



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

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

Sunday 4th October



SERVICES

Sunday 4th October - 10:30am St Paul's

17th after Trinity

Rev Trudie Wigley

This will be live-streamed on

Dorcan Church Notice Board Facebook page.

Sunday 11th October 10:30am St Paul's

18th. After Trinity

Mary Boitz

**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.**

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 5th October

11-1pm Racial justice workshop at Bristol Cathedral via Zoom
"Audit, Awareness, action"

7pm Standing Committee, via Zoom

Tuesday 6th

11-1pm Racial justice workshop at Bristol Cathedral via Zoom
"Systems, Structures and Institutions"

Saturday 10th

Methodist synod via Zoom

Ordinations, Bristol Cathedral, Live-streamed

Dorcan Start-up group: Some of our hirer bookings are starting again and our own use of our buildings is rising so we are needing to think through how we start back up well. We need to consider things like cleaning, ventilation and heating, how we manage bookings and pauses in room use which may be required, priorities over room use as we can't back-to-back usage, finances and commitment to our staff etc.

With this in mind, ECC are supporting a new time-limited start-up group to widen discussion and decision-making amongst various parties so it doesn't fall on only one or two people.

Please pray for this group as they find their way forward and liaison with ECC and our finance team.

St. Timothy's: At the moment we are looking into the various measures that need to be in place before services can happen once more at St. Timothy's. This is constantly under review as we must also follow Government and CofE/Methodist Church guidelines in the same way that we are doing at St. Paul's.

There are some particular aspects unique to St. Timothy's that need to be thought through and we will share when we know more. I know this is frustrating to many who wish to return, yet please be assured that we haven't forgotten.

**Then they said “Let us start building”.
And so they committed themselves to the common good.
Nehemiah 2:18b**

Will you be a builder?

The story of Nehemiah and the re-building of the walls of Jerusalem is a great one. Nehemiah is determined in his task, he inspired others and nothing was going to distract him from God’s calling – and so the walls were rebuilt in a speedy 52 days! Nehemiah also seems to have invented the so-called “arrow prayers” whereby when he got into a tight spot and wasn’t sure of the way forward he shot up a quick prayer.

This week we saw news from our Prime Minister that shared the difficult reality that we may be facing over the next 6 months. I certainly shot up a Nehemiah prayer of lament, yet it was also with a sense of hope for God’s church. We have continued in our mission and ministry throughout the pandemic, yet have also now started rebuilding some of that mission and ministry which we had to pause with the necessary closing of our buildings.

It is this same sense of hope that enabled the people of Nehemiah’s day to say “*Let us start building*”, each in their own way and each committed to different, yet complementary tasks.

Are you ready to be a builder?

Building In your unique way?

Please do think and pray how you may be able to help and support building God’s kingdom as we navigate a path ahead, into a new season. As we start to do this, here are some things to share and reflect on as we begin to say together “*let us start building*”.

St Paul's Sunday worship: We are continuing with our 10:30am Sunday services at St Paul's. Whilst we have Minister's to lead the services, we are struggling to cover key roles that enable Sunday mornings to happen – our stewards and churchwarden are seeing their energy and capabilities stretched. Are you one of the builders who can help?

** **Stewards:** stewards are integral to making services run smoothly through opening up, taking registers, preparing the worship space, giving a warm welcome, co-ordinating what needs doing that morning etc. Could you help periodically to help us open on Sundays?

** **Laptop volunteers:** All our services are required to be on the overhead screen and we need helpers to operate the laptop – as Rev Stuart shared a couple of weeks ago “one finger will do the trick”. Is it your finger?

** **Live-streaming:** Our church family has grown through live-streaming, including people from places outside Swindon, and it is a key way for those who are unable to join us to feel physically connected with us in these times. At the moment there are only two people live-streaming and they are also service leaders who can't take a service at the same time! It really is easy and training is easy too. Are you ready to learn to be a camera-person?

If you can help us in these ways, please do contact Revs Trudie, Stuart, Andrew, Diane Killick or any member of the ministry team.

Church Council member and Church wardens vacancies:

Our AGM is coming up on 18th October – see separate notice. We will be appointing ECC members, Stewards and Church wardens. Please do prayerfully consider whether this is the building that you may be able to help with as we find a path forward. After many years as both Churchwarden and Senior Steward at St Paul's, Diane Killick is stepping down and taking a break so we will be saying a big thank you to her at the AGM.

And so we look ahead:

**“The God of heaven will help us, and we,
His servants, will rebuild”**

Nehemiah 2:2

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – here we go again! Sunday 18th October 2020

Due to the government's directive to close our church buildings earlier this year, our AGM for the year 1Jan-31Dec 2019 was unable to take place. However we do need to pick this up again and it is a requirement that it is completed by the end of next month. Therefore we will be meeting for a very short AGM after the service on Sunday 18th October. "Normal" timescales will resume with another AGM covering the period 1Jan-31Dec 2020

Electoral Role revision – The electoral role is now closed to revision and is required to be displayed for 14 days ahead of our AGM. You will find the list on the notice board outside the old small office so please do check that it is correct and get back to either Barbara Wilcox (b.wilcox89@ntlworld.com) or myself (rev.trudie@wigley.org.uk) if there are any omissions or amendments needed.

Financial Accounts for 2019 – you will also see on the notice board a copy of our financial accounts for last year which, again, are required to be displayed ahead of our AGM. Any queries then please direct them to our lovely Treasurer Tony Prichard. Thank you!

Standing for ECC: Have you ever wondered how decisions are made which guide the direction of God's church in Dorcan? The Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) is an important part of that decision making, and carries out a mixture of spiritual, legal, financial and missionary functions, and shares the responsibility of making certain decisions with the church leadership. It meets 6-8 times a year across different evenings during the week. It is not a committee to be on to know what's going on, but a gathering that prays and works together for the benefit of the life, ministry and mission of God's church. Nor is it a committee which "rubber stamps" – issues are discussed and decisions made with prayer and in faith. **Would you like to use your gifts to serve on ECC** and can you attend the majority of meetings?

Please do prayerfully consider whether this is something you might be a part of, whether as an elected member, or as an officer of the church such as being a Churchwarden or Deanery Synod representative. If you need any further information then please speak to our Church warden, Diane, any member of the ministry team, or current ECC member.

Nomination forms will be available from next week at St Paul's.

We are pleased to say that our children and young people's groups will be meeting again this week.

At the moment they will not be in the congregation at all but will go straight to either the library or the Youth room.

Can you please continue to pray for all our youngsters at this time as so much of their lives, like ours, has been changed both in school and home.

Deb & Team

...and a big thank you to the leaders of Dorcan's ministry to our children and youngsters. They have done brilliantly over the last few months keeping in touch and meeting virtually in this strange season, and have worked really hard. Thank you, and its super to see some of our youngsters back today.

Trudie

Last week's Harvest Offering raised £420.20 for our three charities. There is still time this Sunday to make your offering or you can make a Bank Transfer to. The Co-operative Bank. Account: The Dorcan Church. Sort Code: 08-92-99. Account no. 65312775.

We now have a card reader for payments by contactless debit or credit card. You can use this to make your offering if you don't wish to handle cash at this time. This means that we can also accept fees and payments for hiring the centre.

Tony Prichard
(Treasurer)

For those who are filling **Link to Hope shoe boxes** this year, I have a bag full of knitted hats and gloves, if you need any for your box/s please contact me by phone 01793 538842 or by E-Mail paultayler1@hotmail.co.uk.

Paul

NHS QR Code for Covid-19 app:

You will see as you come into St Paul's that we have a QR code for the NHS Covid-19 smart phone app. We are required to display this code, yet use of it is voluntary. You may have heard on the news that it is part of the government's approach to reducing the spread of Covid by alerting us if we might have come in contact at a venue with someone who has tested positive.

If you have a smart phone please do consider downloading the app and using the QR codes that you will find as you go about your day-to-day business as it is an important part of keeping this virus at bay

An offer of support with Technology:

Are you 'struggling' with a computer or mobile phone or 'technology' during this current Covid period of lockdown and imposed isolation? If getting to grips with technology is holding you back from socialising with friends and family, including church family and watching Sunday worship - live-streams - then I am willing to come and help you so that technology becomes your 'friend' and not an 'enemy'.

Don't wrestle with it or throw it into the corner of the sofa, call me and I can help you 'learn' to use it.

Rev Stuart

**Racial Justice workshops:
Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th October 11am – 1pm with Ben Lindsay**

This series of workshops, led by Ben Lindsay, is for everyone interested in re-imagining a Church where all people - including black and brown skinned people - participate fully in the ministry and mission of our churches. The themes explored in Ben Lindsay's, book, *We Need To Talk About Race: Understanding the Black Experience in White Majority Churches* will underpin these interactive sessions.

These three sessions (the final one is on January 11th 2021) will help us to encourage & enhance Christ-centered belonging, engagement and leadership opportunities for Black, Asian & Ethnic Minority individuals at every level of Church life. Why should this matter to us... well because it matters to God!

Open to all, so book your tickets on Eventbrite using the following links

Workshop 1: 'Audit, Awareness and Action' Monday, 5th October 11-1pm

Tickets at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ben-lindsay-audit-awareness-and-action-workshop-1-tickets-120505058875>

Workshop 2: 'Systems, Structures and Institutions' Tuesday, 6th October 11-1pm

Tickets at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ben-lindsay-systems-structures-and-institutions-workshop-2-tickets-120505604507>

Hi everyone, I just wanted to confirm that the **Christmas Fayre** has been cancelled for this year, ☐ and to thank everyone for all the Team Work shown in previous years to help raise much needed Church funds.

Let's hope we can get back to it next year!! Angela .

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to
Anna Newman by Wednesday 7th October.
Tel: 695698 or email anagram673@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.
Please let me know if you know of anyone else
who would like to receive notices by email.