



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

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



SERVICES - 8th December 2019 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

St. Paul's

8.45am	Holy Communion	Mary Boitz And Rev'd. Trudie Wigley
10.30am	All Age Toy Service	Rev'd. Trudie Wigley

Welcome, *John & Joan*, Teas: *Pam & Hazel*, Sparks: *All Age*, Creche: *All Age*

St. Tim's

10.30pm	All Age Toy Service and Christingle	Rev'd Rob Smith
---------	--	-----------------

Toy services – TODAY! We have our All-Age toy services at 10:30am at both St Paul's and St Tim's. If you would like to, please bring an unwrapped toy and some wrapping paper which will be given to the NSPCC to give to children for whom Christmas will be challenging this year

**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.**

Advent begins

I wait for the Lord,

my soul waits,

And in his word I hope;
My soul waits for the Lord
More than watchmen for the morning,
More than watchmen for the morning”

Psalm 130:5-6

Today is the start of Advent, a time we look back in order to look forward.

As we look back we make preparations to celebrate the remarkable story of Jesus's coming into the world as a baby. And in this looking back we find meaning and purpose to then look forward to his promised coming again with hope and expectation. Yet Advent starts in penitence, a time of preparing ourselves to receive Jesus anew, both now in our hearts, and into the future when we do not know the time or the hour.

This preparation time also has a sense of waiting and watching. These verses from Psalm 130 draw on the image of the watchman's night-time vigil and describes a deep longing. What keeps the Psalmist going is the conviction that dawn will indeed surely come. A sole watchman can conjure up the image of a lonely figure, yet Jesus invites us to watch and wait in longing together until morning breaks. In the garden of Gethsemane he called on his disciples to watch and wait with him, it was something that they were to do together. Companionship in watching and waiting is a human longing which our Lord understood and sought from his friends. So this Advent we are invited to watch and wait together as God's church in this place. Will you join us?

As we journey through Advent together may we know hope, peace, love and Joy as we watch and wait together.

May God bless you this Advent.

Trudie



Christmas services publicity!

We now have all our Christmas publicity.
The national theme of #FollowTheStar is continuing for both this year and the next and this is reflected in our publicity.

Flyers:

Please do take a flyer for yourself and to give to others
– this year we have plenty as they were so popular last year!

Christmas cards:

These are now ready for you (as willing volunteers)
to distribute among the streets where you live.

There is a 'sign up' sheet with street names on,
so please tick the street where you will deliver the cards and take some
Christmas cards to distribute.

We should do this starting this week,
so that we have time to deliver them all.

If you are active at any church group - 'Tiny Tots', 'Tea and Toast' Senior
Citizens, Knitting group - house group; please also ask your members to
help with the distribution.

Today we bring you the Good News (Acts 13.32,33)

Memorial Carol service – Tuesday 10th December 7:30pm St Paul's:

All are invited to this memorial carol service hosted by Pearce Funeral Services. This time of year can be particularly difficult and tinged with sadness as we live with the loss of loved ones. This quiet service is an opportunity to reflect and remember them. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS 2019

THE DORCAN CHURCH
St. Paul's Church Centre
Covingham SN3 5BY

Sunday 1st December

10.30am Advent Communion
4pm Advent Taize Service

Sunday 8th December

8.45am Communion
10.30am All Age Toy Service*

Sunday 15th December

10.30am Morning Worship
4pm Christmas Messy Church & Party tea

Sunday 22nd December

6pm Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

4pm Christingle & Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day

9am Christmas Day Communion
10am Christmas All-Age Celebration

ST. TIMOTHY'S

Liden Community Centre, SN3 6HP

Sunday 8th December

10.30am Christingle & Toy Service*

Sunday 15th December

10.30am Carols & Communion

Sunday 22nd December

10.30am Christmas Communion

*If you would like to, please bring an unwrapped gift
& wrapping paper donation for the NSPCC

We will be meeting in the hall at St. Paul's at 9.30am on Monday December 23rd to make **200 Christingles** ready for Christmas Eve.

Please come and help, all ages welcome. With enough helpers this will take about an hour.

Any queries, please speak to Sandra or Colleen.

A huge thank you to the performers, the audience, the tech team, the putter outers, the tidy awayers, the washer uppers who put on a magnificent concert. We raised £223 which will go towards transport for our up and coming weekend away in February.

Many thanks Rob, Deb and team

THANK YOU everyone for the tremendous response to no tea spoons - we now have a good stock.

Should you have a spare tea towel in your cupboard, that would be very welcome .

Diane

**Community Centre Development Manager
- Cheryl Pottinger:**

We are delighted to share that Cheryl has accepted our offer to the new role of Community Centre Development Manager.

Cheryl used to be the General Manager at Dorcan Leisure Centre so is very familiar and experienced in the operational and financial running of a centre and she knows the local community well. She will be a great asset to us and the community.

Cheryl starts in January, yet will be coming in for a couple of days before Christmas for a hand over with Chris Smith.

This is a significant step forward for us as a church as we both maintain, and develop the two centres and we look forward to all that lies ahead and we warmly welcome Cheryl amongst us.

Pastoral letter from our Archbishops regarding the election:

You may have seen the podcast of the pastoral letter released from our Archbishop's regarding standing up for truth and challenging falsehoods as we debate and discuss with each other in the run up to the election. You can find it here

<https://www.archbishopofyork.org/news/news-2019/archbishops-general-election-message> together with the text. Some hard copies of the pastoral letter are also available in both centres. As we shortly come to the general election we pray for our political leaders and for wisdom, love in our interactions and the seeking of the common good.

**Diocesan synod – 16th November –
Climate emergency declared:**

Diocesan synod was held in Swindon this Autumn and copies of the summary of the proceedings are available in both centres. One of the significant agenda items was the environment and during proceedings the Environmental and Climate Policy was unanimously passed, and this commits us to taking a lead, in partnership with others, to change the impact of humans on the planet.

Alongside this, a motion was passed declaring a climate emergency, including the stretching move to become net zero carbon by 2030. This was passed unanimously, and this diocese therefore became the first to declare a climate emergency, placing creation care as a top priority. It is now that the work continues with a renewed focus and energy, with each church encouraged to join in. Next year we will be looking at how we might wish to be involved.

Manage other people at work?

Fancy being part of a Christian support group of similar folk here at Dorcan? Drink coffee?

Come along to our inaugural get together at 6.45pm in Costa at Greenbridge on Friday 6th December.

Nathalie

(Further details from Nathalie)

Prayer for all that is going on!

We are in full swing of Christmas activities and the days are wonderfully full! Please do pray for all the Christmas activities and for good health and energy as we engage in all that is going on.

This time of year is a super time to share our faith and we pray for conversations and encounters as we share about the God in whom we trust and follow.

And thank you to everyone for all that you are doing which enables the activities to happen. *Trudie*

THE WHOLE FAMILY IS INVITED TO

PICNIC WITH SANTA!

LET SANTA SHOW YOU THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS WITH CRAFTS, FOOD AND GAMES

Friday 13th Dec | 5pm-8:30pm |
St Timothy's Church

or

Friday 20th Dec | 2:30pm-4:15pm |
St Paul's Church

£1 per child

Tickets must be booked in advance from the hub or by emailing don.lanc@p@gmail.com



WANTED

The annual **request for singers** for the **Carols by Candlelight** service is here. The service is on 22nd December, and we would look to gather a few times before either on Friday evenings or on a Sunday after the morning service. The music is expected to be predominantly standard carols with the odd descant etc thrown in. Please contact Nathalie, Sue or Pete if you are interested.

And ALSO WANTED

The Monday morning Cell Group is co-ordinating the refreshments after the Carol Service and would be very grateful for donations of Mince Pies please. (Either bought or home made.) Let Pam Wood know if you are able to help, or just bring them to the Service. Thank you.

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

Angela and I are arranging a New Years Eve Party 8 -12pm, it's for all the Church family ages 0 -- 90 yrs. Please bring food to share and the drink that you want to drink. We have quizzes, games and usually end with a bit of music to dance to [if you want].

If you haven't been before ask around to find out what it's like: it would be helpful to know numbers so please let Angela or I know if you are planning on coming.

We look forward to seeing you there.
Margaret 532849

Thanks

Time to find out more? - Exploring Christianity

Would you like to delve deeper into your faith and explore theology with others? Do you feel you need stretching in your thinking and study? If so, you may wish to prayerfully consider joining the "Exploring Christianity" course which is being held in Swindon.

It is a course open to all and is an excellent opportunity to consider areas including prayer, spirituality, church history, Biblical studies, church, mission and ministry. This is the course which Licensed Lay Ministers attend as part of their training so please do ask Sue Morgan to share how she found the course. Unlike Sue, nobody has to do the written assignments though – unless you want to!

Each module comprises 10 sessions and there is no compulsion to attend all the modules so maybe start and see how you go? It is being hosted at St John's, Parks, on Tuesday evenings starting Tuesday 14th January 2020. If you are interested then please do pick up a leaflet, talk to Sue and I'd love to hear from you too.

Trudie

A huge thank you to everyone who helped in whatever category at the Christmas Fayre. It was a wonderful outreach to our community. We raised around £1400. !
Thanks to you all. *Diane*

And a big thank you to Diane and Angela for their co-ordination and energy in organising the fayre. We do appreciate it. Thank you!

Election this week:

This week we see our General Election being held. We are in changing and unsettling times within our nation and our world, and these prayers are offered by both the Church of England and the Methodist church to help us in our prayers at this significant time.

A prayer for the 2019 General Election

God of grace and truth,
send your Spirit to guide us
as we discover your will for our country.
Help us to discuss the issues before us
with courtesy, truth and mutual respect,
and grant that all who stand for parliament
will seek to serve the common good,
through him who came not to be served but to serve,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A Prayer for our nation

God of hope,
in these times of change,
unite our nation
and guide our leaders with your wisdom.
Give us courage to overcome our fears,
and help us to build a future
in which all may prosper and share;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to
Anna Newman by **Wednesday 11th December** Tel 695698
or email anagram673@hotmail.co.uk Thank you.
Please let me know if you would like to receive notices by email