



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 21st January 2018
3rd Sunday of Epiphany - Covenant Sunday

St. Paul's

10.30am Holy Communion Rev'd Andrew Wigley

Welcome: *John & Joan*, Teas: *Janice & Jan*, Sunday Club: *tbc*, Creche, *None*

4.00pm Messy Church The Team !

St. Tim's

10.30am Holy Communion Rev'd Trudie Wigley

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.

Today we are holding our **Annual Covenant Service** at both centres. This is an annual service 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 traditional Covenant prayer is a focus in the service and is printed below. It makes it very clear that this affirmation is a serious one that 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.

As you gather today 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 service today we will have the opportunity to stand together 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 prepare ourselves to make this prayer next Sunday.

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.

Sad Church Family News

*It is with sadness that we share the passing away
of two of our church family.*

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Dorothy Bamford passed away on New Year's Day.
Dorothy was a regular at Thursday morning worship
and will be sadly missed.

Her funeral will be at Kingsdown Crematorium
on Monday 5th February at 3pm.

Our prayers are with her son Kevin
and the rest of her family.

Leila Thwaites unexpectedly passed away
at home on 23rd December 2017.

Leila was an active member of St Tim's
before moving to be nearer her family in 2015.

Her funeral will be in Kent at a date to be confirmed.

At a later date, arrangements will be made for
a service of Thanksgiving for her life
at St Timothy's to which her family will attend.

We will share further information
and details as soon as we are aware.

Lifepath 2018.

Lifepath is for Yr.5 pupils to learn more about the
Christian faith and is held at Malmesbury Abbey.
Our local Covingham School has booked in to attend.
Ray and I have attended in the past and hope to be
involved this year.

The dates are Sun. June 24th, Training and Tea 4pm - 8pm, Mon --
Weds. 25th - 27th 9am -- 3pm. You can do as much or as little as you can
manage.

If you want to know more please talk to me or contact
Abi. My numbers are 01793 532849 or 07756987198. Abi is 01793
977676 or abi@in-school.co.uk
Look forward to telling you all about it.

Come to breakfast with The Obitis!

NEXT SUNDAY

**Emily and Moses Obiti, Turning Point,
Sunday 4th February!**

The new UK mission partners for Turning Point are Emily and Moses Obiti and, together with their young children, they are coming to visit us in February and sharing during our united morning service.

So we can spend some time with them and also raise funds for Turning Point, our wonderful children and young people are serving breakfast before the United Service – thank you! More details on timing etc. in due course.

This is an ideal time to get to know the Obitis and also to raise funds for Turning Point so see you there!

PARENTING TEENAGERS COURSE

As mentioned in an earlier notice, I am now qualified to run positive parenting courses designed by “Care for the Family”. I have had several requests for the teenage course, so this will be the next one on offer. Any parents or carers of teenagers or children soon to become teenagers are welcome .

The teenage years are a time of transition and can be challenging for both parents and teenagers. This course is all about helping parents do the best job they can and meet other parents facing similar challenges and share experiences. Topics covered include understanding your teenager, developing healthy self-esteem, strategies for coping when the going gets tough, navigating screen time, relationships and preparing them for the day you’re not there.

The course comprises 6 sessions which I hope to run starting in the middle of February at St Paul’s Church one evening a week from 7 – 9pm. I am not setting the day until I find out who would like to attend and know which day would be most popular, so if you would like to come, please email me and let me know your availability so that I can choose the best day for the majority. There is no charge for the course, but there is a very good parents manual to accompany it which costs £7.50.

Please email me at jennypoole@virginmedia.com

Look forward to hearing from you.

Jenny Poole

**“Pastoral Reorganisation” of Dorcan Parish
- now agreed and implemented:**

In the Autumn we shared about a reorganisation of the Dorcan parish and there were notices in each centre entitled “*Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 – Draft pastoral Scheme*”. This proposal related to two changes: Firstly, a transfer of land to and from our neighbouring parish of Stratton St Margaret which related to small pockets of land (some with a few houses on) which are helpful to transfer in the light of the new Oakley Park estate and the course of the River Cole.

Secondly, the proposal was to “*terminate the team ministry in the benefice of Dorcan*”. This had nothing to do with how we work in practice (e.g. the ministry team of clergy and lay), but relates to a legal position that goes back to the days where it was envisaged there would be one incumbent priest for each of the four “villages” of Covingham, Liden and Eldene and Nythe, with one of those called a Team Rector with oversight responsibility and overall incumbent of the whole Dorcan parish. This makes no difference to the current resourcing at Dorcan benefice or how we currently work in practice.

This notice is one of courtesy following the legal notices last year, to advise you that the reorganisation is now in effect - albeit that it doesn't really change anything! Ho hum...

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to Anna Newman by **Wednesday 24th January** - Tel 695698 or e.mail anagram673@hotmail.co.uk Thank you.
Please let me know if you would like to receive notices by e.mail