



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

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

Sunday 27th September



HARVEST CELEBRATION

Matthew 20:16

SERVICES

Sunday 27th September 10:30am St Paul's

Harvest Celebration Rev Andrew Wigley
This will be live-streamed on
Dorcan Church Notice Board Facebook page

Sunday 4th October 10:30am St Paul's

17th. After Trinity Rev 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.

Harvest celebration – Today!

Today we praise God for his provision and thankfulness. This year the practicalities around Covid means we are not able to make our usual donations of food and supplies, however there will be the opportunity to still support our usual charities through financial giving.

ECC would like to continue to support our usual three charities – Swindon Food Collective, Big Breakfast and Women’s Aid – and there will be a basket for offering as you leave the chapel today.

Thank you for your continuing support of the amazing work of these charities this Harvest.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

All on Wednesday 30th

*Funeral of Joyce Ballinger at St Paul’s

*Funeral of David Woodbridge at Kingsdown Crematorium

7:30-9pm online Alpha course

*Due to current restrictions these funeral services are for family only

Dorcan Start-up group: Some of our hirer bookings are starting again and our own use of our buildings is rising so we are needing to think through how we start back up well. We need to consider things like cleaning, ventilation and heating, how we manage bookings and pauses in room use which may be required, priorities over room use as we can’t back-to-back usage, finances and commitment to our staff etc.

With this in mind, ECC are supporting a new time-limited start-up group to widen discussion and decision-making amongst various parties so it doesn’t fall on only one or two people.

Please pray for this group as they find their way forward and liaison with ECC and our finance team.

St. Timothy's: At the moment we are looking into the various measures that need to be in place before services can happen once more at St. Timothy's. This is 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.

There are some particular aspects unique to St. Timothy's that need to be thought through and we will share when we know more. I know this is frustrating to many who wish to return, yet please be assured that we haven't forgotten.

**Then they said "Let us start building".
And so they committed themselves to the common good.
Nehemiah 2:18b**

Will you be a builder?

The story of Nehemiah and the re-building of the walls of Jerusalem is a great one. Nehemiah is determined in his task, he inspired others and nothing was going to distract him from God's calling – and so the walls were rebuilt in a speedy 52 days! Nehemiah also seems to have invented the so-called "arrow prayers" whereby when he got into a tight spot and wasn't sure of the way forward he shot up a quick prayer.

This week we saw news from our Prime Minister that shared the difficult reality that we may be facing over the next 6 months. I certainly shot up a Nehemiah prayer of lament, yet it was also with a sense of hope for God's church. We have continued in our mission and ministry throughout the pandemic, yet have also now started rebuilding some of that mission and ministry which we had to pause with the necessary closing of our buildings.

It is this same sense of hope that enabled the people of Nehemiah's day to say "*Let us start building*", each in their own way and each committed to different, yet complementary tasks.

Are you ready to be a builder?

Building In your unique way?

Please do think and pray how you may be able to help and support building God's kingdom as we navigate a path ahead, into a new season. As we start to do this, here are some things to share and reflect on as we begin to say together "*let us start building*".

St Paul's Sunday worship: We are continuing with our 10:30am Sunday services at St Paul's. Whilst we have Minister's to lead the services, we are struggling to cover key roles that enable Sunday mornings to happen – our stewards and churchwarden are seeing their energy and capabilities stretched. Are you one of the builders who can help?

**** Stewards:** stewards are integral to making services run smoothly through opening up, taking registers, preparing the worship space, giving a warm welcome, co-ordinating what needs doing that morning etc. Could you help periodically to help us open on Sundays?

**** Laptop volunteers:** All our services are required to be on the overhead screen and we need helpers to operate the laptop – as Rev Stuart shared a couple of weeks ago “one finger will do the trick”. Is it your finger?

**** Live-streaming:** Our church family has grown through live-streaming, including people from places outside Swindon, and it is a key way for those who are unable to join us to feel physically connected with us in these times. At the moment there are only two people live-streaming and they are also service leaders who can't take a service at the same time! It really is easy and training is easy too. Are you ready to learn to be a camera-person?

If you can help us in these ways, please do contact Revs Trudie, Stuart, Andrew, Diane Killick or any member of the ministry team.

Church Council member and Church wardens vacancies:

Our AGM is coming up on 18th October – see separate notice. We will be appointing ECC members, Stewards and Church wardens. Please do prayerfully consider whether this is the building that you may be able to help with as we find a path forward. After many years as both Churchwarden and Senior Steward at St Paul's, Diane Killick is stepping down and taking a break so we will be saying a big thank you to her at the AGM.

**And so we look ahead:
“The God of heaven will help us, and we,
His servants, will rebuild”
Nehemiah 2:20**

On-line Alpha: In partnership with Pattern Church, we are starting an on-line Alpha course next Wednesday – 30th September – from 7:30-9pm which will run for 10 weeks. Is there anyone you think might be interested, or perhaps you yourself might like to join to explore a bit more of the Christian faith? No-one needs to say anything or do anything they don't wish to, and any "break-out" rooms on Zoom will be within a unique Dorcan Church group rather than with people across Swindon whom we may not know!

This is a super opportunity to share the good news of the faith we have with others in our community, and to also continue exploring our own faith. If you are interested then please do let Rev Trudie or Deb Mulcock know. (01793 326128)

Gift Day 2020 – thank you! In our service a fortnight ago we gave MASSIVE thank you for this year's gift day. Our offering was an outstanding £5,500 and as Tony shared is the greatest gift day offering ever. Thank you so much to you all, especially in this difficult time. Our finances are being carefully navigated at the moment and to say this financial giving is helpful is an immense understatement! Thank you.

Whilst the focus on our annual gift day is our financial steward, this is an opportunity to thank you all for all your giving in many other ways. We are an active church with many activities as part of our mission and ministry and it wouldn't happen without the whole body of Christ pulling together – that's us! The last 6 months have been particularly trying with Covid and will continue to be tricky for a while, yet the giving of yourselves in time, skills, energy, enthusiasm etc. means that we continue to be church in this community in a time of great uncertainty. Thank you for all that you give!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – here we go again!

Sunday 18th October 2020

Due to the government's directive to close our church buildings earlier this year, our AGM for the year 1Jan-31Dec 2019 was unable to take place. However we do need to pick this up again and it is a requirement that it is completed by the end of next month. Therefore we will be meeting for a very short AGM after the service on Sunday 18th October. "Normal" timescales will resume with another AGM covering the period 1Jan-31Dec 2020

Electoral Role revision – We are required to open the electoral role for revision once more so if you missed the deadline earlier this year for your name to be added or are new then please do pick up a form from St Paul's or by emailing Barbara Wilcox our electoral role officer). Barbara will also be able to help if you're unsure whether you are on the role or not! The revision will close on Saturday 3rd October, and from Sunday 4th October a revised list will be displayed at St Paul's as we are legally required to do

By being on the electoral role it means that you can vote for the officers of the Dorcan church, stand for Ecumenical Church Council and speak at the annual meeting. **However, most importantly, it is a significant way of showing your membership of The Dorcan church.** Do consider joining the roll if you are not currently on it.

Standing for ECC: Have you ever wondered how decisions are made which guide the direction of God's church in Dorcan? The Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) is an important part of that 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 6-8 times a year across different evenings during the week. 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.

Would you like to use your gifts to serve on ECC and can you attend the majority of meetings?

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. If you need any further information then please speak to our Church warden, Diane, any member of the ministry team, or current ECC member.

Nomination forms will be available from next week at St Paul's.

Rob Smith Rob was licensed to St Mary's with St Francis, and St James, in Lockleaze last week. The link to a recording of the service is on the closed Facebook page. Rob and the family start a new chapter in their ministry together, so please do pray for him, Kath, Holly and Eliana as they continue to settle into their home and a new community. We miss him and his ministry here, yet he goes with our love and support knowing his passion for bringing others to know Jesus will be a great blessing to his new community. May God bless the Smith family!

An offer of support with Technology:

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.

Rev Stuart

Ride+Stride 2020

I completed the Ride+ Stride recently, in aid of the Dorcan Church, and Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, visiting 44 Churches in total, and cycling 55 miles, overall, in Swindon, Wroughton, Chiseldon,, Liddington, Wanborough, Hinton Parva, Bishopstone, Bourton, Sevenhampton, Highworth, Hannington, Stanton Fitzwarren, and South Marston.

Thank you so much to all who have sponsored me.

If anyone would still like to donate, then the Just Giving page remains open,

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/John-Davidson17>

or donations may be put in an envelope clearly marked Ride and Stride, cheques should be made payable to Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, please indicate clearly if you are able to apply Gift Aid to your donation, and include your name initials, and Post code.

Thank You. ***John Davidson***

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to
Anna Newman by Wednesday 30th September.
Tel: 695698 or email anagram673@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.
Please let me know if you know of anyone else
who would like to receive notices by email.