



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

Transforming lives and communities
Knowing Jesus and making Him known

Covenant Sunday
Holy habit "Service"
January and February



SERVICES - 12th January 2020
- Epiphany 1 and Covenant Sunday

St. Paul's - The 10:30am All-Age service at St Paul's will be a more informal Covenant service this year and we will be exploring what promise means. As part of this we will using a different covenant prayer and communion setting to help All-Ages join in and learn together at this special time in our church year.

8.45am	Covenant Communion	Rev'd Stuart Fisher
10.30am	All Age Covenant Communion	Rev'ds Trudie Wigley and Rob Smith

Welcome: *Sparks/Ignite*, Teas: *Pam & Hazel*, Sparks: *none*, Creche: *tbc*

St. Timothy's

10.30am	Covenant Communion	Rev'd Stuart Fisher
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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 the next week		
Monday 13th January	10.00am 2.00pm 7.30pm	House Group - Colleen Wiseman House Group - Alex Scott Ministry Team meeting -The Lawns
Tuesday 14th January	9.00am 1.00pm 6.30pm 7.00pm 7.30pm	Morning prayers, St Paul's Christian Union Dorcan Academy House Group (Dianne Lane) Christianity Explored Course. St. John's Men's Fellowship Group- Hatherley Road
Wednesday 15th January	8.45am 9.00am 1.00pm 6.45pm	Tea & Toast - St. Tim's Tiny Tots at St. Paul's Tiny Tots at St. Tim's Youth Club, St Paul's
Thursday 16th January	9:30am 8.00pm	Holy Communion, St Tim's Footie at Dorcan academy + Messenger
Friday 17th January	12.30pm	St. Paul's Office Meeting

SERVICES - Sunday 19th January 2020 - Epiphany 2		
St. Paul's		
10.30am	Morning Worship	Barbara Wilcox
Welcome: <i>Hazel/Janice</i> , Teas: <i>Cathy's Group</i> , Sparks: Mary/Amber, Creche: <i>tbc</i>		
4.00pm	Messy Church	The Team !
St. Timothy's		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Rob Smith

Tea and Praise: We are taking a pause with our monthly afternoon Tea and Praise worship for a while, particularly in light of our heating and other challenges. We will miss the music and the cake, yet look out for dates to start again sometime in Spring!

Human Sexuality

“God in love unites us” and “Living in love and faith”.

An opportunity to engage in learning and discussion

You may well be aware that both the Methodist Church and the Church of England are discussing human sexuality, including same-sex marriage. Both denominations are taking a slightly different approach to these discussions.

The Church of England is engaging in a process called “Living in love and faith” and a learning document is being written, including perspectives and input from other disciplines and groups and should be published later this year. There will be further steps in discussion and engagement after this which are currently not defined as the very process of engagement and learning will itself define what the next steps are.

The Methodist Church is further forward in its publications. A report has been written called “God in Love unites us” which was received by Conference in 2019. This can be accessed at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/11672/conf-2019-10-marriage-and-relationships-task-group-2019.pdf> It has been explained to me that this makes some provisional standing orders which will be further discussed and possibly voted on at this summer’s Conference. However ahead of this, engagement is being encouraged by the Methodist Connexion and this is an opportunity to learn together, as well as understand the process of engagement. With this in mind, we are invited to attend two discussion opportunities as follows

Stratton Methodist Church 22nd January 7.30pm led by Revd Tony Barnes
Central Methodist, Chippenham, 8th March 3pm led by Revd Dr. Jonathan Pye

These are good opportunities to engage theologically and pastorally with the issues in hand and learn from each other as we find a path forward on what is a complex and emotive subject. Please can I encourage you to come along and learn together? A number of us from your ECC and Ministry team will be there. Due to practicalities it would help Stratton Methodist to know if you are intending to come to the gathering they are hosting, so please could you let our administrator, Jackie, know on 435987 or at dorcan.church.office@gmail.com by noon on Friday 17th January.

Circulated electronically with these notices is a little more background, and hard copies of these are also available in each centre. We have also been provided with work booklets which will be used at these Methodist engagements which you will find using the link above, as well as hard copies in each centre.

Please do pray. This is a difficult topic for many of us and as an ecumenical partnership this brings additional complexity. However, this is an opportunity for us to engage well, agree well and disagree well, as we walk a path of grace. *Trudie*

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 and although they are required to do some written assignments, you don't have to (although there is nothing stopping you!)

Each module comprises 10 sessions each week 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 and the starting theme will be the New Testament. If you are interested then please do pick up a leaflet, talk to me or take a look at the link at <https://www.bristol.anglican.org/exploring-christianity/> If you are interested in going you will need to register, so please do contact the Course Administrator, details in the link and the leaflet.

Trudie

Uganda – latest newsletter: if you receive these notices electronically you will have already seen the latest newsletter. If you need a hard copy please do pick a copy up which are available in both centres. We continue to pray for our Ugandan friends and particularly for our special link with St Paul's Kiwuliriza and Canon Hellen and Rev Paulson.

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to Anna Newman by **Wednesday 15th January** Tel 695698 or email anagram673@hotmail.co.uk Thank you.

Please let me know if you would like to receive notices by email