

April 2026



## The Apples Medical Centre Practice Leaflet

### THE DOCTORS

**Dr Robert Lewis**

Born 1969

Qualifications:

MB (1992) DRCOG, MRGCP

Trained at:

Southampton University Medical College

Joined Practice:

1998

Other appointments:

Practice Caldicott Guardian, Senior Partner

**Dr. Angela Tweedie**

Born 1975 (Female)

Qualifications:

MA MB B.Chir. MRCP DFFP MRCGP

Trained at:

King's College, Cambridge University

Joined Practice:

2014

Other Appointments:

School Doctor - St Antony's Leweston School  
Practice Safeguarding Lead, Learning Disabilities

**Dr. Christopher Minton** Born 1977 (Male)

Qualifications:

MBChB 2001, MRCGP 2005, PGDipSEM 2010 Bath University, DFFP 2004, West Midlands Trainers Course 2011, Advanced Trauma and Medical Management in Football FA 2018, Faculty of pre-hospital care sports events and crowd doctor course 2015

Trained at:

University of Birmingham

Joined Practice:

2020

**Dr. Dominic Parsons**

Born 1979

Qualifications:

MRCGP MRCP(UK) MB ChB

Trained at:

University of Manchester

Joined Practice:

2020

## **OUR PRACTICE STAFF**

<b>Managing Partner</b>	Philippa Cannings
<b>Nurse Practitioners</b>	Sarah Spencer - RCN ALNP, independent Prescribing Advanced Nurse Practitioner Becky - ANP
<b>Practice Nurses</b>	Sarah Sutcliffe RGN Lead Nurse Joanna Ralph RGN LTC Nurse Lesley Matthews
<b>Health Care Assistants</b>	Ruth King (Community HCA/Carers Lead) Yaz Topp
<b>Phlebotomist</b>	Sharon Pauley
<b>Dispensary Staff</b>	Rose Burgess (Dispensary Manager) Sarah Kelly Liz Atyeo Claire Carter
<b>Secretary</b>	Suzie Abbott
<b>Practice Administrator</b>	Anita Guppy
<b>Receptionists</b>	Tracy King (Head Receptionist) Tracey Watson Laura Jones Alison King
<b>Administration</b>	Michelle Reilly (Manager and Data Quality) Elaine Bird Suzie Abbott
<b>Care Coordinator</b>	Rickie Gilgunn Anita Guppy

## **ATTACHED STAFF**

<b>Midwife</b>	Sally Keeping
<b>District Nursing team</b>	Based at the Yeatman Hospital (Tel: 01305 361552)
<b>Health Visitors</b>	Based at the Yeatman Hospital (01305 361071)

## **RECEPTION/SURGERY HOURS**

**Reception Hours:** Monday-Friday 8:00am – 6:30pm

**Surgery Hours:** Monday – Friday 8:30am - 6pm

**Method of Contacting the Surgery:** Telephone reception during opening times, SystemConnect via the practice website (sherborneapples.co.uk)

**Consultations:** Telephone Triage (this may lead to face-to-face consultation with GP/Clinician) appointments based on 15 minutes

**\*you may not always see the Doctor of your choice\***

**Sick Young Children (under 5s):** Will always be an extra appointment in the next surgery.

**How to obtain an Urgent Consultation:**

**Please ask for an urgent appointment for that day.** You will be seen the same day, but not always by the doctor of your choice/you will be offered ANP appointment

## **HOME VISITS**

### **Routine Home Visits**

If you are unable to attend the surgery and a visit is needed, please telephone your request between 9.00.a.m. - 10.00.a.m. Monday to Friday

**URGENT HOME VISITS - PLEASE TELEPHONE AT ANY TIME AND YOUR REQUEST WILL BE DEALT WITH IMMEDIATELY.**

## **When the Surgery is closed**

If you are unwell in the evening, overnight or at the weekend:

**Contact the Dorset Emergency Care Service on 111**

This service is for urgent medical situations – if you, or a member of your family, become ill and you are concerned. It is not for routine enquiries, such as booking an appointment with your GP, repeat prescriptions, test results etc.

A trained member of staff will answer the phone and take some details for you.

They will pass your details straight over to a doctor who will ring you back to ask more about the problem and, with you, will decide the best option for you.

Depending on the seriousness of your condition, this might be:

- Advice on over the phone,
- A visit to a local treatment centre
- A home visit by a nurse, doctor, or paramedic.

## **How to register**

Please ask for a new patient pack at reception. If you wish to register with a specific GP, please let the receptionist know when you book your first appointment.

A form needs to be completed. (New Patient Questionnaire available on our website)

Or you can use the following link <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/gps/> Register with a GP surgery

## **Online Access: [www.sherborneapples.co.uk](http://www.sherborneapples.co.uk)**

Please bring photographic identification to reception. We will then issue you with a username and a password to allow you **to book appointments & order repeat prescriptions** online.

## **Change of address/personal details:**

Please notify reception of any change of name, address, telephone number, next-of-kin or contact details.

## THE DISPENSARY AND PRESCRIPTIONS

Payment can be made by credit/debit card\*

### DISPENSARY HOURS:

Monday	8:30 am – 6:15 pm
Tuesday	8:30 am – 5:45 pm
Wednesday-Friday	8:30 am – 5:15 pm

Pre-ordered prescriptions can be collected any time the surgery is open (except controlled drugs)

**Monday – Friday** 8:30 am – 6:15 pm

Via e-mail: [apples.prescriptions@dorsetgp.nhs.uk](mailto:apples.prescriptions@dorsetgp.nhs.uk)

WEBSITE: [www.sherborneapples.co.uk](http://www.sherborneapples.co.uk)

Please call into the surgery with **PHOTO ID** to obtain the necessary information to allow you to order prescriptions online.

**Prescription Telephone Line – Option 2 01935 812633**

**Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9:30 am – 11:30 am**

The dispensary is available to dispense medication, appliances and dressings to **any patient who lives more than one mile (1.6km) as the ‘crow flies’ from their nearest pharmacy**. Regrettably by law, we are unable to dispense to anyone closer than this distance.

### Ordering Repeat Prescriptions:

Medication Requests will be ready for collection within **3 working days**. **\*\*Please consider weekends & holidays\*\***

Electronic prescriptions can be sent to your chosen chemist in Sherborne, and they can be collected from there within 4-5 working days.

### **At the Surgery:**

Attached to your prescription is a request form for reordering medication. Tick only the items required & indicate if you wish the prescription to be sent to a nominated chemist, collected from the surgery, or dispensed. Hand the completed request form to a receptionist or place in the box on the mantel piece or in the red locked box by the main entrance.

**Online Access:** [www.sherborneapples.co.uk](http://www.sherborneapples.co.uk)

Please bring in photo I.D. We will then print off the relevant information and issue a password to allow you to **book appointments & order repeat prescriptions online.**

**By Email:** (for prescription requests only)

[apples.prescriptions@dorsetgp.nhs.uk](mailto:apples.prescriptions@dorsetgp.nhs.uk)

**By Post:**

Post the request form to the dispensary at the surgery address. (If you would like the prescription returned by post, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope).

**By Telephone:** 01935 812633 (Option 2)

This is a **dedicated line** for prescription requests and enquiries

**Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 9:30 am – 11:30 am**

### **Urgent Medication:**

For an **urgent** supply of medication when the surgery is closed, **contact a pharmacy** and take along the **medication packaging** or your **repeat medication slip** to get an emergency supply. **Please do not contact the Out of Hours GP service**

### **Waste Medicines:**

Please return any unwanted and out of date medicines to the dispensary for safe disposal.

### **Sharps Boxes:**

Please return any full sharps boxes to the dispensary and we will replace it. (Registered patients only).

### **Information:**

Please speak to any of the dispensers for any information regarding prepayment certificates, leaflets on entitlement to free prescriptions or HC2 forms for students to claim free prescriptions.

**Payment can be made by credit/debit card\***

**\*Please note that we do not accept American Express cards**

### **SERVICES**

#### **The Practice provides complete medical care including:**

Asthma Care  
Advice on alcohol intake  
Cervical Smear Tests  
Counselling  
Diabetic Care  
Dietary & Exercise advice  
Family Planning & Contraception  
Full Maternity Medical Services  
Minor Surgery procedures  
Smoke-Stop Clinics  
Travel advice/vaccinations  
NHS Health Checks

### **Asthma Care**

We encourage all asthmatic patients to see us at least annually to review their symptoms, self-management, and treatment.

### **Diabetic Care**

All diabetic patients are regularly monitored and have an annual review in our Diabetic Clinic. Care is sometimes shared with the hospital.

### **Cervical Smear Test**

All women under 65 years of age should have a cervical smear test every 3 years. If you have not had a test within the past 3 years and have received an invitation in the post please make a joint appointment with the nurse/doctor.

### **Family Planning & Contraception**

Full services available including pre-natal / pre-conceptual / infertility and contraceptive advice. We also offer:

- Emergency contraception (morning after pill) within 72 hours.
- Confidential services for the under 16's.
- Advice on safer sex.

### **NHS Health**

Full health screening, with emphasis on prevention of heart disease, and cancer, can be carried out by appointment with the doctor or practice nurse.

### **Minor Surgery**

Various minor surgery procedures (toenails only) as well as muscular-skeletal injections, can be performed in the surgery.

### **New Patient Check**

If you are taking **REGULAR MEDICATION** this needs to be with a member of our PCN Pharmacy Team.

### **SmokeStop Clinics**

All patients wishing to stop smoking can be referred our SmokeStop Service.

## OUR HEALTH CARE TEAM

The following personnel are attached to the practice and are available to give advice within their own fields but can always refer patients to the doctors when needed.

### **Practice Nurses**

Our Practice Nursing Team can treat or advise on:

Chronic Disease Management, dressings, injections, immunisations, blood tests, blood pressure monitoring, weight checks and travel health and vaccinations. They can also carry out full health promotion screening - a 30-minute appointment is required

### **District Nurses**

Our nurses work closely with the doctors, and other professionals, and can provide treatment at home. The nurses can advise about care and convalescence after discharge from hospital. They can also advise on general health care, chronic disease management and give help, information, and support to carers. Messages for the district nurses can be left at Reception or on their answer phone at

**The Yeatman Hospital – 01305 361552.**

### **Health Visitor**

The Health Visitors role is to support the family and promote Public Health

The Health Visitor admin team are based at the Weymouth Hub 01305 361071. Our receptionist can help if there is no reply.

### **Midwife**

The Midwife cares for all expectant mothers, both before and after the birth of their babies. In some cases, she may be involved with the births in Yeovil Maternity and at home. Antenatal clinics are held every Tuesday morning. Messages for the midwife can be left at Yeovil Hospital Maternity Reception telephone: **01935 384449.**

## **Community Mental Health Team**

The team members work closely with us to care for patients with psychiatric problems, enabling them to live in the community. They also help with the treatment of various problems such as depression, anxiety, stress related illnesses, confusion & memory difficulties, and bereavement. They can also give support and advice to carers and family members.

The team can be contacted on their own telephone number: **01935 816552**.

For counselling, talking therapies and cognitive behaviour therapy patients can self-refer to Steps2Wellbeing, further information can be found here: <https://www.steps2wellbeing.co.uk/>

## **Dorset Cancer Care Nurse- Emma Randall**

The Dorset Cancer Care nurse works alongside the doctors, nurses, and other professionals to give advice, support and care to patients living with cancer. This help is offered either when cancer is diagnosed or at any time during the illness and extends to the whole family if needed. The nurse helps patients, their carers, and any family to achieve the best possible quality of life.

The nurse can be contacted via the **Yeatman Hospital 01935 813991** or a message can be left for her at the practice reception.

## **OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE**

### **Physiotherapy**

Our physiotherapist is based at the Yeatman Hospital, Sherborne. A doctor's referral is not necessary, and you can self-refer. Further information can be found at <https://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services-hospitals/physical-health/outpatient-physiotherapy-service>

## **CLINICS**

<b>Ante-Natal/Post Natal</b>	Every Tuesday a.m. ( <b>by appointment</b> ) Midwife present.
<b>Diabetic</b>	By arrangement with the Long-Term Conditions Nurse.
<b>Child Immunisations</b>	Every Tuesday morning from 9.30am A letter will be sent when your child is due for Immunisation.
<b>Dietician</b>	By referral.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

All staff, including attached staff, working at the practice are bound by confidentiality clauses in their contracts of employment, which prevents release of any information about you to any party.

Information about you can only be given to outside bodies, with your signed consent, which will be held in your records.

## **ACCESS TO MEDICAL RECORDS**

Access to Medical Records is available within the restraints of current legislation.

## **PRACTICE CHARTER**

You will find our Practice Charter displayed in the Reception Waiting Area. A copy of this is on the following page. This tells you about the standard of service you may expect from us and our main responsibilities to you. It also gives examples of your responsibilities to us.

## **DATA PROTECTION ACT/GDPR:**

The Practice is registered under the Data Protection Act. Information is held for Practice/NHS use only.

## **REMOVAL OF PATIENTS FROM PRACTICE LIST**

The Apples Medical Centre aims to provide the best possible health care for their patients. However, there may be circumstances when it would be considered reasonable, or in the best interests of the patients, to remove patients from the list.

### **Situations which justify removal**

1. Violence
2. Crime & Deception
3. Distance
4. Embarkation
5. Failure to attend pre-booked appointments
6. Irretrievable breakdown of the Doctor-Patient relationship

The surgery has a procedure for removal from GP lists, if you require a copy please ask at reception.

## **COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

We always try to give the best possible services, but there may be occasions when you feel this has not happened. We offer an informal in-house complaints procedure, but this does not deal with questions of legal liability or compensation. We hope you will use it to allow us to investigate and, if necessary, put right any problems you identify or mistakes that have been made. If you use this procedure, it will not affect your right to complain to the Primary Care Trust if you so wish. Nor does it affect your right to seek compensation in law.

### **HOW TO MAKE YOUR COMPLAINT**

You can either telephone or write to our Managing Partner, Mrs. Philippa Cannings, who will take the details of your complaint and discuss how best to proceed with the investigations.

### **COMPLAINING ON SOMEONE ELSE'S BEHALF**

Please note that a patient's signed consent will be necessary if the complaint is not made by that patient in person. Details are on the complaints form. If investigation of the complaint requires consideration of the patient's medical records, the Managing Partner, Philippa Cannings will notify the patient, or the person acting on their behalf, if the investigation is to involve disclosure of information contained in the records to a person other than the doctor or a partner, a deputy or an employee of the doctor.

### **WE ARE COMMITTED TO DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS SWIFTLY**

You will normally be offered to take part in a meeting within ten days. Occasionally, if we must make a lot of enquiries, it may take a little longer, but we will keep you informed. You may bring a friend or relative with you to the meeting. Where possible we will provide you with an explanation and discuss any action that may be needed. We hope that by the end of the meeting, you will feel satisfied that we have dealt with the matter thoroughly. However, if this is not possible and you wish to take your complaint further, we will direct you to the appropriate authorities who will be able to help you.

### **The details of our local ICB Dorset are as follows:**

Forston Clinic  
Dorchester  
Dorset DT2 9TB

## **NAMED GP**

All patients of The Apples Medical Centre have a named GP who is responsible for their overall care.

Patients can contact the practice if they wish to know who their named GP is, and if they have a preference to which GP that is, the practice where possible will make reasonable efforts to accommodate this request.

Our practice manager is Philippa Cannings, and should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the surgery.

## PRACTICE CHARTER

### OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

We will treat you with courtesy and respect. Your confidentiality is our priority

We do our best to be accessible. We aim to offer an appointment with a Doctor within two working days.

You will always be able to see a doctor the same day if your problem is URGENT.

We will try to see you within 30 minutes of your appointment time. We will offer you an explanation if we exceed this.

We will strive to ensure that your repeat prescriptions are accurate and ready for collection at the agreed time.

When we order tests or X-rays, we will tell you how and when to obtain the results.

We will visit you at home if you are too unwell, or infirm, to be brought to the surgery.

We will maintain accurate medical records.

We all try hard to get things right but welcome your suggestions and complaints if we don't succeed.

### YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

We ask that you treat the doctors and all practice staff with the same courtesy and respect.

Please understand that a particular doctor may not always be available due to other commitments at the hospital, study days, holidays etc.

Please don't ask for urgent appointment for non-urgent matters.

Please bear with us if we are running late. On another occasion it maybe you that needs the extra time.

Please remember to order your repeat prescriptions before you run out of medication.

Please do not call before the suggested time.

Facilities for examination and treatment are better at the medical centre and the less time we spend traveling, the more time we have for patients. **Please do not ask for a home visit unless it is absolutely necessary.**

You have a responsibility too. **Please remember to tell us if you change your name, address or telephone number.** Please read our Practice Leaflet, which tells you how to make your views known.