



**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*

**Sunday 13 September 2020**  
*14th Sunday after Trinity - Proper 19*

### **Collect**

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*or*

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

<b>SERVICES</b>
<b>St. Paul's</b> 10.30 It is also the intention to Live-stream the service on FaceBook, although this may not happen every week.
<b>St. Timothy's</b> No services until further notice

**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.**

## **NEWS:**

*Dear friends,*

*I am sad indeed to tell you that our friend and sister in Christ Joyce Ballinger passed away on Tuesday 8th September.*

*Joyce was a strong member of the Dorcan Church and alongside Ted, in previous times, was a Leading light in the Dorcan Senior Citizens club at St Paul's for over 20 years.*

*Joyce health recently deteriorated quite quickly and she passed away peacefully at home. Joyce had moved from their house in Linnetsdene to live with her daughter Dawn and her family. Details of the funeral will be published when we have further information. She may now Rest in Peace and we pray for her rising in Glory in the sure and certain hope in Jesus Christ our Saviour.*

*Stuart Fisher*

## **Other items;**

Next week at 10.30 at St Paul's Morning worship with Holy Communion - livestream also on Facebook

(2)

Currently there are no plans in place to resume worship at St Tim's. There is however a feasibility study being looked at and there are various measures that will need to be in place before services can take place - that is of course constantly under review as we must also follow Government and CofE / Methodist Church guidelines in the same way that we are doing at St Paul's.

(3)

Could you volunteer to help with Sunday worship; While we are able to meet together for worship, our Stewards and churchwardens are seeing their energy and capabilities stretched to the limit and with the situation on Sunday worship being as it is, we could do with more help - could that be you? Please think and pray about this in general and get in touch with the ministry team or Diane Killick with your offer of support.

Did you realise that welcoming people to church and showing them where to sit is a 'spiritual gift'? Hospitality and welcome are mentioned in the New Testament from the Acts through the Epistles, most notably in Hebrews 13, but also in 1 Peter 4:8–10; *Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.*

(4)

Are you capable of operating a computer? Volunteers are required to operate the laptop (one finger will do the trick) as we cannot use our regular service sheets for worship. Can you operate a mobile phone? Volunteers are required to 'watch' the camera as we 'live-stream' our Sunday worship - it really is easy and training is easy too - if you would like to help.

(5)

Are you 'struggling' with a computer or mobile phone or 'technology' during this current Covid period of lockdown and imposed isolation? If getting to grips with technology is holding you back from socialising with friends and family, including church family and watching Sunday worship - live-streams - then I am willing to come and help you so that technology becomes your 'friend' and not an 'enemy'. Don't wrestle with it or throw it into the corner of the sofa, call me and I can help you 'learn' to use it. Stuart

## **NEWS from the Methodist Circuit**

As most of you will know, our Methodist Minister, Rev Andrew Wigley, will come to the end of his current appointment at Dorcan and in our Methodist Circuit next summer, August 2021. Andrew made a request for an extension to his ministry here in Swindon, and the Methodist Church has a procedure which has to be followed for any extension to be agreed. This started back in June with the consultation which many of you contributed to, and involved discussions at church and circuit level, input from a wide number of people, and a special committee being set up to consider all of this.

This week the Methodist Circuit Meeting made a decision not to offer an extension for Andrew and so his appointment as Methodist Minister at Dorcan and in the circuit will cease next year. The Methodist process of looking for a new Methodist Minister to join the circuit will now begin.

This is a disappointment for Andrew and his family, and also for many others from the Dorcan Church and wider who supported his request. Please hold Andrew, Trudie, Ben and Grace in your prayers at this time as they move into the next stage of the stationing process for Andrew's ministry. Ben and Grace will find questions particularly difficult to handle at this time and have asked that we just hold them in our prayer and love.

Please also hold in prayer those of us at the Dorcan Church who will have responsibility for working through this new situation.

## **Latest news on COVID-19 restrictions; what does it mean for parishes/benefices?**

We know that from Monday 14 September:

- Places of worship are Covid-secure venues so they are exempt from the 6 people limit for services of public worship and private prayer
- However groups inside church should not be more than 6 people; groups should not combine and there must be social distancing between groups.
- Covid-secure weddings, funerals and other stand-alone services can go ahead up to a limit of 30 people.

But, as ever, there is a lot of detail still to emerge. National Church colleagues are working hard with government departments and Public Health England to ascertain the detailed information parishes need, such as groups in other church settings, home groups, PCCs, APCMs etc.

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to  
Anna Newman by **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September** 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**