



**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*



“Everyone who listens to the father  
and learns from him, comes to me”  
*John 6: v45*

<b>SERVICES - 8th August 2021</b>		
<b>St. Paul's</b>		
10.00am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Geoffrey Floyd
<b>St. Tim's</b>		
10.30am	No Service	

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 - 15th August 2021

### St. Paul's

10.00am	Morning Worship	Sandy Railton
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### St. Tim's

10.30am	No Service	
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The Funeral of **Viv Craig** will take place on Monday 9th August, 11.30am at St Timothy's Church, Liden, followed by a private cremation.

A much loved sister, aunt and great-aunt who will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

No flowers by request please, but donations if desired for Myeloma UK may be sent c/o Pearce Funeral Services, 92 Ermin Street, Stratton St Margaret, SN3 4NN. Enq:- 01793 832072.

It is with great sadness, that I have to inform you of the passing away of **Alan Thomas**. Alan will be greatly missed by his wife Shirley, Darren and Liz. Alan died suddenly at GWH, after a sudden and completely unexpected Cardiac Failure, on Tuesday 3rd August. I will always remember his happy demeanour and many jokes (often in jest and at my expense) as we worshipped together at St Paul's. Please remember Shirley and Darren and Liz in your prayers at this time. Funeral arrangements will be shared with you when we have more information. *Stuart*

**Covid 19 relaxation of safety measures:**

Firstly, thank you for your considerate approach to worship over the past few weeks, as we continued with our safety precautions.

Secondly, I know that some people have found this relaxation (or non-relaxation), uncomfortable because as yet we continue the use of face coverings and 'gel' as we enter church. I want to assure you that it is for the safety of the vulnerable and this includes, the anxious, that we continue this practice. However, we continue to monitor the situation day by day and no decisions are taken lightly or without consultation. So, if you have particular thoughts on this, please let a steward know, or contact Rev Stuart, or a member of the ECC, remembering always that in our Christian context, we do what we do for the sake of others, forsaking self, often out of love because of what Christ has already done for us.

*Matthew 25:35 & 40b: "Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did it to Me". (NRSV)*

Hospitality is at the core of our lives as disciples and of every church. God tells us to live hospitably, treating everyone as if they could be God. If, as a church, we make decisions that exclude people, we are separating ourselves from God. If you feel excluded, we need to know how we can change this.

*Rev. Stuart*

## **Living in Love and Faith:**

### ***Have you engaged with LLF through the Bristol Diocese website?***

Commissioned and led by the Bishops of the Church of England, Living in Love and Faith (LLF) is about encouraging the whole church to think more deeply about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage in the bigger context of being human. It is an invitation to people, whatever their background and experience, to think more deeply about what it means to be human and to live in love and faith together. It's about understanding different perspectives and each other better.

We are looking for people to engage with a course in one way or another - Facilitating or just joining the discussions.

Courses can be run in different ways, depending on what fits you best:

Facilitated small groups, where 5-6 people meet weekly using the online material with an LLF Facilitator at a time that works for them.

Alpha style - with whole group presentations using the video materials, and then breaking into small, facilitated groups for the discussions.

On Zoom with plenary video presentations and facilitated break out rooms.

Smaller, facilitated groups that use the videos locally in their own time.

Deaneries might wish to run groups, and parishes might wish to pair up and work together so that people can engage with others from different traditions or perspectives.

The role of a Living in Love and Faith facilitator is to enable groups to learn together using the LLF course (and other resources) by creating a space that is both as brave and as safe as possible for everyone involved.

If you think being a facilitator could be for you, please contact Rev Stuart to discuss further. If your preferred way of engaging with a course is listed above, let Stuart know your preference as soon as possible

## **Free face to face Debt Advice appointments**

A collaboration between Pattern Church, Swindon's newest Anglican church and **Crosslight Advice**, a debt advice charity who currently operate 10 branches across London and the South of England, **Crosslight Swindon** has a vision to restore dignity and renew hope to those in need by alleviating poverty and improving financial capability.

The launch of Crosslight Swindon coincides with soaring debt levels across the UK, with over 6 million adults struggling to pay essential bills according to data from Citizens Advice. The centre will provide face-to-face debt advice, money education, and budgeting support to individuals and families in need.

Appointments have previously been held over the phone because of lockdown restrictions. However, this changed on 21 June, with 50% of appointments now moving to face to face.

Amy Williams, branch manager of Crosslight Swindon at Pattern Church, says:

“More than ever our communities need holistic, person-centred debt advice and support. Especially with the upcoming closure of the Honda plant, we feel now more than ever is an important time to make sure these services are available free of charge to the people of Swindon. At Crosslight, we are passionate about each individual client’s journey out of debt and providing an in-depth, person-centred service. We operate a full casework model providing face-to-face advice for our clients and will provide support for as long as a client continues to need it.”

### *FURTHER INFORMATION*

- Crosslight’s Approach: <https://www.crosslightadvice.org/what-we-do>
- Pattern Church: <https://patternchurch.org/>
- For prospective clients: [www.crosslightadvice.org/help](http://www.crosslightadvice.org/help) (or alternatively, prospective clients can call one of our Advice service team on 0207

## **11 tips to cope with anxiety about coming out of lockdown**

Easing of lockdown will allow us to get back to the people and things we love, but it's OK if you feel worried as restrictions lift. You might be worried about the pace of the changes or what the future may bring.

It's important to be patient with yourself and with your feelings. The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has been hard for us all, and we have all experienced the effects differently, including those of us who have been shielding. Even positive change can lead to anxiety, and it can take time to readjust to things we have not done for a while. Feelings of post-lockdown anxiety are likely to pass with time as we get used to the "new normal" but it's important to do what we can to take care of our mental health.

There are lots of things that can help you to manage these feelings and make it easier to adjust. There are top tips for taking care of your mental health on this website from the NHS. <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/coronavirus/tips-to-cope-with-anxiety-lockdown-lifting/>

## **Dorcan Church, St Paul's and St Tim's Triennial Inspection**

On Tuesday 10th August both churches will have their Triennial Inspections, which includes property, maintenance and anything to do with the building and its contents and also our place in the community, including inspecting our registers.

Please pray that this goes smoothly as we welcome the Archdeacon and Diocesan Team, also John and Sarah our Churchwardens and the teams as they prepare for the day.

Thank you to all of you who have volunteered, cleaned, decorated and gardened over the past weeks.

**Confirmations:**

Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptised. If you were baptised at a christening when you were a child, your parents and godparents made these promises on your behalf. As a young person or adult, you may be ready to affirm these promises for yourself and commit your life to following Jesus Christ. At a confirmation service, you make these promises for yourself. Your friends and family as well as the local Christian community will be there to promise to support and pray for you.

The local bishop will lay their hands on your head and ask God's Holy Spirit to give you the strength and commitment to live God's way for the rest of your life.

A reminder that the only remaining Ecumenical Confirmation within Swindon Deanery for members of the Dorcan Church this year will take place on 21st November at Holy Trinity Shaw, with Bishop Lee. If you have not yet been confirmed, or know of anyone who may be thinking about making this commitment, please let Stuart know so that we can engage together fully in how we can make this happen.

**Swindon Street Pastors**  
**- going live again this Autumn!**

"Today, Old Town is the new central 'place to be' for the night-time social life of Swindon with a smaller number, around 4,000 gathering to party through the night hours, but this is set to rise as restrictions lift and popular night-clubs re-open.

Chartered new waters – Café Pastors Looking forward, we are in the throes of developing a daytime ministry for Street Pastors in café spaces. This is in partnership with other Christian organisations who are looking to open cafés as safe venues for people to come, and be assured of a warm welcome with a listening ear, and receiving support and help in time of need."

*Please take a look at the fuller details in the message attached explaining the role of Street Pastors*

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to  
Anna Newman by **Wednesday 11th August** 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**

## Dear Churches

### Street Pastors going live again, in Swindon this Autumn!

#### Swindon Street Pastors – a bit of background and our relaunch in Old Town

We first went live September 2007, in the town centre, at weekends 10pm-4am, where upwards of 10,000 people gathered to socialise in the pubs and clubs every Friday and Saturday night!

Today, Old Town is the new central 'place to be' for the night-time social life of Swindon with a smaller number, around 4,000 gathering to party through the night hours, but this is set to rise as restrictions lift and popular night-clubs re-open.

#### **A boat in safe harbour - God's call to re-build**

When we came off the streets in 2019, we had the prophetic picture of a boat in a safe harbour, God reminding us we had been at sea for 12 years without ever putting into port, that the boat needed some vital repairs, refurbishment and a re-rig. And the crew a rest while new members recruited and trained, in readiness to re-launch on a new course that God would chart.

So, based on God's call to Nehemiah to re-build the walls of Jerusalem, during lockdown, we set about restoring, renewing and rebuilding our boat.

#### **God's hand of favour and the power of prayer**

We have seen God's provision and answered prayer with a strengthened steering group and management, additional street pastor volunteers, and re-engagement with our national body the Ascension Trust, the local Police and Swindon Borough Council, alongside partnerships growing with Forging Connections.

Our team of faithful intercessors pray and support us daily, with words of scripture and encouragement. As part of this team, personal **Prayer Partners** pray for named Street Pastors, especially the nights and times they serve.

#### **Chartered new waters – Café Pastors**

Looking forward, we are in the throes of developing a daytime ministry for Street Pastors in café spaces. This is in partnership with other Christian organisations who are looking to open cafés as safe venues for people to come, and be assured of a warm welcome with a listening ear, and receiving support and help in time of need.

#### **Testament of the power of the Holy Spirit witnessing the presence of Jesus on the streets.**

Both here in Swindon and across the nation are testament after testament of the power of prayer, with police evidencing that crime is reduced significantly, by as much as 100% in some cases, wherever Street & Prayer Pastors serve together. Street Pastors are recognised as helping to protect and save lives, while making our town centres a safer and enjoyable place to come! As one Street Pastor put it:

**"We witness by telling people about Jesus, without words, as we take the love of Jesus on-to the streets."**

#### **Relaunching this autumn**

*We are getting ready to relaunch and set sail again. If you are interested in any of the opportunities regarding night, daytime or prayer ministries, with a desire to see the power of Jesus present in our town, do come aboard!*

*For more information, please contact: [coordinator.swindon@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:coordinator.swindon@streetpastors.org.uk).*