



**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 3rd. August 2020

SERVICES 3rd. August 2020

St. Paul's

10.00 am	Morning Prayer Live streamed. https://www.facebook.com/pg/stpaulsstimothysswindon/videos/	Rev. Stuart Fisher
10.30 am	Morning service. Last pre-recorded service	Neil Marshall
11.30am	Zoom Coffee Morning	

St. Timothy's

10.30am NO service

St. Paul's

Thur. Private Prayer Pre-booking is no longer required.
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.**

*****NEWS*****

Rev Rob and the family are moving on!

We are delighted for Rev Rob, Kath, Holly and Eliana on their move to Lockleaze in Bristol. Rob will be curate-in-charge in the community there at the church of St James. Rob and the family have a great heart and passion for the area and it is a superb opportunity for them all. Of particular note is that the church and community are football mad so Rob will be in his element! We will miss them greatly and they have been a special part of the Dorcan family and the community, yet they go with our love, prayers and support.

Rob and the family will be leaving in only a few weeks, with Rob's last Sunday on 16th August 2020. We will be arranging a socially distant farewell before he goes – date to be confirmed – so do watch out for details.

Please pray for them as they prepare to move – for all the practicalities, for school places, and as they set up a new home in a new place. They go surrounded by our love and prayers.

God bless you Rob, Kath, Holly and Eliana

If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift for Rob would you kindly donate to our church account electronically The Dorcan Church 08 92 99 65312775 (Rob) or if you prefer to use cash /cheque please put in St Pauls post box in a secure envelope. Addressed to Tony/Diane

We are trying to organise a 'farewell do' whilst observing all the social distance regulations, and hope to do this at St Pauls Saturday August 15th between 2pm and 5pm. If you would like to come along, would you please contact me either by email, text, phone, and I will get back to you with an allocated time.

God Bless—Diane

2020 Gift Day update

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

Amazingly we have passed the £5,000 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

*"One thing I ask from the Lord,
This only do I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord
All the days of my life"
Psalm 27:4*

Dear sisters and brothers

Opening of St Paul's for Sunday worship

Since the beginning of this month, the government has allowed churches to open for worship, subject to guidelines and hygiene procedures being put into place. We shared with you earlier this month that a first step for us at Dorcan church towards this was to open for private prayer at St Paul's, and to learn from that before opening on a Sunday morning. This went well and the health and safety team have done a superb job and we feel confident about safely receiving more people into the chapel at St Paul's.

We therefore have some encouraging news that we will be opening at St Paul's for Sunday worship from 2nd August. There will be some things we will all need to follow to keep ourselves and everyone else safe and these are highlighted in Rev Stuart's letter from earlier this month and summarised overleaf.

This is welcome news and cause for celebration for some of us, yet for others there may be a feeling of sorrow as we will not be able to join in just yet, whether we still need to shield for a while or we are apprehensive about going back and it may take a while for us to feel ready. These are all real and understandable feelings, with no "one right" way forward, therefore in love and respect we hold these tensions in balance as church family.

We will be continuing our on-line presence going forward, although it will change a little. With the exception of our first Sunday of opening, we will be moving from pre-recorded videos to live-streaming the service from St Paul's. We are aware that new people have joined us, and there will be a number of people who won't be able to attend in person for a while, so it is important that our

During August we will therefore be offering the services detailed below, both physically and online. Please note our time of 10am which we have historically moved to over the summer. At the moment we aren't able to offer children and young people's groups, but we will be providing activity bags for primary school children which are theirs to keep and can be taken home – thank you Deb Mulcock and team!

August 2nd:

10am Morning Prayer led by Rev Stuart
Short initial service for 30minutes, also trialling live streaming
10:30am Last on-line service by video, pre-recorded by Neil Marshall

August 9th:

10am Communion led by Rev Trudie Wigley and Revd Stuart Fisher
Live-streamed

August 16th:

10am Morning worship led by Rev Rob Smith
Live-streamed

August 23rd:

10am Communion/Morning worship led by Rev Trudie Wigley
Live-streamed

August 30th:

10am Communion or Morning worship led by Rev Andrew Wigley
Lives-streamed

Just like opening for private prayer, we will learn over August with a view to then looking at opening St Timothy's after that, together with considering our mid-week services. If you would like to attend St Paul's over August, please could you still book in beforehand with Diane Killick because we will need to arrange seating depending on numbers and family units. Please telephone or text Diane on 07591 763910. We will also be continuing the opportunity for private prayer on Thursday mornings, at the revised time of 9:30-10:30am. There is no need to book so please do come along as you can.

Opening for Sunday worship is a promising first step forward to being able to gather physically together as a church once more. We have continued to be an amazing church over the four months when we have been apart, yet we were made to be together physically – after all we are physical beings! In God’s image we are made to be with each other, to hug, to cry together, to eat together, to break bread together, to worship as church family together, to have fun in fellowship. These of course are those holy habits of the early church which we have been learning about these last two years!

With our mixed emotions as we tentatively take this step forward, may we pray for each other - for safety, grace, and love as we start to emerge from an extraordinary four months and live as the church God wants us to be going forward.

I will be thinking of you all as we open on 2nd August, and look forward to “seeing” you when I’m back from a break either in person or on-line on 9th August for our first communion.

With love. Trudie

Guidelines for entering the chapel for worship and private prayer.

As originally shared in the letter from Rev Stuart on 12th July 2020

Booking: Please do book your place for Sunday mornings with Diane Killick (07591 763910) so we can make sure that chairs are arranged appropriately, adhering to social distancing rules. We are still looking at 2m distancing where possible. Family units will be seated together

Entering the building: We need to register details of people who enter the building, so please do sign in as you arrive – there is a table just inside the door. These details are used under the government's track and trace system and will be destroyed if not needed after three weeks.

One-way system: please use the one-way system, as directed by a steward, which starts and ends at the main glass entrance door. You will be shown to a seat.

Toilets: the only toilet open will be the accessible access, non-gendered, facility. Please follow the one-way system to get to it! If children need to use the toilet, please would a parent accompany them.

Hand sanitisers: We have loads of the stuff! Please use it entering and leaving the building. If you use the toilet, please also use the sanitiser as you leave the chapel and as you re-enter the chapel.

Masks: we request that face coverings are worn in the chapel. The benefit of wearing one is for the protection of others in case we are infected and not showing symptoms, rather than for ourselves. The risk of transmission to another person if we are carrying Covid-19 is substantially reduced when we cover our faces, whether they are wearing a face mask or not. **Wearing a mask is a simple, yet literally lifegiving example of "loving thy neighbour".**

Booklets, bibles etc.: The service will be entirely on the screen, except for a small number of paper copies for those hard of sight which will need to be taken home with you. Please do bring Bibles with you, which should only be shared between family units. After-service refreshments: At this time this is not possible. Singing: At this time this is also not possible. If you have symptoms: if you have suspected symptoms or have had them in the previous 72 hours prior to attending church, please, please, please, do not attend, but let the ministers know. If you develop symptoms within 72 hours after visiting the church you should inform the churchwarden in the first instance so that others who may have attended at the same time, can be contacted. At this point the church building can be decontaminated, deep cleaned and will need to remain vacant for a further 72 hours.

If you develop symptoms within 72 hours after visiting the church you should inform the churchwarden in the first instance so that others who may have attended at the same time, can be contacted. At this point the church building can be decontaminated, deep cleaned and will need to remain vacant for a further 72 hours.

Things to share From the family of Tom Newman: "Judy, Nicki and all the family would like to send their thanks to everyone who has supported them during this difficult time. We have been overwhelmed by the love, prayers, cards and messages. We are truly blessed. It will take time to adjust to life without Tom, but we know we are held in God's love. Mum has an apple tree laden with cooking apples. If anyone would like a bag you are welcome to call at 7 Heronscroft and help yourself to a bag out of the recycling box on the driveway. There are still loads to pick so there will be more to come!" Gift Day: Thank you all for your prayer and ongoing generosity. We are acutely aware of stretched finances for many of us, so thank you for your sacrificial giving - and we do recognise and honour that many of us may not be in position to give at the moment. Last Sunday – 19th July – we shared in our on-line service that our gift day offering was an amazing £3k! This is wonderful, and even more encouraging is that offerings are still being made and this has jumped to £4k+. This is astounding and a big thank you! This has eased our cash flow and will help support us in that transition time until we can start taking hiring bookings again. Praise God and thank you!

What do you think? We need your thoughts as we look to the future. Your opinions and thoughts are valued and a necessary part of painting a picture for what some aspects of the future might look like for Dorcan Church. These last few months will have taught us new things, we will have reflected, God may have spoken to us profoundly or planted a niggler in us that won't go away. To try and capture these as we move forward, please do prayerfully consider some questions which we will be asking over the next few months to paint a picture for us as a church.

The first set were last week:

1. *"Finding wisdom" mid-week reflection: As a church and a church family:*

- i. What have we lost in the pandemic which we need to find again?*
- ii. What have we lost which needs to remain lost?*
- iii. What of the new things do we take forward?*
- v. What of the new things are only for a season?*

2. *Prayer evening on 21st July: During the last four months .*

- i. What do you want to praise God for?*
- ii. What do you lament?*
- iii. What is God saying to us as his church? (for this we held silence for 4 minutes and then shared, without discussion, what we sensed God may be saying to us)*

Please do ponder on these questions over the next few weeks. Perhaps meet someone over a walk to discuss or have it as a focus in one of your small group meetings? God speaks in many different ways and we look forward to hearing what he has planted within us during these extraordinary times. In the first instance, please do share your feedback with myself, Rev Trudie, and this will then be shared. Thank you!

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.

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!

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