



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

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



**"You are mine and I am yours. So be it."
Wesley Covenant Prayer**

Services – Sunday 17th January 2021 – Covenant Sunday

Online 10.30am. Morning Worship Revs. Andrew & Trudie Wigley

The service will be streamed live from St. Paul's and posted as live on the Facebook page "Dorcan Church Notice Board" which you can find at:
<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulssttimothysswindon/>

Online 11.30am **After service coffee on Zoom**
Link will be posted on the closed Facebook page

**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.**

Sunday 24th January 2021:

Online 10.30am Morning Worship Mary Boitz

Web address for service posted on Sunday 10th January

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsstimothysswindon/videos/418384072644129>

Today we are holding our Covenant Service.

For the first time we will not be meeting physically together, but instead will be united in spirit as we gather online. This annual service is from the richness of the Methodist tradition in which we celebrate all that God has done for us and affirm that we give our lives and choices to God.

The Covenant prayer is a focus in the service and the traditional version is printed below. It makes it very clear that this affirmation is a serious one which embraces the whole of our life, in all its parts. It is quite tough to say, and to really mean it, especially in our culture where we tend to prize our ability to make decisions and choose our own path in life. It can feel very hard to give that up. But this prayer is like a love poem to God. It is about surrendering to God in love and joy.

You are invited to reflect on the words of the Covenant prayer. Pray to God about those areas that particularly challenge you and be honest with Him about what you find difficult. In the online service we will have the opportunity to stand in our homes, yet together in our faith, and re-affirm that we give our lives and service to God, both personally and as a church. May each of us sense God's promptings and peace as we make this prayer

A ` Covenant with God'

I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing,
put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you,
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you,
or brought low for you;
let me be full,
let me be empty,
let me have all things,
let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.

Sunday 24th January 2021:

Online 10.30am Morning Worship Mary Boitz

Web address for service posted on Sunday 3rd January
<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsstimothysswindon/videos/418384072644129>

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 21st 9:30-10:30am St Paul's open for private prayer
7.30pm. ECC on Zoom

Pausing of in person services:

Copy of announcement on email and Facebook

Dear Brothers and Sisters

This is to share, that in consultation and with many voices of support from ECC, Standing committee unanimously voted to pause worship in the two centres at the current time. In the meantime we will go back online only, with the minister leading worship taking the decision to either live-stream from the churches with a small tech team, or post pre-recorded material. We will assess this again following the government's review expected the week commencing 15th February – school half term holiday week.

This decision was made with a heavy heart. However, we feel this is the right thing for many reasons, including in recognition of supporting the “stay at home” message which the rest of the country is being lawfully asked to live by, in solidarity with our community and with an eye on the statistics which show East Swindon in a particularly serious situation.

We are however opening St Paul's for private prayer on Thursdays between 9:30-10:30am. There will be one steward and one clergy in attendance at these times. Of course, we will need to abide by strict Covid guidelines and there can be no catching up or chatting with others who also may attend – whether inside or outside the building – yet we pray that this will be a support to those who wish to come and find comfort and strength from being in the worship sanctuary.

Another consequence of this latest lock-down is that, just as bookings were picking up, which enabled us to meet staff wages, our income from hirings has reduced again. It is therefore with sadness that we will be part-time furloughing our three paid staff. This was another difficult decision, particularly as they have been so flexible and supportive, yet we feel that, to safeguard their future jobs as much as possible, we need to take advantage of the Government Job Retention scheme. They will still be working, but on reduced hours to cover the work that will still need doing. Please do keep Cheryl, Jackie and Zoe in your prayers – we thank God for them and all they do and recognise that this is not easy for them either.

Whilst we may feel that “we’re back here again” in this pandemic, there are many things that have changed that give hope. Not least that two vaccines are being rolled out rapidly and the light is beginning to burn stronger. In the meantime, we know that we probably have the toughest time yet ahead of us until the Spring.

May we find comfort and strength in our Lord who is the light of the world, and in the love and kindness of each other.

You are in my prayers, and I hold you in love.

Revd Trudie Wigley

Thank you LINK team: keeping in contact: The work of our link brothers and sisters is invaluable in keeping us all connected, especially as we continue to face Covid. **On behalf of the whole of Dorcan church we send you a big THANK YOU to our church links** for all that you have done, and continue to do, especially in this third lock-down.

In these winter months and in the prolonged journey we are having with Covid, it is more vital than ever to stay connected. Therefore, whether you are a link person or not, do pick up the phone to some of the church family and those we know in our community to touch base and have a natter. Perhaps make contact with someone you wouldn’t usually phone and get to know them? A call can help us not feel so alone, can lift our spirits and is a practical ways of loving others as ourselves.

Thank you for being a caring and loving church. We can’t wait for this to be over, yet we realistically know there is some way to go, yet we go forward together. If you would like to speak with one of the clergy or ministry team then please do phone – we are always here for you. Our details are on our website or phone Trudie on 01793 326128 and we can be in touch.

God bless you all.

Trudie

From the Finance Sub Committee

Below are some figures extracted from the 2020 accounts for you information.

Income			Expenditure	
Giving	£94,251		Worship expenses	£2,169
Lettings	£20,610		Parish Share	£51,000
Grants	£22,550		Meth. Assessment	£21,260
Other	£6,926		Heat & light	£5,352
			Admin	£2,667
			Maintenance	£4,074
			Boiler	£24,703
			Other	£39,277
Total	£144,337			£150,503

These figures are part of the Finance Sub Committee's commitment to keeping our congregation informed.

We plan to provide a monthly update.

Tony Prichard (Treasurer)

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to
Anna Newman by Wednesday 13th January
Tel: 695698 or email anagram673@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.
Please let me know if any others would like to receive notices by email.