



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

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



"The Widow's offering"

Services - 22nd April - Gift Day 2018

St. Paul's

8.45am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Trudie Wigley
10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev'd Trudie Wigley

Welcome: *Hazel & Janice*, Teas: *Janice & Jan*,
 Ignite: *Deb, Clare & Amber*, Sunday Club: *Cathy & Alison*, Creche: *Jo & Margaret*

St. Timothy's

10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev'd Rob Smith
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This morning Colin Parsons is at Rodbourne, Neil Marshall is at Stratton and Andrew Wigley is at Wroughton, all of whom are supporting the wider Methodist circuit.

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 next week -		
Monday 23rd April	7.30pm	Ministry Team at 11 Merlin Way
Tuesday 24th April	9-9.45am 10.00am Lunchtime	Morning Prayers - St. Paul's meeting room Morning Prayers at St. Timothy's Dorcan Academy Christian Union
Wednesday 25th April	8.45am 9.00am 1.30pm	Tea & Toast, St. Tim's Tiny Tots at St. Paul's Tiny Tots at St. Tim's
Thursday 26th April	9.30am 12 noon 8-9.00pm	Holy Communion, St Paul's Funeral for Alan Christopher, followed by gathering at Immanuel URC Footie at Dorcan Leisure Centre, followed by the Messenger
Friday 27th April	2-4pm	The Friday Club - St. Paul's (see separate notice)
Saturday 28th April	All day	Methodist Representative Synod, Cirencester

Services - 29th April - 5th Sunday of Easter		
Annual General Meeting		
Please note earlier start of 10.00am (NOT 10.30am)		
St. Paul's		
10.00am	United Communion Service	Rev'd Andrew Wigley & Alex Scott
Welcome: <i>Joy & Angie</i> , Teas: <i>Cathy & Friends</i> , Ignite: <i>Deb</i> , Sunday Club: <i>Mary</i> , Creche: <i>None</i>		
11.30am	Annual General Meeting	

Gift Day – TODAY

In our services today we will be reflecting on God's generosity and our response as we explore the parable of the Widow's Mite. God has been faithful and generous to us, and this is an opportunity to both make a gift in recognition of this generosity, and to review our regular giving. Our giving supports the mission and ministry of God's church in Dorcan and in the wider community and church. In our financial stewardship we are all encouraged to "*take responsibility, be generous and have faith*" and this will look different for each one of us.

How to give:

- Envelopes: these are available in each church today so please do pick one they have the words "Dorcan Church Gift Day" on the outside. These are different envelopes to those which some of you will use for your regular giving. Inside each envelope will be a slip of paper which you are encouraged to complete if you are a tax payer so that tax Gift Aid can be claimed on your offering. This tax back makes a huge difference to our income. Our treasurer, Tony Prichard, is the only person who is aware of our personal giving and all information is kept in the strictest confidence by him.
- Electronically: if you would prefer to make an electronic transfer then please mark the bank reference "Gift Day 2018". Account details are available from Tony.
- Regular giving: If you would like to amend your regular giving going forward, please do so either through your envelope giving, amending your standing order, or changing your direct debit transfer by contacting the Parish Giving Scheme directly. The direct debit giving scheme was new last year and has a number of helpful features for both the church and the giver, so please do consider switching to this scheme. Full details are available from Tony.

When to give:

During the services at St Paul's and St Tim's you will be invited to make your gift day offering into the weekly offering plate, together with your usual offering, if that is your normal practice. You may wish to place a symbol of your giving in the plate if you have given electronically, and/or are amending your regular giving – tokens are available at the door if you would like to do this. Please do whatever you feel most comfortable doing and if you are not going to be at any of the services, then please do pass your offering to Tony in the coming week.

If you are new to Dorcan you may not be aware that we focused on a discipleship series last year called *Giving in Grace*. The letters and brochures which supported us as we reviewed our financial giving are available for you today. Please do pick up a copy as they share some thoughts and reflections on our response to God's provision and generosity, as well as outlining how we spend the financial resources we are gifted with in the Dorcan Church.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and for reading this. In a couple of weeks we will share, celebrate and give thanks for this gift day. We thank God for his abundance and faithfulness.

Funeral and thanksgiving for Alan Christopher:

We will be saying goodbye to Alan on Thursday 26th April at 12noon at Kingsdown Crematorium, with refreshments afterwards at Immanuel URC, Upham Road. All are welcome to attend.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Heather and the family at this time, and we surround them with our love. Alan was a man of great faith and an inspiration to others, so may he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Commissioning of Church Link team – United Service 29th April.

At our next united service, we will be commissioning all those who serve as church links. Each person in the Church family has a church link person, and their purpose is to uphold you in prayer and to be a point of contact if you would like a listening ear. This is an important way of showing our love and support for each other, and this care is one of the four strands in our vision of Building God's house (Outreach, Discipleship, Care and Community).

We look forward to commissioning and praying for our church link team, as well as formally expressing our thanks for all that they do for us.

Sunday School for all – 6th May:

Our next SS4A will soon be here. We will be looking at the book of James which is full of hard-hitting robust, no-nonsense practical stuff. It was the theme at Spring harvest this year and we thought it would be a good idea to share some of the teaching and learning. James is a short book so ahead of SS4A how about putting some time aside with a cuppa to take a read? It won't take more that 30minutes or so.

Look forward to seeing you on the 6th May.

Electoral roll: this has now been revised.
If you think you should be on it then please check you are! If there are any changes needed then please speak to Barbara Wilcox, our electoral roll officer.

Financial Reports: papers outlining our 2017 financial report and budget for 2018 are available today in both centres.

The Friday Club

The next meeting will be on Friday 27th April at 2pm at St Paul's church.

Our Speaker will be Diane Killick who will talk on "Being a churchwarden" and also her work with Christmas Care and other charitable duties. A warm welcome to all.

Diocesan Young people visiting Uganda – can you help?

In July/August this year a group of young people are visiting Uganda as part our Diocesan link. The young people come from various areas of the diocese, including one from Pinehurst in Swindon, and many have never been abroad before. They will be visiting and working alongside vulnerable young men and women in Kampala, staying in homes with Ugandan families, both in an urban area and then in a rural area (where they probably will not recognise the toilets and won't have running water). In the rural area they will meet with young men and women in secondary school education and spend time learning alongside them.

They are asking for our support in a number of ways as follows. Might you be able to help please?

1. ***Sponsoring their bike ride on 5/6th May to raise funds.*** They need to raise the remaining £8k and have a giving page where you can also find out more about the trip. <https://bit.ly/2FDB4YR>
2. ***Pray for them.*** You can find our more about the visit and who they are on the diocesan website at <https://bit.ly/2Hqu2Zg>
3. ***Organising a brief lunch for them on Sunday 6th May*** when they stop at St Paul's on their bike journey. They will be arriving around 12:15pm just as we finish Sunday school for all, and leaving at around 1:20pm. They have asked whether we might be able to provide a light lunch (soup or maybe pasta) and cold drinks in the hall for around 10 people? Are you able to help with this please?

This is an exciting opportunity for these young people and I hope that we are able to support both them and the visit as part of our ongoing link with our friends from Uganda. **If you are able to provide a lunch please could you let Trudie know?** (326128). Many thanks!

Card Making Class - The next class is Saturday May 12th
9.30am - 12 noon in the Playgroup Room.

This is a small group meeting every three months taught by Claire Curtis. We learn new skills and make 3 cards. The cost is £10, of which £4 is used for a charity/church, chosen by the group.

If you would like to join us or need more information, contact me
Money and names to me by Saturday, May 5th. Sandra

Confirmation - have you thought of being confirmed?

On Sunday 16th June at 4pm, we shall be hosting the ecumenical confirmation service, and our friends from the West Swindon Partnership will be joining us. Confirmation is an important part in our Christian journey and can take on a different significance to different people – for some confirmation is a way of affirming their faith for themselves which was promised on their behalf when they were baptized as infants; for others it is part of the process of baptism when older; for some they approach it as the time they would like to start sharing in communion, and for others it marks their commitment to membership of the church and particularly denomination. And for many people it is a combination of all these and more!

Is confirmation something you might like to consider as part of your Christian journey?

Or do you know someone you would like to encourage to think about taking this next step? Please do think and pray about the possibility of confirmation, and if you would like to find out more and what it's all about then please do speak with any member of the ministry team.

We'd love to talk with you in confidence and explore further.

Trudie

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to
Anna Newman by **Wednesday 25th April**. Tel 695698
or email anagram673@hotmail.co.uk Thank you.
Please let me know if you would like to receive notices by email