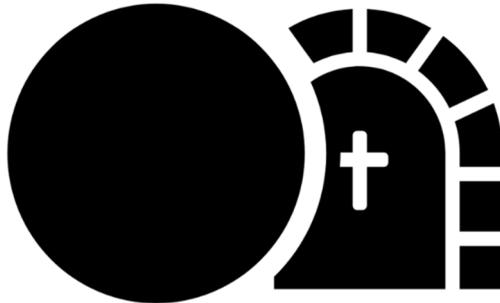




St. Paul's, Covingham
St. Timothy's, Liden
www.dorcanchurch.org.uk

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

18th April 2021 – Third Sunday of Easter



Luke 24:38

"Why are you troubled, and why do doubt raise in your minds? Look at my hands and feet. It is I myself!"

St. Paul's	10.30am.	Morning Worship	Alex Scott and Rev. Andrew Wigley
St. Timothy's	10.30am.	Morning Worship	Paul Tayler

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.**

Services - Sunday 25th April 2021
4rd Sunday of Easter
Gift Day and Annual General Meeting

St. Paul's.	10.30am.	Morning Worship	Rev. Andrew Wigley
	11.30am.	Annual General Meeting	

Electoral Roll

The electoral roll has now been revised and is published via a notice in both centres for the 14 days between 11th and 25th April. If there are any omissions of error please contact Barbara Wilcox (b.wilcox89@ntlworld).



THE DORCAN CHURCH

Website: www.dorcanchurch.org.uk Registered Charity Number 11437

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **11:30 Sunday 25th April 2021**

We are holding our Annual General Meeting on Sunday 25th April straight after the United Service at St Paul's at 10:30am

Supporting God's House 2021
Everyone has a part to play

We need everyone's help please!

What role might you consider?

Over the last month or so, ECC and standing committee have been looking at different ways in which people can help serve the church, and we hope that more people will feel able to offer help in some way. In the attached document you will find more information as to some of the roles and how you might be able to support the life and mission in Dorcan Church. Please do prayerfully consider what you might be able to offer as part of a team.

Churchwarden and Senior Steward: You will know that at present we do not have any Churchwardens or Senior Church Stewards for St Paul's or for St Tim's, and we really need to cover these roles. These are key leadership appointments and are important roles in the running and flourishing of the church, in governance and in acting as key interfaces into our partnership denominations. In addition, Churchwarden has certain legal responsibilities and is an officer of the Bishop.

Initially we have looked at reducing the scope and therefore workload of these roles as far as possible, by sharing some of these responsibilities around, and using the flexibility of team-working to make it easier for people to offer their various gifts and time. There is more information in the attached document.

ECC member: The Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) is an important part of decision making, and carries out a mixture of spiritual, legal, financial and missionary functions, and shares the responsibility of making certain decisions with the church leadership. It meets 6-9 times a year and is held on rotating weeknights from Monday to Thursday. It is not a committee to be on to know what's going on, but a gathering that prays and works together for the benefit of the life, ministry and mission of God's church. Nor is it a committee which "rubber stamps" – issues are discussed and decisions made with prayer and in faith.

Please do prayerfully consider whether this is something you might be a part of, whether as an elected member, or as an officer of the church such as being a Churchwarden or Deanery Synod representative.

Who can I speak with to find out more? Speak to any one of the steward team, an ECC members and Revs Andrew Trudie and Stuart, to find out more. We are looking for roles to be shared across teams rather than resting on any one individual, so do also speak with others and encourage one another to think what you might be able to offer into the team.

Nomination forms Some of the roles need to be elected – please see below for details and for the number of vacancies. The various forms are available in both centres, or via email from the Jackie in the office.
dorcan.church.office@gmail.com

Elections – AGM 2021

Post	Vacancies	Period (Yrs.)
Churchwarden (Dorcan Church)	2	1
Senior Church Steward (St Paul's)	1	1
Senior Church Steward (St Timothy's)	1	1
Church Steward (St Paul's)	6	1
Church Steward (St Timothy's)	3	1
Member of Church Council	3	3
Deanery Synod Representative (2020-23)	2	2 remaining

The nominee must

- be at least 16 years of age
- actual communicants
- on the Electoral role for at least six months

Proposers and seconders must be on the electoral roll of this parish, or in the

case of Churchwarden on the government register of electors within the parish.

It is helpful to have completed forms returned to a Steward or Rev Trudie Wigley by Friday 23rd April 2021 please

AGM Elections

Andrew and others have invested a lot of work in producing job descriptions, and trying to simplify the roles we need to fill, but with a week to go, we still have mostly blank nomination forms.

I believe that the people God wants to run his church here in Dorcan, are here already, they just haven't heard him yet.

Please think and pray about what you may be able to offer, but please do it Quickly.

John Davidson

Dorcan Church Annual Gift Day and Giving Review

The Annual gift day will coincide with the AGM, on the 25th April, and Church members will also be asked to take this opportunity to prayerfully review their regular giving.

From the 18th April, explanatory material will be distributed in both Centres. If you subscribe to one of the regular giving schemes, there will be an envelope with your name on it containing all the information you need about the gift day. Otherwise, please take a copy of the letter, the brochure which explains our financial position, and one of the gift day response envelopes. The response envelopes can be returned in the offertory plate at any of our services, handed to one of our stewards or dropped through the Treasurer's letter box: 1 Poltondale SN3 5BN. Alternatively, a gift can be made by Bank Transfer to: The Dorcan Church, Sort Code 08-92-99, A/c no. 65312775, Ref. Gift day.

We ask that you prayerfully consider, how you are able to respond to this appeal. Many thanks

John Davidson, Finance Committee Chair and Tony Prichard, Treasurer

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*

Rev Andrew Wigley

Andrew's Farewell Service in **The Dorcan Church**, will be held in St Paul's Church, on May 9th, at 10.30 am.

A high attendance is expected at this service, therefore to comply with the current Covid distancing regulations we request that if you would like to attend, you reserve a seat by email to Jackie Hancock our Church Administrator, dorcan.church.office@gmail.com. **By no later than Wednesday 5th May**, including a contact telephone number, any queries please contact John Davidson 01793827627

If you know of any church members not able to receive emails, who may wish to attend, would you kindly pass this information on, and assist them.

This Service will be live streamed.

It is also hoped that there will be an opportunity to meet with Andrew, in the Church garden, on Saturday 8th May, in a Covid compliant way, details to follow.

John Davidson

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.”

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to
Anna Newman by Wednesday 21st April
Tel: 695698 or email anagram673@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.
Please let me know if any others would like to receive notices by email.