



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

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

*HE who
promised
IS
faithful*

Hebrews 10:23

Web edition due to Covid-19 19th. July 2020

SERVICES 19th. July 2020

St. Paul's

8.45am	NO service	
10.30am	Web service on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/pg/stpaulsstimothysswindon/videos/	Rev. Trudie Wigley, Rev. Rob Smith, Rev. Stuart Fisher , Rev. Andrew Wigley
11.30am	Zoom Coffee Morning	

St. Timothy's

10.30am NO service

St. Paul's

Thur. Private Prayer Please read notes below
09.30 am

**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.**

Extract from the notice on opening for private prayer.

The guidance below has been adapted from published Government Guidance for use by the Church of England. Other denominations who use Church of England buildings to meet for worship are asked that they adhere to the same advice (where relevant).

For the moment we continue to work on opening for individual prayer and it can also include 'households' with up to six people who reside together, praying together. The requirement would also mean that those who attend together as a household group, must occupy one row of chairs together. We also ask that you pray (in a group) quietly, so as not to disturb others who may be in church for a quiet time of reflection.

We ask that those who wish to attend for private prayer at this time, book themselves in by telephoning (or by text) Diane - 07591763910 and stating which session they would like to attend and how many people.

At that time, you will be informed if there is a seat available for you or your household group. If there is no more space, during that time period, you will be offered a seat at the next available time.

At the moment we will re-open for private prayer on Thursday 16th July;

there are three time slots available; 10.00 – 10.20; 10.30 - 10.50 and 11.00 – 11.20.

You will not be able to access a Bible or prayer sheet from the church; you may bring your own but will have to take it away with you, when you leave. Sharing is only allowed between household members.

You will be required to register 'In and Out' of the building.

You will be required to use hand sanitizer on entering and before leaving the building, also if you leave the chapel to visit the toilet, you will be required to use the hand sanitizer again if you re-enter the chapel. There will only be one toilet available (non-gender and

You will be required to follow the one-way system into and out of the church/chapel, as directed by the Steward(s). You are also requested to wear a 'face-mask' when you visit, for the safety of those you may come into contact with (i.e. not necessarily for personal protection, but to protect others in case you are infected but not showing symptoms) 'Love Thy Neighbour' is our policy. Face masks protect those you come into contact with and whilst not compulsory, it is highly recommended for the safety and peace of mind of all visitors. The recommended safe social distance is still 2m but can be reduced to nearer 1m – only with the right precautions taken (i.e. wearing a mask and using hand sanitizer).

You will be shown to a seat and asked to remain there until you leave the building (i.e. you cannot change your seat just because there may be more space or more room elsewhere). There is not to be anyone allowed to approach the altar/table or to kneel at the altar rail.

At the end of your allocated period of prayer time, you will be asked to leave the chapel promptly and also to leave the church premises (i.e. there is to be no gathering with friends or family in groups on church premises including the garden or car park).

The purpose of this letter is to let you know of course that we will be open for you to pray,

Finally, if you have suspected symptoms or have had them in the previous 72 hours prior to attending church, please do not attend, but let the ministers know. If you have been asked by the government or by the health service to stay isolated, please follow their advice and if you are in a position of vulnerability or you are shielding yourself for your own safety or your family situation, the decision to attend church must not be taken lightly and remains your own decision to make.

Anyone developing symptoms within 72 hours (3 days) after visiting the church must inform the churchwarden in the first instance so that others who may have attended at the same time, can be contacted. Then the church building can be decontaminated, deep cleaned and remain vacant for a further 72 hours. In this instance all prayer and worship services may be cancelled immediately.

Yours in Christ; Rev Stuart Fisher; *Diane Killick (Churchwarden)*
(Health & Safety team)

Rev Trudie Wigley, Rev Andrew Wigley, Rev Rob Smith

On-line Prayer Retreat: Tuesday 21st July 7:30pm-8:30pm

On Tuesday 21st July from 7:30pm-8:30pm we will be hosting our second evening of on-line prayer and reflection via Zoom.

We will be following the format and materials of a Prayer Retreat which was held on-line by Bristol Diocese Synod in June.

This will include some pre-recorded reflections from the book of Job by +Viv.

From there we will focus on the themes of Praise, Lament and Hope, with Neil Marshall sharing a short reflection on lament.

Do come and join us as we reflect and pray.

With every blessing to you all

My love and prayers

Trudie

Yesterday – Thursday 16th July – we opened St Paul's for private prayer and it was good to be back in the chapel.

All the thinking and planning by the Health and Safety team was super – thank you Stuart, Diane and Jenny - and we all felt safe and encouraged by being back in a special place.

As a result of this we are now looking to open for Sunday worship in the near future, starting with St Paul's.

This is good news! More will be shared towards the end of next week so please do look out for details.

In the meantime, we are continuing with opening on Thursdays at St Paul's for private prayer at revised times of 9:30-10:30am.

There no need to book for Thursdays at the moment, but please do remember your masks!

We look forward to worshipping again in our buildings, and more details will follow next week.

With every blessing, and love and prayers to you all.

Trudie

Dear Church family,

June 2020

Pastoral Finances.

During this difficult time when our church buildings are closed, we are still a church; meeting virtually for prayer services and fellowship, loving our neighbours by offering practical support to the vulnerable, and caring for our communities. The work of churches is reliant on people's generosity, a generosity that is a hallmark of a lived-out faith and a testament to it. (From A Church Near You)

When we had to close our Church Buildings and lose the income from lettings we were expecting difficult times.

However there are many things that we thank God for regarding our finances, but we also thank you, our congregation, for all that you are doing to support the Church financially at this time:

To date, regular giving by standing order/direct debit continues at around pre-COVID levels - No drop off - **Thank you and Praise God** (though we do fully understand that some of you will need to reduce your giving due to financial pressures in these difficult times).

Some of you have given one off donations - **Thank You and Praise God!**

Some of you have passed on offerings from the weekly envelope scheme - **Thank You and Praise God!**

Some of you have switched to on-line giving - **Thank you and Praise God!**

As Trudie mentioned in her recent letter, we have also received a number of grants
- £10,000 from the Government Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Scheme.
- £1,800 from the All Churches Trust
- £1,000 from Covingham Parish Council

Additionally, a £7,000 interest free loan was also received from Bristol Diocese earlier in the year to assist with replacing the St Paul's boiler, and £360 has been received from the 'Virtual Beer Festival' (Many thanks to Chris Smith and those who organised and supported this).

We are also receiving income that offset our employee costs from the Government Job Retention Scheme since our employees are currently 'furloughed'

On the expenditure side, utility bills have been able to be substantially reduced by switching off everything that is non-essential to the running of the buildings. Waste collections have also been cancelled.

We thank God for all of the above but where does this leave our finances?

Less stretched than we'd anticipated, **BUT**

We unexpectedly had to purchase and install a new boiler costing around £25k earlier this year

and

around 30% of our income (centre lettings) is currently being lost because our buildings are closed

and

We are missing income from some other income streams, for example, the majority of the giving that would ordinarily be received at services

Whilst locked down, it would appear that we are losing on average **circa £2000 per month** on regular income v regular expenditure. With staff costs covered whilst the furlough scheme remains, the majority of our outgoings consist of the amounts that we have agreed to contribute to our parent denominations. We are maintaining these payments as they support the calling of God's church to ministry. These financial gifts support existing ministry in the way of clergy costs, the provision of help to churches from Central support (e.g. HR and safeguarding on which we rely heavily) and schools work across the diocese such as full time chaplains. Our giving also maintains training for future ministry through curates and those at training colleges, and we have benefited enormously from having Rob with us as a training curate.

We can sustain the above level of losses for a while but not in the medium to long term. It is here, in the longer term that our real challenge lies. Boiler loan repayments will need to be made, reserves will need to be rebuilt and lettings income is likely to take time to recover.

But for now, how can you help?

Firstly, please pray for wisdom in the decisions that need to be made. E.g. How and when to bring employees back from furlough. We will need to do this to re-open the buildings to start bookings, but we do not want a long period during which wages are being paid but little or no income is being received from lettings. Additionally, such financial considerations will need to be fitted around the primary objective of ensuring the safety and well-being of our staff.

Secondly, around this time of year we would usually have a Gift Day and despite the difficulty in meeting we would like to do something similar this year. Therefore we invite you to prayerfully consider whether you might be able to make an additional gift at this time. For many of us our situations have changed significantly and this will not be possible and we want you to know that we are grateful and thank you for all that you are giving so generously and sacrificially.

On this coming Sunday 4th July, this will be touched on during the on-line service, inviting us to respond by Friday 17th July so we can give thanks and dedicate our gifts on Sunday 19th July. If you would like to make a gift, or talk with our treasurer, Tony Prichard, in complete confidence then please do contact him as follows: Tel: 520734 E-mail: treasurer@dorcanchurch.org.uk . Should you be using the Weekly Envelope Scheme and would like to donate that money then you can do this by:

Sending a cheque with your envelope number on the back.

Making a BACS transfer using the reference Env <insert your envelope number>.

The Co-operative Bank. Sort Code 08-92-99. A/c 65312775

Passing the envelopes on to Tony.

Making an additional gift through the Parish Giving Scheme. Tel: 0333 002 1271

Thank you for giving this your prayerful thought and consideration. It is appreciated.

Thank You.

13th July 2020

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path"
Psalm 119: 105*

Dear Friends,

Psalm 119 was the reading for this past Sunday and if you were able to see the service on-line, or catch up with it on our Dorcan sermon line (01793 379676), then you will have heard Alex Scott reflecting on these words. They are powerful words from a great Psalm and they talk of God guiding us as we seek him.

In these times we find ourselves in, these words can speak to us anew, clinging to them as we find a path forward in so many aspects of our lives which have been subject to upheaval and future uncertainty – employment, family, schooling and education, community life, rest and recreation – every corner of our lives has been affected.

God's church, and our local church life, have been affected too, and whilst the priority in the short term is to open for private prayer and then worship services, it will not be "back to normal". Indeed, I wonder whether any active and growing church ever experiences "normal" as it seeks to be led in its own unique path by the lamp of God's word. As God's church we join in with his mission and ministry, and we do so with the added backdrop of the last few months which has been a catalyst to many in searching for meaning in life, seeking God, re-evaluating priorities and relationships and working to break down injustice in areas such as between the rich & poor, white & BAME, young & old. Therefore, as we start to open our buildings again, we do so also with our eyes to the horizon ahead of us, also searching out God's word for us as a church into the future.

Over the coming months my prayer is that we will seek God's Word afresh for us at Dorcan Church. What kind of a church does He want us to be? What might we look like? What ministries and mission areas are we being led to? What resources might we need? What does "great" in his kingdom of East Swindon look like? These are similar questions we asked of ourselves five years ago when we started the vision of "Building God's House" yet we have changed and moved forward in that time - there are now new opportunities to discern, some things to be laid down, and existing areas to be invested in further and grown, all now in the context of the extraordinary events of the last few months.

Continued on next page.

To help us start thinking, over the next few months we are all invited to reflect and ponder on a series of questions and topics to discern what God may be saying to us. Some of these reflect similar questions being asked at Diocesan and Methodist circuit and district levels. The first of these questions appeared in last week's mid-week reflection called "Finding wisdom". For those of you who have not seen it, a text copy of what I shared is attached. You will see there are four questions presented to ask of ourselves as a church and a church family:

What have we lost in the pandemic which we need to find again?

What have we lost which needs to remain lost?

What of the new things do we take forward?

What of the new things are only for a season?

Please do consider what your responses are to these questions and do talk and share with others in your households, friendship groups, small groups etc. as we corporately look to God's word to guide us. In addition to these initial questions, our next on-line Zoom prayer evening on Tuesday 21st July at 7:30pm will also be exploring God's Word through the themes of praise, lament and God's voice in the silence. In my next letter I will ensure that these are shared in more detail so that we can all join in.

Seeking God's word and wisdom for his church is not something we should do alone, and it is together that we build up a picture over the months ahead. So that your reflections and thoughts can be gathered, please do, for now, share these with me ready for a time we can start to draw out some common themes and promptings. Over the time ahead there will be more topics and questions for us, and our responses will help shape a way ahead. This is not something to be rushed, yet it is also not something to be put on hold as we look to open our buildings and get back together - the two travel together.

Before I close off, attached to this letter are some aspects of church life to share, and to celebrate. We have all been very active during our time of not being able to meet and we have much to be thankful for. It has also been a time of challenge for many of us and thank you so much for all that you have been doing to keep people connected and cared for as God's family. You all continue to be in my prayers, each one of you named personally, and we look forward to being able to meet and worship together in person in the weeks ahead. And so to God's blessing:

Continued on next page.

*May the peace of the gentle wind inspire you,
The power of the raging storm enliven you,
The freshness of the snowy storm cleanse you,
The warmth of the summer sun comfort you;
And may every season remind you of the God who blesses
you.*

Bless you all. Trudie

There is lots to share and celebrate! July 2020

Opening the churches

You will know that the government is now allowing churches to open if able to do so safely. Our health and safety team have been working on this and our first step will be opening for private prayer from which we will be able to learn, with a view to opening on Sunday mornings at some point after that.

We are pleased to share that we will be opening for private prayer at St Paul's this coming week, on Thursday 16th July. Rev Stuart Fisher has written a letter about what to expect and how to book to attend and this is attached. With changes and new information which is released on an almost daily basis, it is not an easy task ensuring we are "Covid-secure" to enable us to start using the buildings again, so thank you for your prayers, support and understanding. Thank you too to the health and safety team who have been working very hard – Rev Stuart, Diane Killick and Jenny Poole.

On-line services

Thank you to everyone who has encouraged us as we have looked to post on-line services. It is so encouraging that we are receiving messages from those in the community and from many miles away who join us each Sunday. Whilst technology isn't everything, it is certainly reaching out to others who we wouldn't otherwise have perhaps managed to connect with so this is very encouraging news indeed.

We have had a few technical hitches and thank you for your patience and understanding. One of the issues we have had is that some music has been muted by Facebook and YouTube despite us having all necessary permissions and licenses.

Our repertoire is therefore limited so thank you for bearing with us as we use what we can. As we return to church we will still be posting an on-line service however it may be that we stream it from the church. Watch this space!

Swindon Youth for Christ – intern

We are delighted to share that our very own Rob Friend will be an intern with SYFC with effect from September 2020. And what is even better is that his placement for 10 hours a week will be with us at Dorcan Church! He will be focusing on youth work, including Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings, as well as other events such as weekends away etc. This is exciting news and we are so pleased for this opportunity for Rob to develop and be part of SYFC. Rob is a valued member of the church family and it is wonderful that he will still be with us. Please do keep Rob in your prayers.

Children and Young People

A big thank you to everyone for staying connected with our Children and Young people – Tiny Tots, Tea & Toast, Messy Church, Sparkles, Ignite and Vybe, Blaze kidz club, Youth group. Zoom meetings, telephone calls, on-line videos, craft resources and emails have abounded as the Dorcan teams have kept in touch – thank you!

It has been disappointing that the youngsters haven't been able to go on their Spree weekend this summer, yet the highlight of previous weekends has been "*Spree's got talent*" which this year went on-line. And guess what? Our very own James Boitz won! Well done James – amazing piano performance.

Our young people themselves have been doing some awesome things: sending cards to our local care homes and sheltered accommodation, delivering our regular letters to those not on-line, shopping for neighbours, helping us with our on-line services, and loads more. They are awesome and we're proud of them. Thank you!

Schools work

This has continued in a different way. Video assemblies have been recorded and sent, we are in contact with all the heads to support and pray for them. We have delivered "It's your move" through a video to all year 6's in our community, together with each of them receiving their book. The schools have greatly appreciated our support and prayers.

Our employees

Please continue to pray for our employees – Cheryl our centre manager, Jackie our church administrator and Zoe our cleaner. With enquiries beginning for some of our regular bookings who are looking to return, Cheryl will be returning from Furlough part time with effect from this week. Jackie and Zoe will remain on furlough as our financial position is not strong enough to bring them back at this time. Please pray for them.

Gift Day

You all will have received a letter from Finance Committee either by email or letter if you are not on-line. Please do prayerfully consider their letter. We thank you for your generosity and giving, especially during these tough times. On Sunday 26th July we will be celebrating and giving thanks for the Gift Day and our responses.

On-line Alpha course

In September we are looking to launch an on-line Alpha course for enquirers in partnership with Pattern Church. Please do consider who you might approach to invite to join this. With it being on-line some may feel more comfortable engaging in this way rather than in person so please do pray about who you know who may be interested. Perhaps if they are apprehensive you could join the course on-line with them?

This is a super opportunity to share the good news of the faith we have with others in our community. September is not that far away so please do give this your prayers and thoughts.

ECC

Your ECC has met via Zoom recently – our first ever on-line meeting! In the space of three weeks there were a number of important things that arose which needed to be presented to ECC so we took the decision to meet on-line - and it was the best attendance ever! Thank you to those on ECC for the mammoth meeting and this note shares the pertinent topics we discussed.

The pastoral teams – Church links, prayer team, practical help team, everyone!

You have all continued to keep in touch with each other, supporting each other whether practically or spiritually. This has been vital to keep us all feeling connected with each other. Thank you!

2020 Gift Day

A sincere thank you to all who have contributed to this year's Gift Day.

Amazingly we have passed the £4,000 mark.

I am able to receive contributions from the envelope scheme.

Cheques are best but I'm happy to receive cash.

Tony Prichard (Treasurer)

E-mail: treasurer@dorcanchurch.org.uk

Many of our small groups have continued in different ways, embracing technology and meeting in gardens when things started to ease. Great stuff. Many of the church family have also kept in touch with the senior citizens club which has been greatly appreciated - they very much miss meeting up.

Praying together

I know from my door calls that many of you are praying at 9:30am and 7:30pm each day. Great! Even when we are not physically together, praying at the same time is a good way to connect in our common faith. In June we held our first on-line prayer evening, with another one planned for Tuesday 21st July at 7:30pm. This will explore the themes of Praise, Lament and God's word in the silence - details will be on Facebook. Do join if you can!

Rev Trudie Wigley

July 2020

Uganda Appeal

Hello,

I just wanted to thank you all and let you know that we have just send our gifts following the COVID appeal to Uganda.

We sent £2140 to Luweero Diocese (9,899,640 UGX) and £1070 ([4,949,820 UGX](#)) to Kampala Diocese, which I hope will be a great encouragement to them – it certainly was to me!

Please continue to pray for Luweero and Kampala – the number of cases is still reported as less than 900 with no deaths, but there seems to be uncertainty and confusion about emerging from lockdown (we might sympathise with that!).

Rev. Sally Robertson

For the latest update from the ministry team
please see:

- The Church Website
www.dorcanchurch.org.uk
- Church Facebook pages [Dorcan Church Noticeboard](#)

What's on next week.

Due to Covid-19

**Most groups have been cancelled.
Contact your group leader for details**

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to
Anna Newman Tel 695698

or email anagram673@hotmail.co.uk Thank you.

Please let me know if you would like to receive notices by email