



**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 5th. July 2020

SERVICES	
St. Paul's	
8.45am	NO service
10.30am	Web service on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/pg/stpaulssttimothysswindon/videos/ Rev. Trudie Wigley, Rev. Rob Smith, Rev. Stuart Fisher , Rev. Andrew Wigley
11.30am	Zoom Coffee Morning
St. Timothy's	
10.30am	NO service
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.	

June 2020

Dear Church family,

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.

Finance Committee

25th June 2020

**Opening of churches for private prayer and worship
A message from Diane Killick, Churchwarden, and
Rev Trudie Wigley**

Dear Church Family,

You will have heard the Prime Minister's announcement earlier this week that places of worship have been given permission to open for gathered worship from Saturday 4th July. This comes after more than three months of church buildings requiring to be closed, something that has not happened for over 800 years! We have adjusted well and it has not been easy and this announcement marks the tentative start of a path towards being able to meet again. Praise God!

This note is to share with you some early thoughts on what we are looking to do over the next few weeks to allow us to start to meet and worship. The Health and Safety team have already been looking in detail at what is required to enable us to open for private prayer. There is a significant amount of work to be completed as well as ever-changing risk assessments to be considered and Rev Stuart has already shared with us some of what will be needed to enable this to happen, including what will be required from those who come for private prayer. This work is well underway and therefore we do hope to open for private prayer in the not too distant future and we will share with you when that will be in due course.

This first step of opening for private prayer will enable us to "test out" our health and safety procedures which will further inform us in how to safely open for worship. There will be considerably more to think about as we open for worship, including consideration of the maximum numbers of worshippers to enable safe physical distancing, our children and youth ministry, practicalities of services and cleaning, and the capacity and safety of worship leaders. We are also awaiting detailed guidance to come from the Church of England, as well as what we are receiving from the Methodist church. We will keep you informed as to when we will be able to meet, yet we wanted to share that it will be at a date after 4th July as there remains much to think through and set up.

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We know that for many of us we greet the news of being able to meet again with great joy and any delay in being able to do so is frustrating. For many others re-opening the buildings is a source of stress and concern. In this strange time we will be navigating as best we can within the capacity that we have. Re-opening for worship will be alongside keeping some kind of on-line presence and the starting of re-opening the community centre at St Paul's and all this adds another layer of complexity within finite resources, at a time that all our staff also remain furloughed. Above all, the safety of us as church family is a priority, and thank you for your patience and understanding as we find a path through. Your prayers, encouragement and love are gratefully appreciated at this time.

You all remain in our prayers and it is encouraging that we now start on a path to re-opening our buildings. Whilst church has never stopped and we have each found our sacred space to pray, worship and just "be" with God, we look forward to the time we can rejoice and all be together once more. We will keep you informed as to the timing of being open for private prayer and worship.

With love and prayers.

Trudie and Diane



June 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

*“The sun comes up it’s a new day dawning,
It’s time to sing your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes”*

Or is that “The sun comes up . . . it’s time to head for the beach!”. It seems that rather a lot of people seized upon the opportunity provided by an easing in lockdown restrictions and a blast of summer sun to head for their favourite beach. Seems reasonable, except that social distancing guidelines were abandoned, and the authorities were helpless to enforce them. There are concerns that we may now expect a fresh wave of Covid-19 cases as a result.

The latest announcement from the government suggesting that churches might soon be open has perhaps, for some of us at least, brought a reaction similar to that when the weather forecaster announces glorious sunshine for a Bank Holiday weekend.

I read some verses from Joshua, who you may recall was Moses’ successor and lead the people of Israel into the promised land. The people had spent 40 years in ‘isolation’, in the wilderness, in a strange nomadic lifestyle to which they were not accustomed. You can imagine their dream of settling in a land flowing with milk and honey.

(Numbers 14:8)

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where they would not struggle to find food and water, where they would not need to regularly uproot their home and find another place to stopover. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) were in essence God's rules to keep them in right relationship with God, to promote healthy living and good neighbourliness, to keep them safe and well in the face of the temptations offered by the new normal 'good life' that lay ahead of them. In the Bible passage that I read, Joshua reminds the people:

"Take good care to observe the commandment and instruction that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to keep his commandments, and to hold fast to him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul." (Joshua 22:5)

If we are to enjoy the fullness of life that God offers to each one of us, indeed which God offers to all of creation, we would do well to live by the guidance he offers us. This will help us to keep us safe and well as we experience the challenges and joys of life, of coronavirus and of sunshine, of lockdown and of freedom. In the words of the prayer for the 'wrong' day:

"May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, follow you more nearly, day by day"

So I pray that you will keep safe and well, as you walk in all his ways.

Revd Andrew Wigley,

Methodist Minister, St Paul's and St Timothy's

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

We are hoping to be back in the chapel eventually.

Therefore, please look at our Facebook pages,;

See the email distribution list

Phone the office on 01793 435987 for an answer machine message update.

Please keep praying as it has been a long journey!

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