



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

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

Covenant Sunday
Holy habit "Service"
January and February

ARISE
shine
FOR YOUR
LIGHT
HAS COME

ISAIAH 60:1

SERVICES - 19th January 2020 - Epiphany 2

St. Paul's

10.30am Morning Worship Barbara Wilcox

Welcome: *Hazel/Janice*, Teas: *Cathy's Group*, Sparks: *Mary/Amber*, Creche: *tbc*

4.00pm Messy Church The Team !

St. Timothy's

10.30am Holy Communion Rev'd Rob Smith

This morning Trudie Wigley is taking the ecumenical service at Stratton Methodist and Alex Scott is at Aldbourne.

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.

What's on the next week		
Monday 20th January	10.00am 2.00pm	House Group - Colleen Wiseman House Group - Alex Scott
Tuesday 21st January	9.00am 10.00am 1.00pm 6.30pm 7.30pm	Morning prayers, St Paul's Morning Prayers, St. Tim's Christian Union Dorcan Academy House Group (Deb Mulcock) House Group (Dianne Lane)
Wednesday 22nd January	8.45am 9.00am 1.15pm 6.00pm 7.30pm	Tea & Toast - St. Tim's Tiny Tots at St. Paul's Tiny Tots at St. Tim's Blaze, St Paul's "God in Love Unites Us" Stratton Methodist Church
Thursday 23rd January	9:30am 8.00pm	Holy Communion, St Paul's Footie at Dorcan academy + Messenger
Friday 24th January	10.30am 12.30pm	Communion at Edgehill St. Paul's Office Meeting

SERVICES - Sunday 26th January 2020 - Epiphany 3		
St. Paul's		
8.45am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Trudie Wigley
10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev'd Rob Smith
Welcome: <i>Rosemary/Amy</i> , Teas: <i>Joan & Jean</i> , Sparks: <i>Deb & Helen</i> , Creche: <i>tbc</i>		
St. Timothy's		
10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev'd Trudie Wigley

Human Sexuality

“God in love unites us” and “Living in love and faith”.

An opportunity to engage in learning and discussion

You may well be aware that both the Methodist Church and the Church of England are discussing human sexuality, including same-sex marriage. Both denominations are taking a slightly different approach to these discussions.

The Church of England is engaging in a process called “Living in love and faith” and a learning document is being written, including perspectives and input from other disciplines and groups and should be published later this year. There will be further steps in discussion and engagement after this which are currently not defined as the very process of engagement and learning will itself define what the next steps are.

The Methodist Church is further forward in its publications. A report has been written called “God in Love unites us” which was received by Conference in 2019. This can be accessed at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/11672/conf-2019-10-marriage-and-relationships-task-group-2019.pdf> It has been explained to me that this makes some provisional standing orders which will be further discussed and possibly voted on at this summer’s Conference. However ahead of this, engagement is being encouraged by the Methodist Connexion and this is an opportunity to learn together, as well as understand the process of engagement. With this in mind, we are invited to attend two discussion opportunities as follows

Stratton Methodist Church 22nd January 7.30pm led by Revd Tony Barnes
Central Methodist, Chippenham, 8th March 3pm led by Revd Dr. Jonathan Pye

These are good opportunities to engage theologically and pastorally with the issues in hand and learn from each other as we find a path forward on what is a complex and emotive subject. Please can I encourage you to come along and learn together? A number of us from your ECC and Ministry team will be there.

Circulated electronically with these notices is a little more background, and hard copies of these are also available in each centre. We have also been provided with work booklets which will be used at these Methodist engagements which you will find using the link above, as well as hard copies in each centre.

Please do pray. This is a difficult topic for many of us and as an ecumenical partnership this brings additional complexity. However, this is an opportunity for us to engage well, agree well and disagree well, as we walk a path of grace.

Trudie

Thank you for all the prayers, thoughts and contact in so many ways as I've had my operation. I am now recovering at home and have been overwhelmed and you are all so appreciated....Thanks to God for so much too! Sue

Prayers for those attending courses:

This past week has seen the start of two courses in Swindon and a number of our church family are joining them: Nathalie Marshall and Clare Smith have started the year-long Growing Leaders course, and John Pearce, Jenny Poole and Chris Rose have started the first term of the two-year Exploring Christianity course. Please do pray for them as they journey on these courses - that they will be blessed and that God will speak through the learning and reflection both to them personally, and us as a church.

Uganda – latest newsletter:

if you receive these notices electronically you will have already seen the latest newsletter. If you need a hard copy please do pick a copy up which are available in both centres. We continue to pray for our Ugandan friends and particularly for our special link with St Paul's Kiwuliriza and Canon Hellen and Rev Paulson.

Tea and Praise:

We are taking a pause with our monthly afternoon Tea and Praise worship for a while, particularly in light of our heating and other challenges. We will miss the music and the cake, yet look out for dates to start again sometime in Spring!

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to Anna Newman by **Wednesday 22nd January** Tel 695698 or email anagram673@hotmail.co.uk Thank you.
Please let me know if you would like to receive notices by email