



St. Paul's Covingham
St. Timothy's, Liden
www.dorcanchurch.org.uk
11th September, 2016

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



*"there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God
over one sinner who repents."*

Luke 15:10

Services Sunday 11th September 2016

St. Paul's

8.45am	Said Holy Communion	Rev'd Trudie Wigley
10.00am	All Age Service	Rev'd Stuart Fisher
4.00pm	Tea and Praise	Rev'd Andrew Wigley

St. Tim's

10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev'd Andrew Wigley
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Today Paul Tayler is at Coleview supporting the wider Anglican deanery

**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.**

What's on this week - Small groups and Cell Groups - please keep in touch with your leaders for dates and venues. If you would like to join one, please speak to one of the Ministers or Church Wardens.

Monday 12th September	12.45pm 2-4pm	Thanksgiving service for the late Valerie Burke Scrabble and Dominoes at St. Tim's
Tuesday 13th September	7.30pm	Ministry team at Merlin Way
Wednesday 14th September	9.00am 1.30pm 7.30pm	Tiny Tots at St. Paul's Tiny Tots at St. Tim's ECC at St Tim's
Thursday 15th September	9.30am 8.15pm	Holy Communion at St. Tim's Stewards meeting for 50 th service at St Paul's
Friday 16th September	From 6pm	Setting up for Funday at St Paul's. Please come and help!
Saturday 17th September	2-6.00pm 6.00pm	Fun day! Please come and have fun! Clearing up from Fun day and setting up for Sunday Lots of help is needed – please come and be a part of the team

SERVICES 18th September

St. Paul's

10.00am United Service of thanksgiving with communion
in celebration of our 50th anniversary

For your prayers:

- The Paralympics and the athletes who will be competing
- Our 50th celebrations next week, for the last minute arrangement and for those who will come
- Medical staff in the NHS and at GWH, and for a fair and gracious end to the doctor's dispute
- Those in Need of God's Healing and peace
- The friends & family of Valerie Burke who has recently died

Saturday 17th September, 2 – 6pm

COMMUNITY FUN DAY

Fairground Games, Tug-o-war Competition

Bouncy Castle / Slide, Quiz

Messy Church and Tiny Tots activities

Swindon YFC BIOS Bus

Tea, Coffee and refreshments

Including Cream Teas and Ice Creams

Hot Dogs and Chips (from 4pm)

Sunday 18th September, 10am

**UNITED SERVICE of THANKSGIVING
WITH HOLY COMMUNION**

**led by Revd Dr Lee Rayfield, Bishop of Swindon
and Revd Dr Jonathan Pye, Chair of Bristol District,
with invited guests of former ministers and local civic officers.**

**There will be celebratory cake and drinks for everyone
after the service, with lunch provided for our guests
by our children and young people at 1pm**

Important notice re Christmas shoeboxes:

After much thought, prayer and discussion, the Church Council and Ministry Team have agreed that this Christmas we would like to support "Link to Hope", a Christian organisation which delivers gift boxes to needy families and the elderly in Eastern Europe.

You will be aware that we have previously supported Samaritan's Purse, and our boxes last Christmas went to Eastern Europe. After much discussion in Ministry Team and in consultation with Christine Parsons our local organiser, Church Council has agreed this change. The background to this is in remarks made in the US by CEO Franklin Graham, head of Samaritan's Purse, regarding homosexuality, and which has received attention here in the UK. Whilst there is a wide spectrum of views on homosexuality amongst Christians, and some of us may support Mr Graham's position, it was the tone and the uncharitable and unloving nature of the remarks which caused concern, and which has been reported in the press and social media sites. We have also read the Statement of Faith of Samaritan's Purse and found it to be strongly conservative evangelical, and which we could not fully support given the spectrum of views amongst Christians.

Trudie and Andrew met with Simon Barrington, Executive Director of Samaritan's Purse UK, to express our concern. Mr Barrington explained further the nature of the work with Christmas boxes, and how there is a degree of separation with their evangelical Christian mission. However, whilst Ministry Team recognised the goodwill in distributing Christmas boxes, we were of common mind that we should seek another Christian organisation to distribute our gifts. We explored a number of new options and, together with ideas from Christine, chose "Link to Hope" which provides a similar service, whilst also offering to families and elderly. They are also supported by others in Swindon, e.g. through Restore, and have a local collection point. Church Council subsequently agreed to this recommendation.

We recognise that we have been supporting Samaritan's Purse for many years, but hope you will understand why there is this change. We appreciate the support and dedication of Christine Parsons for the last 20 years with Samaritan's Purse and her willingness now, along with Paul Taylor, to act as coordinator for Link to Hope. Some individuals may however want to continue their support of Samaritan's Purse for their own personal reasons, but as a Church, we will only be collecting for Link to Hope.

If you have any concerns or queries, then please do speak to a member of Ministry Team. There is an opportunity to learn more about Link To Hope through their website <http://linktohope.co.uk> as well as their leaflet as you go out today – more have been ordered. In both our united services in August and September we will be showing a video of the work of Link to Hope and talking a bit more about their work, in preparation for "Shoebox Sunday" on 6th November 2016.

The Ministry Team and ECC

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to
Anna Newman by Thursday 15th September
Tel: 695698 or e.mail anagram673@hotmail.co.uk
Please let me know if you would like to receive notices by e.mail