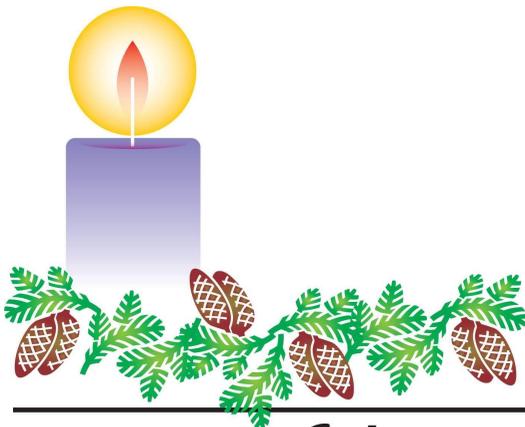




St. Paul's Covingham  
St. Timothy's, Liden  
[www.dorcanchurch.org.uk](http://www.dorcanchurch.org.uk)

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



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

## SERVICES - 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019 - Advent Sunday

### St. Paul's

10.30am United Holy Communion Rev'd Rob Smith

Welcome, *Rosemary & Amy*, Teas: *Mari*/, Sparks: *Nathalie & Deb*, Creche: *tbc*.

1.00pm Baptism Rev'd Rob Smith

4.00pm Taize Service Sue Morgans

### St. Tim's

2.30pm Baptism Rev'd Rob Smith

This week Alex Scott is at Marlborough 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.**

**Information on Taize service Sun 1st Dec 4pm.**

Any one who would like to sing/play through material beforehand welcome from 3.15pm. Please come, support and enjoy God's presence as we begin Advent. . Thanks to friends from St Margarets, Stratton who are coming to lead this for us.

What's on this week -		
Monday 2nd December	10.00am 2.00pm 5.30 - 7pm	House Group (Colleen Wiseman) House Group (Alex Scott) Prayers for Honda (Nathalie's House)
Tuesday 3rd December	9.00am 9.30 - 11.30am 1.00pm 1.30-3.30pm 6.30pm 7.30pm	Morning prayers at St Paul's Liden/Chalet Christmas Unwrapped Christian Union, Dorcan Academy Liden Christmas Unwrapped House Group - Debbie Mulcock House Group (Dianne Lane)
Wednesday 4th December	8.45am 9.00am 1.15pm 6.00-9.00pm	Tea & Toast at St. Tim's Tiny Tots at St. Paul's Tiny Tots at St. Tim's Young People's Christmas Concert
Thursday 5th December	9.30pm 1.30pm 8.00pm	Mid Week Communion at St. Paul's Liden Christmas Unwrapped Footie at Dorcan Leisure centre followed by the Messenger
Friday 6th December	12.30am 12.30am 6.30pm	Nythe Christmas Unwrapped -St. Paul's St. Paul's - weekly office meeting. Nathalie Marshall inaugural get-together.

**SERVICES - 8th December 2019 - 2nd Sunday of Advent**

**St. Paul's**

8.45am                      Holy Communion                      Mary Boitz  
and Revd Trudie Wigley

10.30am                      All Age Toy Service                      Rev'd Trudie Wigley

Welcome, *John & Joan*, Teas: *Pam & Hazel*, Sparks: *All Age*, Creche: *All Age*

**St. Timothy's**

10.30am                      All Age Toy Service  
and Christingle                      Rev'd Rob Smith

# Advent begins

I wait for the Lord,

my soul waits,

And in his word I hope;  
My soul waits for the Lord  
More than watchmen for the morning,  
More than watchmen for the morning”

*Psalm 130:5-6*

Today is the start of Advent, a time we look back in order to look forward.

As we look back we make preparations to celebrate the remarkable story of Jesus's coming into the world as a baby. And in this looking back we find meaning and purpose to then look forward to his promised coming again with hope and expectation. Yet Advent starts in penitence, a time of preparing ourselves to receive Jesus anew, both now in our hearts, and into the future when we do not know the time or the hour.

This preparation time also has a sense of waiting and watching. These verses from Psalm 130 draw on the image of the watchman's night-time vigil and describes a deep longing. What keeps the Psalmist going is the conviction that dawn will indeed surely come. A sole watchman can conjure up the image of a lonely figure, yet Jesus invites us to watch and wait in longing together until morning breaks. In the garden of Gethsemane he called on his disciples to watch and wait with him, it was something that they were to do together. Companionship in watching and waiting is a human longing which our Lord understood and sought from his friends. So this Advent we are invited to watch and wait together as God's church in this place. Will you join us?

As we journey through Advent together may we know hope, peace, love and Joy as we watch and wait together.

May God bless you this Advent. *Trudy*



### **Christmas services publicity!**

We now have all our Christmas publicity.  
The national theme of #FollowTheStar is continuing for both this year and the next and this is reflected in our publicity.

#### ***Flyers:***

Please do take a flyer for yourself and to give to others  
– this year we have plenty as they were so popular last year!

#### ***Christmas cards:***

These are now ready for you (as willing volunteers)  
to distribute among the streets where you live.

There is a 'sign up' sheet with street names on,  
so please tick the street where you will deliver the cards and take some  
Christmas cards to distribute.

We should do this starting this week,  
so that we have time to deliver them all.

If you are active at any church group - 'Tiny Tots', 'Tea and Toast' Senior  
Citizens, Knitting group - house group; please also ask your members to  
help with the distribution.

*Today we bring you the Good News (Acts 13.32,33)*

#### **Toy service – 8<sup>th</sup> December – next week:**

We have our All-Age toy services at 10:30am at both St Paul's and  
St Tim's. If you would like to, please bring an unwrapped toy and  
some wrapping paper which will be given to the NSPCC to give to  
children for whom Christmas will be challenging this year.

## **CHRISTMAS 2019**

**THE DORCAN CHURCH**  
**St. Paul's Church Centre**  
**Covingham SN3 5BY**

### **Sunday 1st December**

10.30am Advent Communion  
4pm Advent Taize Service

### **Sunday 8th December**

8.45am Communion  
10.30am All Age Toy Service\*

### **Sunday 15th December**

10.30am Morning Worship  
4pm Christmas Messy Church & Party tea

### **Sunday 22nd December**

6pm Carols by Candlelight

### **Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve**

4pm Christingle & Crib Service  
11.30pm Midnight Mass

### **Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day**

9am Christmas Day Communion  
10am Christmas All-Age Celebration

## **ST. TIMOTHY'S**

**Liden Community Centre, SN3 6HP**

### **Sunday 8th December**

10.30am Christingle & Toy Service\*

### **Sunday 15th December**

10.30am Carols & Communion

### **Sunday 22nd December**

10.30am Christmas Communion

\*If you would like to, please bring an unwrapped gift  
& wrapping paper donation for the NSPCC

**Community Centre Development Manager  
- Cheryl Pottinger:**

We are delighted to share that Cheryl has accepted our offer to the new role of Community Centre Development Manager. Cheryl used to be the General Manager at Dorcan Leisure Centre so is very familiar and experienced in the operational and financial running of a centre and she knows the local community well. She will be a great asset to us and the community.

Cheryl starts in January, yet will be coming in for a couple of days before Christmas for a hand over with Chris Smith. This is a significant step forward for us as a church as we both maintain, and develop the two centres and we look forward to all that lies ahead and we warmly welcome Cheryl amongst us.

**Cyril Williams**

*With great sadness we share that Cyril Williams passed away on Monday 18th November. Many of you will know that Cyril had not been in good health for a while and deeply missed coming to church.*

*Personally, I was fortunate enough to be invited to share Holy Communion with him at his home on a few occasions and whenever I visited him he always asked me to pass on his best wishes to 'his girls' and everyone. I know how much your cards and best wishes meant to him.*

*He will be greatly missed and our prayers are with his wife June and his wider family at this time.*

*It is expected that Cyril's funeral will take place in December so that his family can travel from the USA to be here; when we have further details they will be announced.*

*May he rest in peace and rise in glory.*

Stuart

06/11/2019

Mail - Anna Newman - Outlook



*The Dorcan Church Young people present*

## **AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT**

**DECEMBER 4, 2019 • 6PM  
ST PAUL'S CHURCH**

Tickets are £3 each to include a drink and nibbles, please buy tickets in advance from  
Debbie Mulcock

<https://outlook.live.com/mail/AQMADAwATY3ZmYAZ5D5Y1g2LT4Y2Y1MDACL7awCgAIAAAADyU7T7Bqpkie7xZBGv5ak7tgA6A8m5Nudmc...> 1/1

## **Ladies Night**

Come for an evening of festive games and nibbles

2nd December 8-9.30pm

St. Paul's Church, Covingham

**FREE**

Please bring a small plate of nibbles with others to share

Drinks provided

More info contact:  
Kath Smith: 07419115761

**Pastoral letter from our Archbishops regarding the election:**

You may have seen the podcast of the pastoral letter released from our Archbishop's regarding standing up for truth and challenging falsehoods as we debate and discuss with each other in the run up to the election. You can find it here

<https://www.archbishopofyork.org/news/news-2019/archbishops-general-election-message> together with the text. Some hard copies of the pastoral letter are also available in both centres. As we shortly come to the general election we pray for our political leaders and for wisdom, love in our interactions and the seeking of the common good.

**Diocesan synod – 16th November –**

**Climate emergency declared:** Diocesan synod was held in Swindon this Autumn and copies of the summary of the proceedings are available in both centres. One of the significant agenda items was the environment and during proceedings the Environmental and Climate Policy was unanimously passed, and this commits us to taking a lead, in partnership with others, to change the impact of humans on the planet. Alongside this, a motion was passed declaring a climate emergency, including the stretching move to become net zero carbon by 2030. This was passed unanimously, and this diocese therefore became the first to declare a climate emergency, placing creation care as a top priority. It is now that the work continues with a renewed focus and energy, with each church encouraged to join in. Next year we will be looking at how we might wish to be involved.

**Manage other people at work?**

Fancy being part of a Christian support group of similar folk here at Dorcan? Drink coffee?

Come along to our inaugural get together at 6.45pm in Costa at Greenbridge on Friday 6th December.

*Nathalie*

*(Further details from Nathalie)*

If you are one of the people who have ordered a **book by Davis Parsons** they will now not be ready until January. David sends his apologies.

In an attempt to align better with shifts, **we have moved December's prayer meeting to 2nd December.**

My house (6 Sutton Road, SN3 6BX), from 5:30 for 30 minutes. It would be good to see as many as possible to lay the people who are touched by the closure before God as we approach Christmas. Please do come along, or send any prayer requests to me in advance.

Many blessings to you all, *Nathalie*

THE WHOLE FAMILY IS INVITED TO

# PICNIC WITH SANTA!

LET SANTA SHOW YOU THE REAL  
MEANING OF CHRISTMAS WITH  
CRAFTS, FOOD AND GAMES

Friday 13th Dec | 5pm-6:30pm |  
St Timothy's Church

OR

Friday 20th Dec | 2:30pm-4:15pm |  
St Paul's Church

£1 per child  
Tickets must be booked in  
advance from Rev Rob or  
by emailing  
[dorcancyp@gmail.com](mailto:dorcancyp@gmail.com)



**A huge thank you** to everyone who helped in whatever category at the Christmas Fayre.

It was a wonderful outreach to our community . We raised around £1400. !

Thanks to you all. *Diane*

The annual **request for singers** for the **Carols by Candlelight** service is here. The service is on 22nd December, and we would look to gather a few times before either on Friday evenings or on a Sunday after the morning service. The music is expected to be predominantly standard carols with the odd descant etc thrown in. Please contact Nathalie, Sue or Pete if you are interested.

### **NEW YEARS EVE PARTY**

Angela and I are arranging a New Years Eve Party 8 -12pm, it's for all the Church family ages 0 -- 90 yrs.

Please bring food to share and the drink that you want to drink. We have quizzes, games and usually end with a bit of music to dance to [ if you want ].

If you haven't been before ask around to find out what it's like: it would be helpful to know numbers so please let Angela or I know if you are planning on coming.

We look forward to seeing you there.  
Margaret 532849

*Thanks*

Thank you to all the lovely people who have knitted the 550 or so angels we have ready to put around the parish. We plan to distribute them early morning on Saturday 7th December.

Offers of help with this would be greatly appreciated, the more people available the quicker it can be done.

If you feel able to help please let me or Maureen Tayler know.

### **Dates for your diary as at December 2019**

#### ***12<sup>th</sup> January 2020***

Covenant Sunday – all communion services

St Paul's – 8:45am and 10:30am All-Age

St Timothy's – 10:30am

#### ***Saturday 18 January 2020***

Love Dorcan Day at St. Paul's

#### ***Saturday 13th June***

Beer Festival

#### ***14<sup>TH</sup>-16<sup>TH</sup> February 2020***

Children and youth 8+ weekend away

Gaines Manor, Worcester

#### ***Saturday 7th March 2020***

Diocesan Synod 9.30am Holy Trinity, Bradley Stoke

#### ***Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020***

United service at St Paul's at 10am, followed by

Dorcan Church Annual Meeting at 10:30am

#### ***Saturday 6th June 2020***

Diocesan Synod 9.30am Holy Trinity, Bradley Stoke

#### ***30<sup>th</sup> June 2020***

Archdeacon visitation in Swindon

Venue and time TBC

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to Anna Newman by **Wednesday 4th December** Tel 695698 or email [anagram673@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anagram673@hotmail.co.uk) Thank you.

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