



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

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



SERVICES - 5th December 2021— 2nd Sunday of Advent

St. Paul's

10.30am	United Advent Communion	Revd Stuart Fisher
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St. Tim's

10.30am	No service	
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We will be live-streaming St. Paul's Service on the Facebook Page "Dorcan Church Notice Board" which you can find at <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsstimothysswindon/>

**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.**

SERVICES - 12th December 2021 - 3rd Sunday in Advent		
St. Paul's		
8:45 am	Advent Communion	Revd Trudie Wigley
10:30 am	All-Age worship (offering of toys)	Deacon Stephen Roe
St. Tim's		
10.30am	All-Age worship (offering of toys)	Revd Stuart Fisher

Christmas services

Please see the separate picture for details of our Christmas services. This year you will see that we are doing things a little differently, including an outdoor carol service so we can sing safely with great gusto. We are also shortening the length of our usual Christmas eve all-age celebration at St Paul's and instead holding two focused Christingle services which will need to be pre-booked. At these services, whilst we will have candles to take home, because of the need to use our breath to extinguish flames and the known increased risk of fire to masks, we will not be lighting the Christingles and instead asking people to bring torches to shine in the darkness.

Our toy-giving services at both St Paul's and St Tim's will be on Sunday 12th December and more details will be shared next week as to where we will be giving these toys to. We are collecting new toys please and these will be given to those children and young people in need in our town.

This year we are pausing on delivering Christmas cards, although plenty of flyers will be available for us to give to others, and we will be advertising heavily on social media.

After a challenging Christmas last year, it will be good to be together this year, albeit a little differently, and we do pray that you will be able to join us as we once again hear the message of the good news of the birth of our Lord Jesus.



Advent Wreath

1st CANDLE –(purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE** or **CANDLE OF HOPE** -We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promise made to us. Our hope comes from God (Romans 15. 12-13)

2nd CANDLE –(purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a saviour who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to 'get ready'. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU O GOD (Luke 3. 4-6)

3rd CANDLE (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF JOY** the angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2 7-15)

4th CANDLE (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF LOVE**. The angels announced the good news of a saviour. God sent his only son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 2 16-17)

5th CANDLE – (white) **'CHRIST CANDLE'** – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins. His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1. 29)

Christmas CDs

The Methodist Church has produced some Christmas CDs of carols, prayers, reflections and readings. They are made particularly with those in mind who will find it difficult to get out to services this year, for whatever reason. They are available in Church so please take one and pass it on to someone you know who would appreciate it.

Stephen

Refreshments

Please note
Refreshments will be served after the 10.30 service on the 5th December.

Scout stamps

Scout stamps on sale after the morning services, and by calling 01793 336420.

Cost 30pence, and cards delivered to Swindon and surrounding areas. Post box will be located in the foyer at St Pauls. Last date for posting December 13

Many thanks
Diane

Autumn Clean up

It is proposed that we clear up the leaves that have accumulated, and clear the gutters for the winter at St Paul's on Saturday 4th December from 09:00 until 12:30pm.

If you are able we would love to see you kitted out with gloves a rake and a suitable receptacle to gather the leaves into, would be useful.

Many Thanks
John Davidson

Sachibondu

Stratton Methodist Church has some strong links with a mission community in Sachibondu, North West Zambia. Jon & Becks Burston moved there to work in the community about 4 years ago. They have worked with and helped raise funds for the school and hospital as well as supporting the church and helping to spread the good news to members of the community, especially the young people.

Jon & Becks will be in Stratton during December. We have arranged an information evening at Stratton Methodist Church on Monday 6th December at 7pm, where they will be sharing something of their work, lives and mission in Sach and updating us on the progress being made to help the community there.

You are warmly invited to come along and share this time with us and hear how God is using them for His work in that place. If you are unable to join us, then please pray for them and the people living in Sach.

Book Aid

Book Aid is a charity which collects and distributes Christian books to areas of the world where they are in short supply, primarily countries in Africa. There are **collection** points around the UK where the books are kept ready to be transported to warehouses, before being sorted and shipped overseas. The collector in Swindon recently had to stop doing this, and so the charity is looking for a volunteer who is willing to take this on and has a suitable storage space, e.g. an empty garage or a spare room.

Please speak to Deacon Stephen Roe if you would like to know more.

Harvest Festival

A big thank you to all who contributed to this year's Harvests Festival. An outstanding 89.6kg of food was donated to the Swindon Food Collective from our Church. Swindon Food Collective are currently feeding over 6000 people a year and because of your kindness and generosity, people in our home town who are in food crisis will be catered for over the coming weeks. The Food Collective's thank you letter is on the notice board. Well done everyone.

Toy Service

As you know, our Toy Services are next week, 12 December, at both St Tim's and St Paul's. The toys will be donated to the Swindon Christmas Toy Appeal once again this year, which is being coordinated by the Gateway Church. They would be very grateful indeed for donations of **new toys** which will be delivered to local families in need. Please bring your gifts to Church next Sunday. You are requested not to wrap them, but donations of wrapping paper are welcome. For more details and suggestions of suitable gifts, see [Christmas Toy Appeal - Gateway Church Swindon](#)

At the end of the services, we need someone to take the toys over to the Gateway Church. Please see Stephen, Trudie or Stuart if you can offer to do this.

Prayer Chain

We have a 'Prayer Chain' in order to pray for particular needs among our people. This is coordinated by Cathy Scott, who receives the requests for prayer and circulates them to those on the Prayer Chain. Please tell Cathy if you would like prayer for a particular situation, but please ensure that anyone named or who might be identified in your request has your permission before sending it to Cathy. Please also let Cathy know if you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain and receive requests for prayer. Cathy's contact details are : catherinescott160@gmail.com or 01793 346507.

Funeral for the Late Mrs Olive Frances Bamford.

Olive and her family had lived in Robinsgreen and later at Pinnegar Way, Covingham for many years and lately at Ashbury Lodge Care Home.

Olive was an active member of the Dorcan community and the Dorcan church, she worshipped with us, at St Paul's, for many years and was a fine singer and member of the 'Dorcan Players', she had also been a keen walker in her younger days.

Olive died on Wednesday 17 November 2021 aged 96 years.

The funeral service will take place at Kingsdown Crematorium on Tuesday, 7th December 2021 at 2:15 pm.

The service will be conducted by Rev Stuart Fisher and Olives' family would welcome all who remember her, to the service.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
As at November 2021

Saturday 11th December 2021

6.30pm St. Paul's Church

It's Panto Time.....oh no its not.....oh yes it is

DICK WHITTINGTON

Tickets available from Diane Killick after 10:30 services; Messy Church & Christmas fayre. £5 per person

Saturday 27th November 2021

11am until 1.30pm St Paul's centre
Dorcan Church Christmas Bazaar

Sunday 23rd January 2022

Covenant Sunday

Communion services 10:30am at St Paul's and St Tim's

Sunday 8th May 2022

4pm Confirmations at the Dorcan Church St Paul's at 4pm

What's on this week.

**Wednesday
8th
December**

St Paul's
St Tim's

Tiny Tots 1pm –3pm
Tiny Tots 1.15pm—2:45pm

On-line Booking system

We are in the final stages of upgrading our on-line booking system for users of St. Paul's and St. Timothy's.

There is a test version available at: [St Paul's Church & Community Centre \(staging-lemonbooking.com\)](http://St Paul's Church & Community Centre (staging-lemonbooking.com))

Your existing log-in will work on the upgrade site but for the test site you may need to create a new one so please have a look and make a trial booking. (It won't be actioned and will be deleted once the site goes live).

.Any problems or queries the please contact hall.bookings@dorcanchurch.org.uk.

Regards

Tony Prichard

ECO Tip 3

Chocolate Mmmmmmm – the carbon emitted by the production and packaging of our favourite treat is so problematic that I generally avoid thinking about it! However there are some things we can do without having to give up the brown stuff totally. Firstly avoiding extra packaging, especially those selection boxes with more plastic than chocolate. Spending a bit more sometimes means less packaging, with more of it recyclable (though check – because it's not a rule... Look for paper and foil over plastic.) so this might have to mean eating a bit less. Probably not a bad idea to be honest, for me certainly. Fair Trade brands have rules about pesticides and will have a lower environmental impact, as will organic and rainforest alliance. My favourite brands are Summerdown Mint (available from the 3 Trees farm shop in Chiseldon locally or online) and Tony's Chokoloney (in all major supermarkets) – what are yours?

Tea light sorting!

We have an assortment of battery operated tea-lights that need checking for whether they are working, and some new ones which need the fiddly little batteries putting in them.

Is there anyone who might be willing to sort them out for us please ready for our Christmas services? If so, please let John know and they can be ready to take away this Sunday for some TLC.

Thank you!

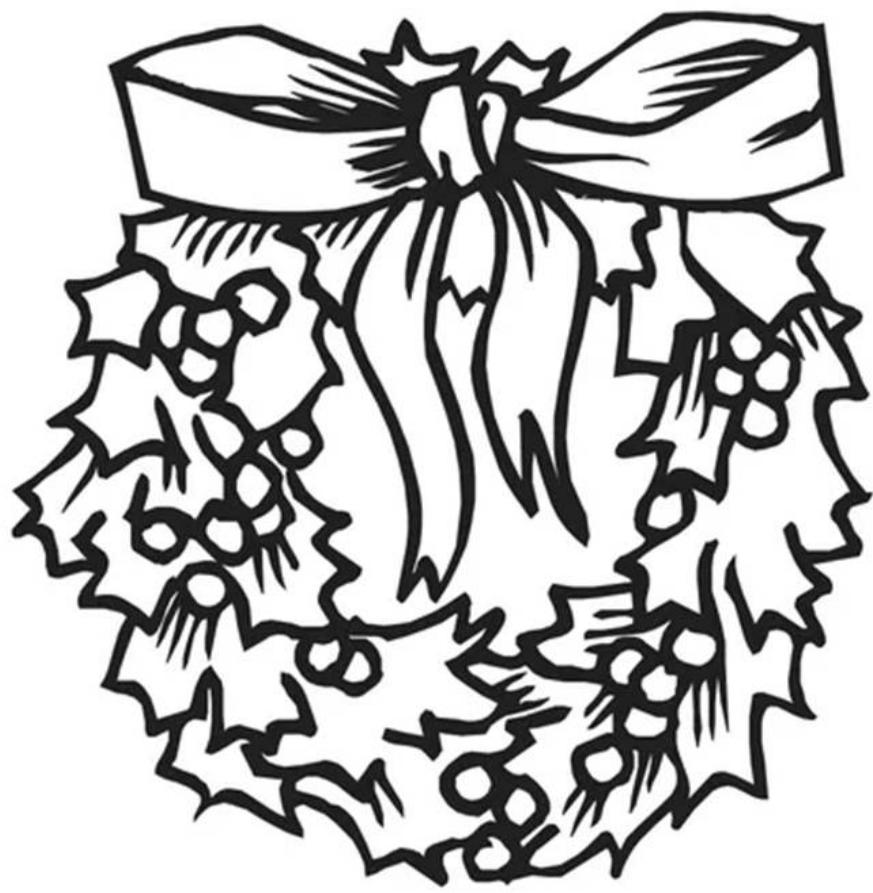
Trudie

Christmas Quiz

1. A prophet foretold the birth of Jesus, but what was his name?
2. In which Gospel do we learn of the birth of Jesus?
3. Before the birth of Jesus, Mary was visited by an Angel who spoke of her miraculous pregnancy. What was his name?
4. Mary and Joseph were forced to travel before Jesus' birth to take part in the Roman Census. Where did they travel to?

Answers at the bottom of the page

Colouring page for
children of all ages





**Coffee Morning
@ St Paul's Church
Tuesday Mornings
from 10.30 – 12 noon**

Come and support this
community outreach initiative.

**- TEA – COFFEE – CAKE - BISCUITS - JUICE
On Your Own? Like some company?
Come and get to know us !**

*Cid's Café is a Church in Dorcan
initiative serving the community*

Date for your diary
Saturday December 11th
St Pauls Church 6.30pm

It's Panto time.....

Jack and the Beanstalk performed at St
Pauls.....

oh no its not.....

IT'S DICK WHITTINGTON

Apologies if you were expecting the giant, and fe fi
fo thumb, but its the cat and Dick



Tickets available from Diane Killick after 10:30
services; Messy Church & Christmas Fayre.
and the church office when open

£5 per person

NOTICES

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent by **Tuesday 7th December** to notices@dorcanchurch.org.uk
Thank you.

These notices are also available on-line at www.dorcanchurch.org.uk/latest_notices
Previous editions are also available at: [Dorcan Church Weekly Notices](#)



You will have noticed we no longer pass the offering basket round. Scan this QR code with your mobile phone to make your offering instead.
Tony Prichard and the Finance Sub Committee.