Psalm 24, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart". He looked at the other men and challenged them. What good was it to keep asking God to send revival if their own hearts were not right before Him?

Then he lifted his hands and cried, "God, are my hands clean? Is my heart pure?"

He could go no further.

According to the evangelist Duncan Campbell's later account, the young man fell to the floor and an overwhelming consciousness of God gripped the men in that barn. Campbell described it as moving out of the ordinary and natural "into the sphere of the supernatural". They had been asking God to come down. Now they believed He had answered.

The people invited Duncan Campbell to come to Lewis. Campbell initially had other commitments, but those plans changed and eventually arrived on the island. Campbell was always careful about one thing; he did not claim that he brought revival to the Hebrides. God was already moving before he arrived. The praying saints had prepared the ground.

The awakening began spreading.

Meeting continued late into the night. People packed the churches. But what made the Hebrides accounts extraordinary was what reportedly happened outside the meetings. Campbell described people who had never entered the church becoming suddenly conscious of God. People cried out for mercy.

Homes became places of prayer. Men and women sought ministers and Christians because they wanted to get right with God.

The presence of God was no longer confined to a church service.

Campbell described occasions when a meeting would finish only for another crowd to gather in the early hours of the morning. People came from surrounding communities. Prayer meetings sprung up. Conviction spread from village to village. What had begun with a handful of people seeking God was touching an island.

And one of the most remarkable moments involved a young believer named Donald Smith, who was only about fifteen years old. During one meeting, Campbell felt that he was getting nowhere with his preaching. Then he noticed Donald sitting nearby with his head bowed, deeply broken before God. The young man had been weeping in prayer. Campbell stopped and asked Donald to pray.

Donald stood and began crying out to God. He spoke about the open door in heaven and the Lamb upon the throne. Then the young man became overwhelmed and could scarcely continue.

Finally he looked upward and cried:

“God, there is power there. Let it loose! Let it loose!”

Campbell testified that the power of God swept through the congregation. People were overwhelmed by the presence of God. The meeting that human effort could not move was suddenly transformed through prayer.

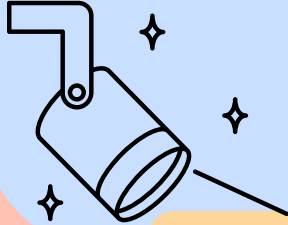
That was the heartbeat of the Hebrides Revival. It did not begin with advertising. It did not begin with a famous preacher. It did not begin with a new church programme.

It began with people who became desperate for God. Two elderly women who could hardly leave their cottage refused to accept the spiritual condition around them. Men gathered in a barn and prayed until God began dealing with their own hearts. A fifteen-year-old boy became so burdened in prayer that all he could do was look toward heaven and cry, “There is power there. Let it loose”!

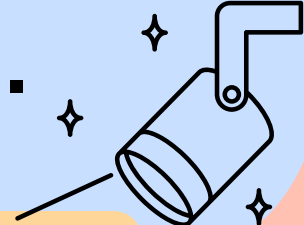
They believed revival was more than better meetings. They wanted God Himself to come down. And when the people of the Hebrides became hungry enough to seek Him, they testified that the presence of God became something an entire community could no longer ignore.

“Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence”. Isaiah 64v1





Ministry Spotlight on... The Deacons



What is a deacon's role at DBC?

All deacons are part of the leadership of the church working alongside those who receive a salary or stipend, i.e. the Senior Minister, Associate Minister and Pastoral Care Coordinator. Mostly, these individuals are trustees of the Charity which is Dorchester Baptist Church, so are required to act in its best interests and uphold the principles and aims of the Charity as registered with the Charity Commission.

That's the boring part done!

What does a deacon do? Well, Wikipedia tells us that the word deacon is derived from the Greek word *diákonos*, which is a standard ancient Greek word meaning "servant", "waiter", "minister", or "messenger". Recent research has highlighted the role of the deacon "as a co-operator" and "go-between," emphasizing their intermediary position in the church, so operating between the ordained ministers and the fellowship. All of those definitions go some way towards explaining the flavour of the role of deacon.

In reality the intermediary role of the deacon at DBC covers a huge variety of subject matter, overseeing and influencing much of the life and operational management of the church. It acts as a support and sounding board for the ministers especially in the current absence of an eldership. We know that DBC has a wide range of activities and ministries and so very little is off the table as far as the deacon's agenda is concerned.

So, the deacons keep a watch on:

- money coming in and going out as guided by the Church Treasurer who as a deacon is elected into that role (like the Church Secretary), including processing payments and budget setting and management
- repairs and maintenance needed for the church building and its grounds
- governance and policy work to ensure compliance as a charity and meeting obligations of good practice, management and control, especially safeguarding
- planning and prayer for the future – recruitment
- liaison as necessary with the Lettings Director for the letting out of the church premises through the Dorford Centre Lettings Charity
- support for church ministries as required – e.g. children and youth and kids and Co., Sunday rotas, cafes, home groups
- practical aspects of church activities - both internal (services, special events, discipleship programmes), and outward facing (e.g. shoe box campaign, Theatre production, Christmas Cracker stall).

The deacon's agenda items are many and varied. It might help to think of the deacons as managing church operations, whilst elders (when a team is formed) consider spiritual matters such as supporting the ministers in seeking God's direction for the church, sermon series etc. Being a deacon really is a very interesting area of work, overseeing and becoming involved in lots of things and decision-making as a team on issues which are important to us all. It's important to emphasise that we are a team – we consider, discuss, share opinions freely and openly together and hopefully represent the church humbly but faithfully and conscientiously.

We meet each month for around 2 hours and usually have a fun time together, so it's not all serious! We are appointed by the church membership at a church meeting according to the Church Constitution for a period of 3 years, which can be renewed if we are willing to serve for a further 3 years, up to a maximum of 6 years' service.

If this has whetted your appetite to take a more active part in church leadership, or just want to know more, why not have a chat with one of the current deacons who are myself, Suzanna Bell, Jules Boardman, Allan Huntington, Jacqui Satur, or Andrew Webb, or the ministers, James and Anthony.

Thank you, Graham Waters, Church Secretary



Philosophy corner by Milly East

My first experience with philosophy was in year two and I loved every second of it. There was something so exciting about getting to talk about big questions with my classmates, something so thrilling about a debate. As a christian, I felt so sure, a little more sure than I am now, that I had all the answers. The most memorable debate for me was our discussion about the beginning of the universe. Lots of my classmates spoke about the big bang, something I had never really understood. Seven year old me had no concept of nothing, or something being able to bang into nothing. My first question was, "What happened before the big bang? What made the big bang?" and my teacher answered, "Lots of energy built up." my next question was the same, "What made the energy? And what made it build up?" This continued on for some time, until we reached the inevitable "no one knows really" answer my poor teacher must have been dreading. I was fascinated, God was my answer, a perfect intentional creator to fill in the gap that human minds cannot fill.

What I didn't know at that time was that my questioning was the kind of questioning that christian philosophers have engaged with for thousands of years, and that my year two philosophy class had wandered into the cosmological argument. As christians, philosophy as a subject can be intimidating, but knowing more can be an amazingly fulfilling way of engaging with your faith. It's much easier to follow than you might assume and it's a way that many young people are finding God. Hopefully, in this article, I can show you how simple it can be and everyone can feel a little more confident in their philosophical convictions.

The "kalam cosmological argument" seemed to me like a great place to start, especially since my boyfriend just completed his PhD discussing it, so I have a resident expert to make sure I don't get anything wrong. Arguments in philosophy are set out in a very simple order, premises and conclusions. The "kalam cosmological argument" is as follows:

1. Everything that begins to exist has a cause of its existence.
 2. The universe began to exist.
 3. Therefore, the universe has a cause of its existence.
 4. No scientific explanation (in terms of physical laws and initial conditions of the universe) can provide a causal account of the origin (very beginning) of the universe, since they are part of the universe.
 5. Therefore, the cause must be personal (explanation is given in terms of a non-natural, personal agent).
- The fifth point in this argument here is the conclusion. A personal, non natural agent can only mean God. The universe's existence points to him, and this is only a small section of a massive argument that christian philosophers think through. I'd really encourage anyone interested to explore more philosophy wherever you can, it can be a lovely way to explore your faith.

James' School update

**'So even to old age and grey hairs,
O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to another generation,
your power to all those to come.'**

A big part of our vision at Dorchester Baptist Church is to serve our local community, from its youngest to its oldest members.

I've had the enormous privilege of being appointed as chaplain to Kingston Maurward College and, over the last three years, I've been able to offer counselling, teaching and other supports in this vibrant place of learning.

Last academic year, I had an opportunity to deliver a short course that I'd written called, Four Stories. The course is designed to build resilience in folks who sometimes feel a bit overwhelmed by life. I'm happy to say that it was both popular and successful – we'll be running it again soon.

I also have the joy of running the Christian Union (CU) at Thomas Hardye School (THS). After helping out at Kids & Co. on Tuesday mornings, I sprint down to Lidl to stock up on donuts and fruit, then head over to THS in time for the lunch bell to ring.

We're starting a version of the Four Stories course at the CU after the freshers' fayre on 6th November. This time, we're calling it, Faith Stories. The young folks have a very short lunch and so the plan is to deliver a thrilling story and then have a conversation about the story while we munch on the food.

Take a look at the logos and adverts we've used and loved.

I'd greatly value your prayers for the Lord's continued blessing on both of these lovely ministries.

A CHANCE TO ENJOY LUNCH AND HEAR
A SHORT TRUE STORY ABOUT COPING
WITH LIFE

YOU'RE SO WELCOME TO OUR SHORT
SERIES OF...



STUDENT WELFARE LUNCH CLUB
1.15PM ON WEDNESDAYS



Charity No: 1188567

What a summer it has been! Our amazing volunteers have worked so hard during the heatwave, taking delivery of hundreds of boxes of food and providing a smiling welcome for all our families every week during the holidays. This year we had a last minute change of venue to St Osmund's Middle School who were so kind to let us take over The Barnes Building for the summer - a massive thank you to them!

This year, 175 families registered to receive a selection of fresh fruit and veg, meat and cheese and some packets of food staples such as pasta, rice, tuna, sweetcorn, bread rolls etc. As in previous years local business Roberts Foodservice supplied our fresh vegetables, fruit and eggs, whilst our meat and cheese came from Little Angus Butchers based in Grimstone. As usual, the quality was amazing and we received lots of positive feedback from our families. This was our second year using Bookers for all the ambient food and once again they were absolutely brilliant. Sharon, Community Champion at Tesco Dorchester kindly gave us 10 trays of clothes that our families loved!

We also had a representative from the Family Hub at Dorset Council in attendance who was available to offer advice to families about the services they can provide.

Feedback from families:

Every year we ask our families to complete a questionnaire giving feedback on the service and the food we offer. These are just some of many lovely comments we received:

"Friendly and welcoming. I was particularly grateful that the range of additional food changed each week and was healthy and varied."

"Just knowing when the cupboards and fridge are getting low, that a few more meals are on the way helps with my mental health which then helps the children know I am not so stressed."

"Being able to save a substantial amount on the food bill each week has been really helpful. It's also enabled me to cook meals I might have not been able to afford otherwise!"

"Thank you for everything you do for our community. It is really much appreciated, thank you."

"It's made such a difference to the meals I can prepare for the family, the fresh produce, meat and cheese are a lifesaver."



Thank you from the Trustees

Thank you so much to all our supporters, we cannot offer this service without you. Each family receives at least £28 worth of food every week (double for a large family) and our costs this summer were £27,000. Thank you for trusting us with your donations, it means so much to us and to the local families that we support.

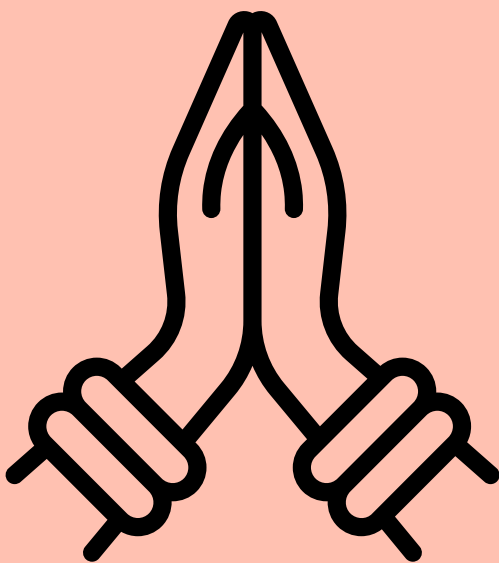


Sally, Alan, Karen, Dani, Kate, Helen and Kath
(just missing John!)

There isn't room in this newsletter to tell you everything - please look at our website or follow us on Facebook for more info and photos: www.dorchesterfamilysupport.co.uk

***Let us pray
together for each
other...***

- Revival
- Christianity explored course in October
- Our families who don't yet know our saviour
- Leadership



Pastoral Team

Here to help, always.

Church Office

***officemanager@dorchesterbc.org.uk
(01305 262045)***

**The Newsletter for November
will be coming out on Friday
30th October.**

**All contributions to Jacqui Satur
email**

jacqui@dorchesterbc.co.uk

**PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL
ADDRESS**

**by Monday 26th October - thank
you.**

Regular Weekly Schedule



Sunday

10-10.15 am
10.30 am
6.30-7.30 pm

Prayer
Morning Service
3rd Sunday praise and prayer

Tuesday

9.30-10.30 am
10-11.45 am

Revival Prayer
Kids & Co Toddler
Group

Wednesday

10-12 pm
7 pm

Cafe Refresh
HEAT youth group

Thursday

7-9 pm

All inclusive friendship
group (1st and 3rd
Thursdays)

Friday

2.30-4 pm

Friday afternoon games
(last Friday of the
month)

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