



St. Paul's, Covingham
St. Timothy's, Liden
www.dorcanchurch.org.uk

Transforming lives and communities
Knowing Jesus and making Him known



2nd May 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

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|---------------|---------|----------------|--------------------|
| St. Paul's | 10.30am | Holy Communion | Revd Stuart Fisher |
| St. Timothy's | 10.30am | Holy Communion | Revd Trudie Wigley |

We will be live-streaming the service on the Facebook page "Dorcan Church Notice Board" which you can find at:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulssttimothysswindon/>

If you are new, we would love to get to know you better.
Please speak to the Minister or to one of the Stewards.
Welcome to the Dorcan Church.
Sunday 9th May 2021

6th Sunday of Easter
Rev Andrew's farewell service from Dorcan Church

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| St. Paul's | 10.30am. | Morning Worship | Rev. Andrew and Trudie Wigley |
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"Dorcan Church Notice Board" which you can find at:
<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsstimothysswindon/>

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 5 th | 7.30pm | Ecumenical Church Council |
| Saturday 8 th | 9.30-1.30pm | Living in Love and Faith Conference |

Social distancing as we meet to worship: It is really good to be meeting again and to see everyone, and there will come a time when we will be able to see more than just everyone's eyes and forehead! This is a little reminder to say that we are still needing to follow distancing requirements and to refrain from mingling, and therefore please could we stay in our seats where we are until it is time to leave? If you need to catch up with someone perhaps do so by phone or meet up in your gardens at another time. Thank you for helping us all do our bit.

AGM last week: Thank you for attending the AGM last week. Attached are draft minutes from the meeting, together with a summary of the short reflection shared within the meeting. After ECC this coming week, a list of people and committees will be shared.

Andrew and Trudie Arrangements during Sabbatical/Extended Study Leave

You will be aware that Sunday 9th May is Andrew's last Sunday at Dorcan ahead of his Sabbatical leave which will then bring his appointment as minister amongst us to a close in August. That Sunday is also Trudie's last before her Extended Ministerial Study Leave (EMDL) until late August during which time the family will also be moving to the Vicarage in Liden.

Arrangements are well under way for support and cover during this time, with the details being shaped in partnership with Standing Committee. We have a working spreadsheet to make sure we cover everything (it seems to keep growing!) and we give thanks for the support that is enabling this to happen – our own ministry team, the Anglican Deanery, the Methodist circuit and the church family, particularly Rev Stuart Fisher and John Davidson as they hold the leadership during this time.

The Church of England and the Methodist Church recognise the importance of an extended time for reflection and refreshment in ministry, such that in the Methodist Church it is now compulsory every 7 years. Bristol Diocese have granted Trudie's 10-yearly EMDL, having asked her to take this time for reflection at the same time as Andrew given our unique working arrangements. The time we are both away coincides with what is often a quieter time of the year in the life of the church, and post Covid-19 we would encourage everyone to catch up with friends, loved ones and church family and just enjoy the summer being together!

The timing of this leave also gives space to support a transition from one ministry set-up to the next period ahead when Rev Stephen Roe joins us in September. Trudie is returning early from Extended Study leave at the end of August to welcome him and to then start working with her new colleague and the new insights he will bring.

This time on Sabbatical/EMDL is not time off, but a time of spiritual refreshment, exploring and affirming vocation, reflection and of study. Andrew will be exploring the implications of Covid for the future of the church alongside some time of Pilgrimage and reflection on the spiritual journey. Trudie will be studying what economic justice might look like and whether there is such a thing as progressive capitalism for the common good. We won't answer all the questions in the time we have, yet are looking forward to the gift of study and learning. Thank you for supporting us in this opportunity and if you have any concerns, questions, or encouragement, before 9th May then please do contact us.

With thanks. Andrew and Trudie Wigley

Rev Andrew Wigley

Andrew's Farewell Service in The Dorcan Church, will be held in St Paul's Church, on May 9th, at 10.30 am.

A high attendance is expected at this service, therefore to comply with the current Covid distancing regulations we request that if you would like to attend, you reserve a seat by email to Jackie Hancock our Church Administrator, dorcan.church.office@gmail.com. **By no later than Wednesday 5th May**, including a contact telephone number, any queries please contact John Davidson 01793827627

If you know of any church members not able to receive emails, who may wish to attend, would you kindly pass this information on, and assist them.

This Service will be live streamed.

Farewell Arrangements for Andrew's last services

My last two services at the Dorcan Church are:

- Sunday 2nd May - 10:30am at St Timothy's
- Sunday 9th May - 10:30am at St Paul's

Current social-distancing regulations do not allow us to hold a social gathering as we might have liked, but I am offering to be available on zoom or by telephone for those wishing to say farewell more personally, as follows:

- Saturday 8th May 2:30 - 4pm on zoom
 4:00 - 5pm by telephone

Anyone wishing to arrange a 5-minute session is asked to email John Davidson on john.davidson945@gmail.com with an email address or telephone number, and John will put a list together. For those on zoom, meeting details will be sent to you, and I will call you in from the waiting room. For those on telephone, I will phone you at the arranged time. We recognise this is not ideal, but thank you for working with this.

With best wishes, *Andrew*

Living in Love and Faith

In November 2020 the Church of England published a book *“Living in Love and Faith”* (LLF) and associated resources, beginning a process of discernment and decision-making on questions of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. These resources have been designed to help all God’s people come together to learn about and discuss matters of human identity and sexuality, an arena which, in the Church of England, we have found very difficult for a number of years. Our difficulties have often caused hurt and puzzlement both inside and outside the Church and been a stumbling block to our collective witness.

As a diocese we will be engaging with LLF during 2021 and we are encouraged to do the same across our worshipping community and wider into our contexts. With the priority on *“Transforming Church”* in the earlier part of 2021, the focus on LLF will be from May onwards when we are invited to a conference which will provide a launch point into listening and exploring together and will include

guidance on how parishes and other settings can make use of available resources and engage widely.

In the meantime, we can of course start accessing and exploring the material if we wish. You will find a host of resources at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/living-love-and-faith-learning-hub>

For now, we are asked to put one of the following dates in our diary for the half-day conference which will launch our focus in LLF across the diocese. The material will be repeated on both days. Either date can be booked at

<https://bristoldiocese.eventbrite.co.uk>

- Saturday 8th May from 9:30am-1:30pm.
- Saturday 22nd May from 9:30am-1:30pm.

This is not an easy topic to explore and it is important that those with different views, perspectives and experience can express them alongside others who may hold very different positions. Please pray that in these coming months and years, our listening and learning together might, in the Bishop of Coventry's words, "help us to discern together the work of the Holy Spirit in our common life and lead us into the future that God has for us as we seek together to serve Christ fully and faithfully."

St. Paul's Tiny Tots Group has restarted sessions for parents with babies and preschool children on Wednesdays, during school terms, with a new start time of 1-3pm. As Covid 19 restrictions currently only allows up to 15 adults to attend we are taking bookings rather than having to disappoint anyone.

To book a place please contact Brenda Fisher on 07799 393845.

Dates for the diary and contact details on following two pages.

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to
Anna Newman by Wednesday 5th May
Tel: 695698 or email anagram673@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.
Please let me know if any others would like to receive notices by email.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - As at May 2021

Saturday 8th May 2021

9:30-1:30pm on line

"Living in Love and Faith" conference

booked at <https://bristoldiocese.eventbrite.co.uk>

All welcome

Sunday 9th May

United Service 10:30am St Paul's

Rev Andrew Wigley's final Sunday at Dorcan

Sunday 16th May

10:30am St Paul's

Archdeacon Christopher Bryan leading worship

Saturday 22nd May 2021

9:30-1:30pm on line

"Living in Love and Faith" conference (repeat from 8th May)

booked at <https://bristoldiocese.eventbrite.co.uk>

All welcome

Sunday 25th July 2021

10am at St Paul's

Associate Archdeacon Michael Johnson leading Worship

Saturday 11th September

Ride+Stride for churches

Sunday 21st November 2021

4pm Ecumenical confirmation at Holy Trinity, Shaw

Wednesday 1st September 2021

Revd Stephen Roe starting in the circuit as Methodist minister
at Stratton Methodist and Dorcan church

Friday 3rd September 2021

7.30pm St Paul's

Welcome service for Revd Stephen Roe