



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

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



**9th May 2021 – 6th Sunday of Easter
Rev Andrew's farewell service from Dorcan Church**

St. Paul's	10.30am	Morning Worship	Revd Andrew and Trudie Wigley
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We will be live-streaming the service on the Facebook page "Dorcan Church Notice Board" which you can find at:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsstimothysswindon/>

**If you are new, we would love to get to know you better.
Please speak to the Minister or to one of the Stewards.
Welcome to the Dorcan Church.**

Sunday 16th May 2021
7th Sunday of Easter
We welcome Archdeacon Christopher Bryan

St. Paul's	10.30am.	Holy Communion	Archdeacon Christopher Bryan
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Social distancing as we meet to worship:

It is really good to be meeting again and to see everyone, and there will come a time when we will be able to see more than just everyone's eyes and forehead! This is a little reminder to say that we are still needing to follow distancing requirements and to refrain from mingling, and therefore please could we stay in our seats where we are until it is time to leave? If you need to catch up with someone perhaps do so by phone or meet up in your gardens at another time.

Also, please can we pause on singing, even quietly, for a little while more please? We love singing and it's frustrating to not do so. The time will come again, but in the meantime thank you for caring for your brothers and sisters around you.

Church Council, officers and committees 2021-2022:

Please find details attached, post our recent AGM and ECC.

Andrew and Trudie Arrangements during Sabbatical/Extended Study Leave

You will be aware that Sunday 9th May is Andrew's last Sunday at Dorcan ahead of his Sabbatical leave which will then bring his appointment as minister amongst us to a close in August. That Sunday is also Trudie's last before her Extended Ministerial Study Leave (EMDL) until late August during which time the family will also be moving to the Vicarage in Liden.

Arrangements are well under way for support and cover during this time, with the details being shaped in partnership with Standing Committee. We have a working spreadsheet to make sure we cover everything (it seems to keep growing!) and we give thanks for the support that is enabling this to happen – our own ministry team, the Anglican Deanery, the Methodist circuit and the church family, particularly Rev Stuart Fisher and John Davidson as they hold the leadership during this time.

The Church of England and the Methodist Church recognise the importance of an extended time for reflection and refreshment in ministry, such that in the Methodist Church it is now compulsory every 7 years. Bristol Diocese have granted Trudie's 10-yearly EMDL, having asked her to take this time for reflection at the same time as Andrew given our unique working arrangements. The time we are both away coincides with what is often a quieter time of the year in the life of the church, and post Covid-19 we would encourage everyone to catch up with friends, loved ones and church family and just enjoy the summer being together!

The timing of this leave also gives space to support a transition from one ministry set-up to the next period ahead when Rev Stephen Roe joins us in September. Trudie is returning early from Extended Study leave at the end of August to welcome him and to then start working with her new colleague and the new insights he will bring.

This time on Sabbatical/EMDL is not time off, but a time of spiritual refreshment, exploring and affirming vocation, reflection and of study.

Andrew will be exploring the implications of Covid for the future of the church alongside some time of Pilgrimage and reflection on the spiritual journey. Trudie will be studying what economic justice might look like and whether there is such a thing as progressive capitalism for the common good. We won't answer all the questions in the time we have, yet are looking forward to the gift of study and learning. Thank you for supporting us in this opportunity and if you have any concerns, questions, or encouragement, before 9th May then please do contact us.

With thanks. Andrew and Trudie Wigley

Living in Love and Faith

In November 2020 the Church of England published a book "*Living in Love and Faith*" (LLF) and associated resources, beginning a process of discernment and decision-making on questions of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. These resources have been designed to help all God's people come together to learn about and discuss matters of human identity and sexuality, an arena which, in the Church of England, we have found very difficult for a number of years. Our difficulties have often caused hurt and puzzlement both inside and outside the Church and been a stumbling block to our collective witness.

As a diocese we will be engaging with LLF during 2021 and we are encouraged to do the same across our worshipping community and wider into our contexts. With the priority on "*Transforming Church*" in the earlier part of 2021, the focus on LLF will be from May onwards when we are invited to a conference which will provide a launch point into listening and exploring together and will include guidance on how parishes and other settings can make use of available resources and engage widely.

In the meantime, we can of course start accessing and exploring the material if we wish. You will find a host of resources at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/living-love-and-faith-learning-hub>

For now, we are asked to put one of the following dates in our diary for the half-day conference which will launch our focus in LLF across the diocese.

The material will be repeated on both days. Either date can be booked at <https://bristoldiocese.eventbrite.co.uk>

- Saturday 8th May from 9:30am-1:30pm.
- Saturday 22nd May from 9:30am-1:30pm.

This is not an easy topic to explore and it is important that those with different views, perspectives and experience can express them alongside others who may hold very different positions. Please pray that in these coming months and years, our listening and learning together might, in the Bishop of Coventry's words, "help us to discern together the work of the Holy Spirit in our common life and lead us into the future that God has for us as we seek together to serve Christ fully and faithfully."

Annual Gift Day

Thank you to all who have responded generously to our appeal, I would be useful if our Treasurer, Tony Prichard, could have any further donations by 16th May, in order that he may announce the total.

Many thanks. *John Davidson*

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to
Anna Newman by Wednesday 12th May
Tel: 695698 or email anagram673@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.
Please let me know if any others would like to receive notices by email.