



**St. Paul's, Covingham**  
**St. Timothy's, Liden**  
[www.dorcanchurch.org.uk](http://www.dorcanchurch.org.uk)

*Transforming lives and communities*  
*Knowing Jesus and making Him known*

**Sunday 14th February 2021**  
**Sunday Next before Lent**



"He led them up to a high mountain, where they were all alone.  
There he was transfigured before them"  
Mark 9:2

**Online**    **10.30am.**    Morning Worship.    Rev. Stuart Fisher  
The service will be posted as a video on the Facebook page  
"Dorcan Church Notice Board" which you can find at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsstimothysswindon/>

**Online**    **11.30am**    **After service coffee on Zoom**  
Link will be posted on the closed Facebook page

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

[Web address for service posted on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February:](#)

## Sunday 21st February 2021 - First Sunday of Lent

### Online

10.30am.

Morning Worship.

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>

Resources for Ash Wednesday will be posted on the Facebook page

**Thursday Morning Private prayer – on pause:** We share that we are pausing Thursday morning private prayer for the time being. If you wish to speak with a member of the clergy, please do not hesitate to get in contact – we love speaking with you!

TRANSFORMING CHURCH.  
TOGETHER.

### What is it?

On 1<sup>st</sup> February

“Transforming Church. Together” was launched and is our chance to share what God is saying to us about the future of his church. We share the following from the launch:

*“Transforming Church. Together”. is all about the Church of England in our region shaping a new vision and set of priorities for the coming years. We want to understand what we do well, what we can change for the better and then create a positive way forward together. This year-long process is called Transforming Church. Together.*

*We are beginning with conversations – with communities, congregations, clergy, church leaders, and staff. Between February and April 2021 we will start talking and listening with lots of different people, both within and outside the church.*

*We will listen carefully to understand what each other think and feel about God and the Church of England, but also about our communities, society and the world.”*

## **How can I be involved?**

We are all invited to get involved in a number of ways:

- Workshops: Through a facilitated 90minute workshop, capturing insights and thoughts to help shape a future vision and priorities. ECC is participating in one of these at their February meeting, and there is an opportunity as a church to engage with a workshop set up for Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7 or 7:30pm start TBC.
- Engagement in small groups: You will find an online questionnaire at <https://www.bristol.anglican.org/transformingchurch/jointheconversation/> Why not engage with this in a small group – whether a home group or a bunch of people you feel you want to gather together. Very soon there will be specific resources to support children and young people to engage – we need their views for the future of the church as they grow up.
- Individually: If you'd prefer to ponder away from a group then the questionnaire can also be completed as an individual and submitted. If you do not have access to the internet, paper copies can be provided. Please let Trudie know if you'd like one on 01793 326128.

- Pray: Please pray as we look to the future. This prayer written for this engagement may help you

*God of the Way,  
you call us to leave familiar places and to set out on new paths.  
Enlarge our vision of your work in the communities we serve,  
speak to us through the people we encounter,  
and open our hearts to your love.  
Give us courage and boldness to engage together in this time of  
prayer and discernment;  
and by your Holy, life-giving and creative Spirit,  
renew your church in prayer and service,  
and in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen*

We are all invited to be a part of this! Take a look at the website <https://www.bristol.anglican.org/transformingchurch/> for more information and a helpful FAQ. We are also asking those in our community what they think and here at Dorcan we have a wonderful platform through our community centre to engage and ask for thoughts from voices who perhaps are not heard as often.

This is our chance to share what we feel God is saying to us about the future of God's church and how "be" and "do" church for Him. Please do pray for Transforming Church, and that we will be faithful to God and where he may be leading us.

## **New Methodist Minister**

We are pleased to be able to share with you that we have received notification of a 'match' for a new Methodist Minister to the Circuit for next September – primarily with pastoral responsibility for Stratton and Dorcan. It is good news that the process has finally been completed, and we can now look to the future as a church and as a circuit. There is still a formal ratification process to be completed, but basically the decision is made.

The Rev Stephen Roe and his wife Angela are coming from North Wales to join us and he will continue his ministry here in the Swindon area and specifically within our communities. In a change to our current arrangements, Stephen is a Deacon in the Methodist Church, which is a fully ordained position of equal standing to a Presbyterian, but has a distinct ministry with a focus on mission. The role is also different to that of an Anglican Deacon. Most noticeably for us, this will mean that he will not preside over Holy Communion, though he is an experienced preacher and worship leader.

We are aware that all ministers (Presbyter or Deacon, and from any parent denomination) bring different skills, gifts and focus to the location they are stationed to, and we look forward to what Stephen will bring to share with us as he proclaims the gospel, and together we explore new opportunities to build God's house here in Dorcan and more widely in the East Swindon community.

Thank you for your prayers and support over this period as we worked through the stationing process, and we ask that you pray for Stephen and Angela as they prepare to move.

Nathalie Marshall (ECC, and Circuit Rep)

John Davidson (ECC, Church Steward, and Circuit Rep)

Diane Killick (Previous Circuit rep and Circuit Invitation committee member)

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> May from 9:30am-1:30pm.
- Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.” *Trudie*

## **Review of closure of Church buildings:**

Last month we shared that Standing Committee would review the current position of the closure of our building the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> February, which coincided with government's own review of lockdown. Since then the government has amended this to Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February and extended the closure of schools to at least 8<sup>th</sup> March. When we have heard details of the government's review, we will then consider our own position regarding the ongoing closure of our buildings. For your information, all Methodist churches and almost all Anglican buildings remain closed in Swindon. Thank you for understanding why we have made this decision to close and for continuing to be an awesome and active church in the community!

## **Lent Resources**

Coming through your letterboxes soon will be some Lent Resources – delivered either by a team of church family posties or Royal Mail. You won't all receive them on the same day so please be assured yours is coming! On Ash Wednesday (17<sup>th</sup>) resources for this first day of Lent will be posted on the Facebook Page.

Whilst we start this lent physically apart, we rejoice that we can still travel together in spirit and prayer as we journey towards Easter.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**As at February 2021**

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

United Service 10:30am St. Paul's  
AGM and annual gift day

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

9:30-1:30pm on line  
*"Living in Love and Faith"* conference  
All welcome

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

United Service 10:30am St Paul's  
Rev Andrew Wigley's final Sunday at Dorcan

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> May)  
All welcome

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021**

4pm Ecumenical confirmation at Holy Trinity, Shaw

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021**

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

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to  
Anna Newman by Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February  
Tel: 695698 or email [anagram673@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anagram673@hotmail.co.uk). Thank you.  
Please let me know if any others would like to receive notices by email.