



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

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

Christmas Notices



Services 24th December Christmas Eve

On-line.	4.00pm	Christingle Service	Rev. Trudie Wigley
		Shown on Dorcan Church Noticeboard	
		Unlikely to be shown on St Paul's screen due to little take-up.	
St Paul's	11:30am	Midnight Mass	Rev Stuart Fisher
		Please book by 3pm on the day by	
		www.Dorcanchurch.eventbrite.com	or phone 326128

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.

Friday 25th December: Christmas Day

St Paul's 10am. All-age Christmas Celebration Rev Trudie Wigley
&online (not 10:30am). Also live streamed on Dorcan Church Noticeboard
<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsstimothysswindon/>

Sunday 27th December: 1st Sunday of Christmas

St. Paul's. 10:30am Christmas Communion Rev Andrew Wigley

Sunday 3rd January: Epiphany

St. Paul's 10.30am. Communion Rev. Stuart Fisher

Sunday 10th January: Baptism of Christ

St. Paul's. 10.30am. All Age Service Rev. Trudie Wigley

St. Timothy's. 10.30am. Communion. Rev. Stuart Fisher

Web addresses for services posted on Sunday 20th December:

10:30am Christmas service from St Tim's:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsstimothysswindon/videos/223560872572980>

6pm Carol service:

<https://www.facebook.com/100529291694871/videos/418525282663547>

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

Eternal God,

In the stillness of this night

You sent your almighty Word

To pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:

Give to the earth the peace that we long for

And fill our hearts with the joy of heaven

Through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

**Christmas greetings and grateful thanks
from the Ministry team:**

We would like to wish everyone a Christmas of Comfort and Joy.
Our celebrations this year are not as we had hoped
– as a church, personally and for our families –
yet our prayer is that you may still know afresh the Hope in Jesus
born into the darkness of the world.

Thank you for your support, and all that you do in the
Dorcan Church, the community and your workplaces
as we reach out to others and share the Good news of Jesus.
This has been particularly important this year and we have kept
going in the ways that we have been able.

Thank you from us all for your kind Christmas cards of good
wishes,
and we pray for a blessed Christmas for you as we
celebrate the birth of our Lord.
Emmanuel – God is with us!
May the Lord bless you and keep you.

CHRISTMAS HOPE – a POEM

A friend wrote this poem and I was originally going to share it for the 1st time on Christmas Day.

However, with the disappointments and frustrations that the news of the last few days has brought, it seems timely to share it now as well - to remember that we have all been found by Hope in the darkness.

Trudie

They say Hope has run out this year.
Shelves emptied in the frenzy of early November.
Just a few bottles of “Drown Your Sorrows” and
A packet of “Count your Blessings” left at the back.

But Hope does not come in seasonal gift packs.
It does not run out,
It cannot be cancelled, restricted, cordoned off,
It is not distanced.

Hope is a Person.

God’s glory has been unmasked.
Come to us as guarantee
Of promises unbroken,
Plans coming to fruition.

Hope has come, closer than skin
We can reach out and touch without barriers.
Hands can be washed clean, really clean;
Hearts mended by intensive care.

We have been tracked, traced, found by Hope.

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News of Rev Michael Cripps – one of the joint founding ministers of the Dorcan Church.

It is with sadness that I share that Michael passed to glory on 14th October 2020 – he was 92. His wife Kay contacted me this week as she was not sure whether we had heard the news. In 1966, together with his Methodist colleague Rev. Raymond Stevenson, Michael was commissioned as joint minister of a new church in East Swindon, to serve the new-developed communities of Nythe, Covingham, Eldene and Liden. The new parish was to be called Dorcan and is believed to be the first official ecumenical church in England – and here we are nearly 55 years later – still the amazing Dorcan Church!

In my last conversation with Michael, he had fond memories of the early years of Dorcan Church, and on hearing of his death Rev Raymond shared that “those years were some of the happiest and most fruitful in my life – we were a good team’. And what a team they were, shaping who we are today.

Please do hold his widow Kay in your prayers, and we give thanks for Michael and the legacy he leaves us with here.

May Michael rest in peace and rise in glory.

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to
Anna Newman by Wednesday 6th January
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.