



Building God's House

**Knowing Jesus
and making Him known**

**Transforming Lives and
Communities**



**Annual
Report
2020**

Pages 1- 18

These pages represent our report to The Charities Commission in a format as required for charities with an income greater than £100,000

This report will be submitted for approval by Dorcan Ecumenical Church Council at the next meeting.

ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December 2020
Legal and Administrative information

Chair of ECC

Revd Trudie Wigley
11 Merlin Way
Covingham
SWINDON
SN3 5AN

Charity number

1143702

Churchwarden

Vacancy

Churchwarden

Vacancy

**Acting ECC Secretary
(non-voting)**

Jackie Hancock
St Paul's Church Centre
Swindon
SN3 5BY

ECC Treasurer

Mr Anthony Prichard
1, Poltondale
Covingham
Swindon
SN3 5BN

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank,
PO Box 250,
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Independent Examiner

Mr Paul J Crowley FCA
Derrick Newman Limited Chartered Accountants,
29 Bath Road,
Swindon
SN1 4AS

Church Address Details

St Pauls
St Paul's Drive
Covingham
Swindon SN3 5BY

St Timothy's
Grundys
Liden
Swindon SN3 6HP

Church office at St Pauls: 01793 435987

www.dorcanchurch.org.uk



THE DORCAN CHURCH

*A Local Ecumenical Partnership between
The Church of England & The Methodist Church
serving the Swindon urban villages of Covingham, Nythe, Liden &
Eldene.*

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the world has been reconciled to God, and in Jesus Christ unity has been offered to all people. Through the Word, we are called into a relationship with God and with one another as the children of God – a relationship inaugurated by Baptism into Christ through the Holy Spirit, nurtured and deepened through the ministry of word and sacrament and expressed in a confession of one faith and a common life of loving service.

(from the Declaration of Intent of The Dorcan Church)

OUR PURPOSE

“Transforming lives and communities,
Knowing Jesus, and making Him known”

OUR PICTURE OF CHURCH

“A growing and vibrant church,
confident in its purpose and trusting in God”

a church which makes Jesus known
a church of disciples
a church in, and for, the community
a church which cares

ROLE OF ECC

The Trustees of the Dorcan Church are the Dorcan Ecumenical Church Council, which has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent(s) in promoting the activities of the Church in the Community. Members of the Dorcan Ecumenical Church Council are either ex-officio, elected at the Annual Church Meeting or co-opted in accordance with the Constitution Governing Document dated 10th April 2011, as amended from time to time thereafter.

MEMBERSHIP OF ECC

Elected Members (elected for a 3-year term)

Jenny Poole	until 2021
Clare Smith	until 2021
John Davidson	until 2022
Janet Prichard	until 2022
Tony Prichard	until 2022
Nicki Broom	until 2023
Nicki Clinch	until 2023
Sam Glennerster	until 2023
Nathalie Marshall	until 2023
Peter Mulcock	until 2023
Chris Rose	until 2023
Clare Rose	until 2023

Co-opted Members (co-opted for 1-year term)

Sue Morgans	until 2021
Alex Scott	until 2021

Churchwarden (appointed on an annual basis)

Vacant

Deanery Synod Representatives (elected for a 3-year term)

Jenny Poole	until 2023
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Clergy

Revd Trudie Wigley	Rector, Church of England
Revd Andrew Wigley	Methodist Minister
Revd Stuart Fisher	Associate Local Minister

ECC officers

Revd Trudie Wigley	Chair
Tony Prichard	Treasurer
Jackie Hancock	Acting ECC secretary (non-voting)

CHANGES IN APPOINTMENTS OF AUTHORISED MINISTRIES

Revd Rob Smith: We were sad to see Rob, Kath, Holly and Eliana leave in August 2020 following completion of Rob's curacy with us. Rob took up a post as Curate-in-charge at St James' Lockleaze, a Fresh Expression (and apparently they like football!) We have been blessed by his ministry and that of the whole family, and he went with our love and prayers as they moved to a new chapter in their lives and vocation.

Rev Andrew Wigley: Another sadness was that we learned in September 2020 that the Methodist circuit decided not to extend Andrew's appointment for the further four years he had asked to be considered. Andrew's current appointment therefore comes to a close on 31st August 2021 and we will be welcoming a new Methodist minister from 1st September 2021.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of ECC members is set out in the Constitution Governing Document dated 10th April 2011, as amended from time to time thereafter. All those who are part of the church are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and may then stand for election to ECC. The maximum number of elected members to ECC is 13.

Meetings of ECC

The trustees met 6 times during 2020 and after the March meeting, due to the Coronavirus and government guidelines. the meetings were conducted via zoom.

Committees

The aims of the charity are effected through a number of committees and teams, as follows:

Ministry team: The ministry team comprises clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers, and Local Preachers. They met on occasion during 2020, going forward they will be meeting on a regular basis for bible study.

Finance Committee: The team worked under the delegated authority of ECC and looks after our financial resources, managing the day to day finances of income, giving and expenditure. It looks to prepare an annual budget for approval by the ECC.

Children and Young People: This committee looks to the ministry to children and young people, spanning our extensive schools work, missional outreach to young people in our community, as well as nurturing and caring for those children and young people who worship and are a part of The Dorcan Church.

Standing Committee: The standing committee is authorised by the ECC. It has the power to transact the business of the ECC between meetings, subject to any direction from ECC. It comprises six people, with a quorum of five from the Anglican and Methodist incumbents, Churchwarden, Treasurer and two others from ECC (currently John Davidson and Jenny Poole). The committee met more often in 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Its main areas of focus were the practicalities for the safe opening of the church buildings and staffing matters including the furlough of the staff. All meeting minutes are noted by ECC.

Worship and Mission: The remit of this committee is currently being undertaken by the Ministry Team, particularly through the Building God's House Programme.

Centre Management Committee: The Centre Management Committee meets 'to co-ordinate Property-related matters across the Dorcan Church in support of the Church's Vision and Mission'. It forms a link between the 'do-ers' and the decision-making processes at Finance and ECC. It provides oversight to the Centre Administrator in the letting, maintenance and development of the premises at St Paul's and St Timothy's. The Centre Management Committee also sets out to balance the use of the centres both a) to help enable the mission of the church and b) to provide facilities for the benefit of the community.

Safeguarding: Safeguarding practice is central to the mission and ministry of the church. The safeguarding team work to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are safe in our churches, and that all those who are survivors of abuse are listened to, valued and supported. **Safeguarding remains the legal responsibility of the ECC.**

Electoral Roll

2020	2019*	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013*	2012	2011
146	147	162	161	159	152	135	137	154	154

*Full electoral role revision

After an incredibly difficult year, with all the necessary restrictions that Covid has placed upon us, it's so good to be able to make plans to worship our loving God, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ together once more. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to our worship either via our computers, or leading homegroups or WhatsApp groups. Who knew we could all be so technical! I'm told that many people have been logging on to our Sunday worship from around the country, folk we don't even know. Praise God!

However, I am only able to give you the numbers of those who have signed up as members of our church. Currently, on the Electoral Roll/Membership List there are 146 people.

We've said goodbye to Cath Smith, along with Rob, Holly and Eliana, and Crystal Butler has returned to Stratton. Sadly, we've said a fond farewell to Joyce and Ted Ballinger & Tom Newman who have passed on to glory. Happily, though, we have four new members who have joined us. Betty and Kenny most of you will have already met, but we also extend a warm welcome to Pauline and David who joined us during lockdown. To date, we have an affiliation with 29 other folk who have not as yet, signed up to membership.

Being a Member allows you voting rights at the APCM, so If there are any of you who wish to become a Member or need to find out more about what is involved before you decide, please speak to a Minister or to me.

With every blessing to you all.

Barbara Wilcox
Electoral Roll/Membership Secretary

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION with effect from 18 October 2020

Other non-trustee elected Positions:

St Paul's

Senior Steward (vacant)

Church Stewards:

Nicki Broom

Angela Davidson

John Davidson

Sandra Marshall

Chris Rose

Colleen Wiseman

St Timothy's

Senior Steward (vacant)

Church Stewards

Viv Craig

Dianne Mills

Sarah Paterson

Representatives to the Methodist Circuit meeting

John Davidson

Nathalie Marshall

Tony Prichard

Additional Facts and Figures

Average Sunday Attendance (October count statistics):

St Pauls 43 adults 20 under 16s

St Timothy's Church closed

Messy Church (monthly) On hold due to the Coronavirus

Church at home services 50 people participated online

Total 93 adults 20 under 16s

Typical week-day attendance: Jan to March 2020

Mid-week communion 6-10 adults

Tiny Tots St Paul's 20-25 adults 20-25 pre-schoolers

Tiny Tots St Timothy's 18-20 adults 15-17 pre-schoolers

Total 44-55 adults 35-42 pre-schoolers

Occasional offices:

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Baptisms	0	12	10	15	14	15	8	10	24
Funerals	18	16	24	9	13	16	13	22	32
Confirmations	0	5	4	0	1	4	0	0	5
Weddings	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0

Churchwarden and Senior Stewards reports

2020 is probably the strangest and most challenging year in the life of the Dorcan Church, but we continue to be church, in and out of our centres.

We started 2020 at St Paul's with terminal failure of the boiler, and we were challenged to be able to hold services, in winter in an unheated building, and held several services in the hall, with the assistance of supplementary electric heaters, and I remember crowding together in the snug, for one very cold morning, and we must express our gratitude to our centre users for bearing with us through this period, then when we did eventually have a new boiler installed, and got heating:

" CAME COVID".

We held services in person, when permitted, observing Covid Protocols, and streamed them for those unable to attend.

We held a socially distancing "alfresco" farewell party for our Curate Rev Rob Smith and his family, in the garden, in August, with members attending in, allocated time slots.

We welcomed the Community to attend special Christmas services, again observing Covid safety, precautions.

The closure of the centre in the first lockdown, proved one challenge too many for the Friends of Swindon Library, and they took the painful decision to close for good.

The centre has had limited use, because of the lockdown rules, but we have still been able to host the Kingfisher Play Group, most of this period, and NHS Blood and Transplant have continued to hold regular Blood Donor sessions, and we are very grateful for the flexibility of our paid staff, during these strange times, coming in, and out of furlough We have also been able to carry out some maintenance tasks to the building, on things like internal doors and fittings, and stripping redundant fixtures from the library, to prepare it as a lettable facility, to our community.

St Tim's has been closed for the majority, of 2020, but after a great deal of work and Risk assessments, was able to open for services leading up to Christmas.

The issue of the blocked drain above the Porch appears to have been resolved for now, thanks to Stuart Fishers efforts.

The heating system has been problematic as well, with a pump failing, and the boiler is showing its age, and quotes have been obtained for different solutions.

John Davidson

Report from Diocesan Synod

Synod met three times during the year (March, July and November). The March meeting took place before the national lockdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and was held at Holy Trinity in Bradley Stoke, subsequent meetings were conducted over Zoom. Synod dealt with various items of business including passing a motion from Swindon Deanery Synod calling on all churches and church schools in the Diocese of Bristol to pay The Real Living Wage (which is higher than the government set Minimum Wage). This has already been implemented at the Dorcan Church.

In 2020 there was an underlying deficit between income (principally from Parish Share and investments) and expenditure (principally on parish ministry) and the Diocesan Board of Finance reported an operational deficit for the year ended 31st December 2019 of £671k. Synod reluctantly authorised a budget for 2021 that will lead to an increased deficit of £721k, a figure that reflects the anticipated impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. At its July meeting the synod spent some time thinking about the impact of Covid-19 and the church beyond 2020. . The November Synod spent a significant amount of time reviewing the progress made against the strategic plan that was set for the diocese for 2016-2020. All the strategic initiatives were implemented broadly as planned. Engagement and communication internally and externally remains one of the biggest challenges for diocesan level vision and strategy, whilst diocesan level financial initiatives have been the hardest to achieve.

(from Wroughton's Representative to Diocesan Synod)

Report from Swindon Deanery Synod

Swindon Deanery is an important part of Bristol diocese and the National Church of England. Regional deanery synods can make a huge difference:

- Locally – in being elected from PCCs, the synod is the first place for parishes to be heard outside their local area and for sharing, influencing, and supporting across a wider area through a wider range of activities;
- In the Diocese - synods are involved in Diocesan consultations and this is a chance to be present and engaged, ranging from discerning vision and mission together, to influencing the agenda of Diocesan Synod, and then onward to General Synod;
- In the wider Church of England - it is Deanery synod reps who elect Diocesan members, who then elect onto General synod. The decisions made at national level should matter to us all and therefore our local Deanery Synod can have a voice at national church level!

Deanery Synod is a key place to be with the opportunity to make a substantive difference to God's church and the Kingdom and is a highly influential place to be.

This year has been a disrupted year for Swindon Deanery Synod due to Covid, yet we held our first meeting via Zoom in July. As well as an update on Uganda and other local matters, we were joined online by +Viv and Archdeacon Christopher. +Viv reflected on the book of Job in these difficult times, and encouraged us in our ministry as she expressed that the church has a calling and a responsibility in such a tough time especially lock down. With illness and isolation we are reminded of our own mortality and imminent economic change will be unsettling. Within this backdrop we have responsibilities as God's church. We were affirmed and encouraged in all that we are doing and for our faithfulness and finding ways to serve and connect with our communities and church families.

A Q&A followed with Archdeacon Christopher who helped us think through our Covid 19 challenges and he brought genuine peace to Deanery Meeting and offered reassurance to Deanery. We were encouraged to only re-open Churches that were Covid 19 safe and should not cut corners in order to open early. We then moved into small group and spent time in prayer and encouragement.

In February, our planned speaker was not able to attend and therefore at short notice Revd Dr Cathy Okoronkwo, vicar of All Saints and St Barnabas, shared her experience of the first 3 months of her ministry in Swindon, and led a helpful and informative reflection on Mission Action Planning. Cathy shared her experience and guidance on planning vision and engagement with the whole church. She expressed that it is helpful to unpack words such as mission, vocation, evangelism and discipleship and to think about "What makes God smile". In small groups we considered this and also our strengths weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Other matters included the Archbishop's Football Team, Growing Leaders Course, Exploring Christianity Course, Revd Sally Robertson reported on Uganda and the New Estates Group.

This triennium of Deanery synod comes to an end in 2020 year and elections were planned for early 2021. During the year Revd Capt. Clive Deverell stepped down as Area Dean and Rev Canon Raymond Adams held the office as Acting Area Dean until the end of 2020 at which time Revd Trudie Wigley became Area Dean. David Cain remained as Deanery Lay Chair. Jenny Poole is our Deanery Representative at Dorcan and we are grateful for her commitment and contribution.

Rev Trudie Wigley

Safeguarding Report

The past year has been a strange one for all of us. Much of the time we have not been meeting in person, and all the usual children's activities have been cancelled, so you might think that it has been a quiet time for safeguarding, but actually there has been plenty of work to do.

The main focus of concern has been making our places of worship Covid safe. Stuart Fisher has led us through this with thorough risk assessments which had to be updated frequently. All those who have attended worship are now familiar with the register, wearing of face masks, hand sanitising and one-way system. The second area of concern has been ensuring internet safety for our young people when they meet and contact one another through social media. As a result, we have adopted a new social media policy, and Debbie Mulcock has produced a special risk assessment for Zoom meetings with young people.

During the lockdown I have undertaken a thorough review of all our policies and procedures using a new system which has been adopted by Bristol Diocese called Parish Dashboards which checks on our recruitment of volunteers, training, displaying of safeguarding information, DBS checks, maintaining a safe environment, risk assessments and activities organised by the church for children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is the aim of the safeguarding team to protect the most vulnerable so that the value of every human being in our community is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility are truly trustworthy.

Jenny Poole

CHARITY TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Dorcan Church is a Local Ecumenical Partnership between The Church of England and The Methodist Church, serving the Swindon urban villages of Covingham, Nythe, Liden & Eldene. The partnership includes the congregations worshipping at St Paul's, Covingham and St Timothy's, Liden. The Church continues to advance the Christian faith across the locality, both as a worshipping community but also as a serving community.

2020 was a very different year, as we experienced a way of living as never before. The Dorcan Church has risen to the many challenges presented by the Covid-19 lockdown, and continues in good shape for the future. The church has adapted to new ways of worshipping through the internet, she has continued to care for her church family, she has continued to be connected with the local community, and she has kept her head above difficult financial waters. It may not have been easy at times, yet we have much to give thanks to God for!

Our Children and Young Person's leaders have adapted to lockdown with new online activities and quiz evenings that have kept contact with our many young people. Other groups have kept in contact over zoom. Unfortunately, we were unable to provide Messy Church, firstly because there was no heating due to a boiler failure, and then because of lockdown. We continue to keep in touch over social media, and the Messy Church resource bags we delivered for Easter and Christmas were much appreciated.

We continued to offer services during lockdown periods through social media, either by recording and publishing services, or by live-streaming from church, and found that we were often joined by new people. These services have often been followed by a coffee chat over zoom. A wide range of people have been able to contribute to the production of services by recording readings or prayers on their phones, for editing into the overall service, and this has helped the church family to remain connected. Service booklets and seasonal material has also been distributed to those unable to access the services over the internet.

The lockdown periods beginning in March and November, and social distancing restrictions more generally, have drastically reduced our ability to let our premises, with a consequent shortfall in letting income. The continuing generosity of our church family, along with careful planning by our Treasurer and Finance Team, and with some

furloughing of staff, has enabled us to make best use of our limited resources and see us through the year.

We strengthened our provision of pastoral care to the church family through our church link people, being concerned about the potential impact of isolation and social distancing. Various groups have kept in contact with each other in different ways, and we have distributed additional resources and occasional gifts. Restrictions on visiting the sick in person, particularly those in hospital, have been a frustration, having to keep in touch as best we can (snail mail!), and offer prayer.

The church building at St Paul's, and briefly at St Timothy's, re-opened for worship over the summer, and we are grateful to those who completed risk assessments and put in place the required procedures to enable us to be 'COVID-Secure'. It has been difficult not being able to greet and chat with one another as we would have done previously, not being able to sing together, not being able to receive communion wine, but we have done what we could. It was particularly strange not being able to meet in person over Easter, and to have to record services for our Christmas Carols and Crib Services whilst the buildings remained empty of the hundreds of people who would normally come. But there are signs that we have reached out to new people because of this, and that's a good thing.

We said farewell to our Curate, 'Rev Rob' and his family after their three years with us, and appreciated his distinctive, passionate, personal ministry in this time with us, particularly amongst children and young people, along with Kath's and the girls' own part in the life of the church. We also learned that the appointment of our Methodist Minister, 'Rev Andrew', would come to a completion in 2021, despite hopes that this would continue.

So 2020 was a year we could not have planned for, but have done well as a church nevertheless. We started the year from a position of strength, and that has helped see us through the more difficult times. We are grateful to all those who have served the church, who have gone the extra mile to help ensure we could cover all the necessary things, whilst still being able to look forward in hope. We have developed skills in social media and broadcasting, but recognise there is still more to do. It has been a year to reflect on what is important in the life of our people, our church and our community, what we have lost and wish to leave behind or find again, and what we have gained and wish to keep or to accept that it was for a season.

Best of all, God is with us! Here's to 2021!

Andrew Wigley

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2020

2020 has been a year of challenges with the loss of a substantial amount of rental income due to Covid-19 restrictions. The central heating boiler required replacing early in the year and to maintain our cash flow two loans totalling £15,000 were sought from our parent denominations. The Library has ceased to operate from St. Paul's and we look forward to generating some income from it. The loyalty of our congregation in continuing with their offering despite not meeting has been greatly appreciated. Despite the challenges we have ended the year within our expected budget.

Building on recent year's financial work we have been able to continue working to a budget. This has made the work of the Finance Committee a lot easier as we are able to monitor progress throughout the year.

Gift aid continues to be claimed quarterly which maintains our cash flow such that both our Parish Share and Methodist Assessment have been paid as they became due. We continue with the Parish Giving Scheme whereby members can donate by direct debit. Donations and Tax recoverable from Gift Aid are received monthly reducing the work of the Treasurer and improving further our cash flow.

The Church has taken out loans of £15,000 to help with cash flow following the replacement of St. Paul's boiler.

Church Fabric

In order to facilitate the work of the Church it is important that we maintain the fabric of both St. Timothy's and St. Paul's Church and Community Centre. Both are important to our work while bringing financial challenges.

This year at St. Paul's we have replaced the boiler for the heating system.

The Future

In 2021 there are a number of challenges in the maintenance of the building with the possibility of some remedial work to the roof and refurbishment of the Library room. The Audio Visual system is also showing its age and could do with bringing up to modern specification. St. Timothy's is becoming too small for all the activities there.

Income		Expenditure	
Regular Giving	65,301	Parish Share	51,000
Grants	22,550	Repairs	24,703
Lettings	20,610	Minister's and Staff	24,764
Tax recovered	18,903	Methodist Assessment	21,260
Other giving	8,753	Utilities	7,236
Plate collections	1,782	Mission and Charitable Giving	4,450
Fees	238	Maintenance	4,074
Other	6,243	Other	2,880
Bank Interest	187	Administration	2,666
Fetes etc.	110	Upkeep of services	2,573
		Fees	2087
Sub Total	144,680	Insurance	1918
		Cost of events	325
Loans	15,000	Council Tax	482
		Stewardship Campaign	81.28
Totals	159,680		150,502

*Tony Prichard & John Davidson
Finance Committee*