

Sunday 14th March 2021
Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sun

Online

10.30am.

Morning Worship.

Neil Marshall

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Monday 8th March

7.30pm Circuit meeting

TRANSFORMING CHURCH.
TOGETHER.

Give your thoughts on Tuesday 16th March 7:30pm on Zoom.

ECC has already engaged in Transforming Church and we are looking for the whole church to be involved. Come along for 90minutes of engagement and discussion to help shape the future of God's church. An outside facilitator will be leading us and he looks forward to meeting more of us following his similar visit to ECC.

Please do join in. A Zoom link will be posted on the closed Facebook page nearer the time.

What is it?

On 1st February “Transforming Church. Together” was launched and is our chance to share what God is saying to us about the future of his church. We share the following from the launch:

“Transforming Church. Together”. is all about the Church of England in our region shaping a new vision and set of priorities for the coming years. We want to understand what we do well, what we can change for the better and then create a positive way forward together. This year-long process is called Transforming Church. Together.

We are beginning with conversations – with communities, congregations, clergy, church leaders, and staff. Between February and April 2021 we will start talking and listening with lots of different people, both within and outside the church.

We will listen carefully to understand what each other think and feel about God and the Church of England, but also about our communities, society and the world.”

How can I be involved?

We are all invited to get involved in a number of ways:

- Workshops: Through a facilitated 90minute workshop, capturing insights and thoughts to help shape a future vision and priorities. ECC is participated in one of these this week. and there is an opportunity as a church to engage with a workshop set up for Tuesday **16th March at 7:30pm.**
- Engagement in small groups: You will find an online questionnaire at <https://www.bristol.anglican.org/transformingchurch/jointheconversation/> Why not engage with this in a small group – whether a home group or a bunch of people you feel you want to gather together. Very soon there will be specific resources to support children and young people to engage – we need their views for the future of the church as they grow up.

- Individually: If you'd prefer to ponder away from a group then the questionnaire can also be completed as an individual and submitted. If you do not have access to the internet, paper copies can be provided. Please let Trudie know if you'd like one on 01793 326128.
- Pray: Please pray as we look to the future. This prayer written for this engagement may help you

*God of the Way,
 you call us to leave familiar places and to set out on new paths.
 Enlarge our vision of your work in the communities we serve,
 speak to us through the people we encounter,
 and open our hearts to your love.
 Give us courage and boldness to engage together in this time of
 prayer and discernment;
 and by your Holy, life-giving and creative Spirit,
 renew your church in prayer and service,
 and in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ,
 in whose name we pray. Amen*

We are all invited to be a part of this! Take a look at the website <https://www.bristol.anglican.org/transformingchurch/> for more information and a helpful FAQ. We are also asking those in our community what they think and here at Dorcan we have a wonderful platform through our community centre to engage and ask for thoughts from voices who perhaps are not heard as often.

This is our chance to share what we feel God is saying to us about the future of God's church and how "be" and "do" church for Him. Please do pray for Transforming Church, and that we will be faithful to God and where he may be leading us.

Thank you to our children and young people leaders! We give a great big fat THANK YOU to the wonderful team who lead our children and young people's ministry. Throughout the last year they have worked hard in keeping the youngsters engaged and in touch, and it is wonderful to hear how some of the groups have grown with those who had attended the children and youth clubs on Wednesday evening joining in. The youngsters are a precious part of the church family and thank you to the leaders who nurture and love them and have helped our them through a difficult time in their young lives. Thank you awesome team!

Plans to re-open – Palm Sunday! Following the government’s roadmap out of Covid published this past week, ECC is delighted to share that we are looking to re-open to worship together on Palm Sunday, the 28th March. Whilst schools are going back soon, the message remains to stay at home and not to mix with others until the end of next month and we therefore feel that this proposed date honours and supports our government’s message.

We are delighted that we are planning to open so that we can start the journey of Holy Week together, something that we weren’t able to do last year. On Sunday 28th March – Palm Sunday – it will be a joint service at St Paul’s and then on Easter Sunday we will be celebrating our first Holy Communion for many months at both St Pauls and St Timothy’s – what a wonderful way to celebrate the glory of Resurrection Sunday in communion together again!

After a difficult time, we are beginning to see the hope materialise of meeting together again, yet we still need to socially distance and continue in our hand sanitising and regular cleaning. Whilst a number of our church family have now received their first vaccine, our age demographic is such that many others haven’t and will be waiting a few more months yet. In addition, we must protect our children, some of which are more vulnerable and to whom the vaccine isn’t currently offered. As an act of love and support to each other, please do continue to follow the guidelines when we meet so that the whole church family can all come out of this safely. We have done so well and it won’t be too long before we can sing, shake hands and hug (if you’re the huggy type) so we continue to remain vigilant as we begin to come out of all that we have faced. Thank you and may God bless you.

Trudie

Return to worship.

If you would like to be included on the new rota for readers and prayers, please contact me,

smarshall28@ntlworld.com 01793 638593

Plans for Holy Week: We are working through plans for Holy Week and will share next week.

Please see the information below from The Archdeacon of Malmesbury Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust:

This year's Ride+Stride takes place on Saturday 11th September 2021.

"This sponsored event is always much enjoyed by cyclists, walkers and horse-riders of all ages. Half the money raised goes back to your own church, and the other half is used by the Trust to respond as best it can to requests for grants. It is not necessary to be super-fit to take part in Ride+Stride; even a gentle stroll from one church to another constitutes participation. For the more energetic there are cash prizes for the best achieving individuals in three age groups. The Brooke Cup (plus £500), and its equivalent for the under-18 age group, the Junior Group Cup (plus £100), are awarded to the most successful parishes.

Ride+Stride is an important source of funds. As well as boosting your own church's finances for essential repairs and enhancements, Ride+Stride enables Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust to assist churches with grants. In the last five years the Trust has made grants to Wiltshire churches and chapels of all denominations totalling £429,000". **Christopher Bryan, Archdeacon of Malmesbury**

John Davidson usually takes place in this event and we have also been fortunate to have received funds from the trust, so it would be good this year to open our Churches on September 11th.

If this is something you are willing to help with, please contact **John Davidson or Jackie Hancock, Church Administrator -**
dorcan.church.office@gmail.com

Zoom Bible Study

Are you currently running a Zoom Bible Study, if so are you able to add new participants to your current group?

Or perhaps you're thinking of starting up a new group – there are people looking to join something on-line!

If so please contact Alex Scott on email alecdoug12@gmail.com or telephone Swindon 346507.

ST. PAUL'S – 50 years old!

Those of you with long memories will know that St. Paul's Church was officially opened on 10th. July 1971 - which makes the building 50 years old. Should we have a 'birthday party'; A Garden Party or Barbecue? The story is here - www.dorcanchurch.org.uk/files/dorcan_history.php.

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES

*Are you wondering what to do with your weekly offering envelopes? You may pop them through my door at
1 Poltondale, Covingham, SN3 5BN.*

Tony Prichard (Treasurer)

From the Finance Committee:

Church Income and Expenditure for February 2021

Income £6,832

Expenditure £12,967 which includes our Monthly Parish Share of £4,250 and our quarterly Methodist Assessment of £5,360

Tony

Cheryl has set up an **Air Ambulance clothing bank at St Paul's** and this poster will let you know what type of things to put into it. Jackie..



**Wiltshire
Air Ambulance**
funded by you, flying for you

What can you donate at our clothing banks?

**We accept
Clean clothing of all types
Paired Shoes
Linen
Coats
Towels
Sheets**

**Please do not place anything damp
or dirty into our clothing banks**

If you have any questions please
email
waa@recyclingsolutions.org.uk



**Your clothing donations provide
a regular and sustainable revenue
stream for
Wiltshire Air Ambulance**

Thank you!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

As at March 2021

Tuesday 16th March

“Transforming Church” evening
online workshop for the whole church

Sunday 28th March _ Palm Sunday

reopening of St Paul’s for worship, joint service at 10.30am

Sunday 4th April – Easter Sunday

Holy Communion at both St Paul’s and St Tim’s

Sunday 25th April 2021

United Service 10:30am ST Paul’s - AGM and annual gift day

Saturday 8th May 2021

9:30-1:30pm on line - *“Living in Love and Faith”*

Sunday 9th May

United Service 10:30am St Paul’s
Rev Andrew Wigley’s final Sunday at Dorcan

Sunday 16th May

10:30am St Paul’s - Archdeacon Christopher Bryan leading worship

Saturday 22nd May 2021

9:30-1:30pm on line
“Living in Love and Faith” conference (repeat from 8th May)
All welcome

Saturday 11th September

Ride+Stride for churches

Sunday 21st November 2021

4pm Ecumenical confirmation at Holy Trinity, Shaw

Wednesday 1st September 2021

Revd Stephen Roe starting in the circuit as Methodist minister
at Stratton Methodist and Dorcan church

Sunday 3rd September 2021

7.30pm St Paul’s - Welcome service for Revd Stephen Roe

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to
Anna Newman by Wednesday 10th March
Tel: 695698 or email anagram673@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.
Please let me know if any others would like to receive notices by email.