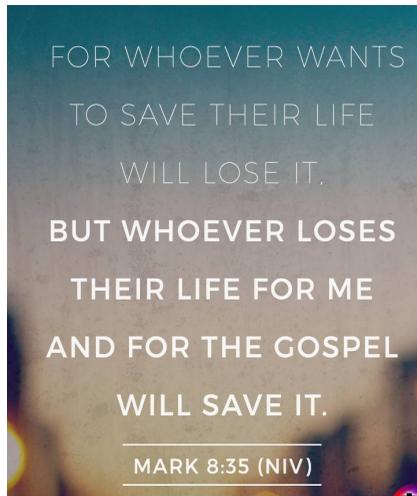




St. Paul's, Covingham
St. Timothy's, Liden
www.dorcanchurch.org.uk

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

Sunday 28th February 2021
Second Sunday of Lent



Online 10.30am. Morning Worship. Rev. Trudie Wigley
A service of worship will be posted on the Facebook page
"Dorcan Church Notice Board" which you can find at:
<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsstimothysswindon/>

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 7th March 2021
Third Sunday of Lent

Online

10.30am.

Morning Worship.

Rev. Andrew Wigley

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Tuesday 2nd March

2pm Centre Management Committee

TRANSFORMING CHURCH.
TOGETHER.

What is it?

On 1st February "Transforming Church. Together" was launched and is our chance to share what God is saying to us about the future of his church. We share the following from the launch:

"Transforming Church. Together". is all about the Church of England in our region shaping a new vision and set of priorities for the coming years. We want to understand what we do well, what we can change for the better and then create a positive way forward together. This year-long process is called Transforming Church. Together.

We are beginning with conversations – with communities, congregations, clergy, church leaders, and staff. Between February and April 2021 we will start talking and listening with lots of different people, both within and outside the church.

We will listen carefully to understand what each other think and feel about God and the Church of England, but also about our communities, society and the world."

How can I be involved?

We are all invited to get involved in a number of ways:

- Workshops: Through a facilitated 90minute workshop, capturing insights and thoughts to help shape a future vision and priorities. ECC is participated in one of these this week. and there is an opportunity as a church to engage with a workshop set up for Tuesday **16th March at 7:30pm.**
- Engagement in small groups: You will find an online questionnaire at <https://www.bristol.anglican.org/transformingchurch/jointheconversation/> Why not engage with this in a small group – whether a home group or a bunch of people you feel you want to gather together. Very soon there will be specific resources to support children and young people to engage – we need their views for the future of the church as they grow up.
- Individually: If you'd prefer to ponder away from a group then the questionnaire can also be completed as an individual and submitted. If you do not have access to the internet, paper copies can be provided. Please let Trudie know if you'd like one on 01793 326128.
- Pray: Please pray as we look to the future. This prayer written for this engagement may help you

*God of the Way,
you call us to leave familiar places and to set out on new paths.
Enlarge our vision of your work in the communities we serve,
speak to us through the people we encounter,
and open our hearts to your love.
Give us courage and boldness to engage together in this time of
prayer and discernment;
and by your Holy, life-giving and creative Spirit,
renew your church in prayer and service,
and in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen*

We are all invited to be a part of this! Take a look at the website <https://www.bristol.anglican.org/transformingchurch/> for more information and a helpful FAQ. We are also asking those in our community what they think and here at Dorcan we have a wonderful platform through our community centre to engage and ask for thoughts from voices who perhaps are not heard as often.

This is our chance to share what we feel God is saying to us about the future of God's church and how "be" and "do" church for Him. Please do pray for Transforming Church, and that we will be faithful to God and where he may be leading us.

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." *Trudi*

Thank you to our children and young people leaders! We give a great big fat THANK YOU to the wonderful team who lead our children and young people's ministry. Throughout the last year they have worked hard in keeping the youngsters engaged and in touch, and it is wonderful to hear how some of the groups have grown with those who had attended the children and youth clubs on Wednesday evening joining in. The youngsters are a precious part of the church family and thank you to the leaders who nurture and love them and have helped our them through a difficult time in their young lives. Thank you awesome team!

Plans to re-open – Palm Sunday! Following the government’s roadmap out of Covid published this past week, ECC is delighted to share that we are looking to re-open to worship together on Palm Sunday, the 28th March. Whilst schools are going back soon, the message remains to stay at home and not to mix with others until the end of next month and we therefore feel that this proposed date honours and supports our government’s message.

We are delighted that we are planning to open so that we can start the journey of Holy Week together, something that we weren’t able to do last year. On Sunday 28th March – Palm Sunday – it will be a joint service at St Paul’s and then on Easter Sunday we will be celebrating our first Holy Communion for many months at both St Paul’s and St Timothy’s – what a wonderful way to celebrate the glory of Resurrection Sunday in communion together again!

After a difficult time, we are beginning to see the hope materialise of meeting together again, yet we still need to socially distance and continue in our hand sanitising and regular cleaning. Whilst a number of our church family have now received their first vaccine, our age demographic is such that many others haven’t and will be waiting a few more months yet. In addition, we must protect our children, some of which are more vulnerable and to whom the vaccine isn’t currently offered. As an act of love and support to each other, please do continue to follow the guidelines when we meet so that the whole church family can all come out of this safely. We have done so well and it won’t be too long before we can sing, shake hands and hug (if you’re the huggy type) so we continue to remain vigilant as we begin to come out of all that we have faced. Thank you and may God bless you.

Zoom Bible Study

Are you currently running a Zoom Bible Study, if so are you able to add new participants to your current group?

Or perhaps you're thinking of starting up a new group – there are people looking to join something on-line!

If so please contact Alex Scott on email alecdoug12@gmail.com or telephone Swindon 346507.

ST. PAUL'S – 50 years old!

Those of you with long memories will know that St. Paul's Church was officially opened on 10th. July 1971 - which makes the building 50 years old. Should we have a 'birthday party'; A Garden Party or Barbecue? The story is here - www.dorcanchurch.org.uk/files/dorcan_history.php.

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES

*Are you wondering what to do with your weekly offering envelopes? You may pop them through my door at
1 Poltondale, Covingham, SN3 5BN.*

Tony Prichard (Treasurer)

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to
Anna Newman by Wednesday 3rd March
Tel: 695698 or email anagram673@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.
Please let me know if any others would like to receive notices by email.