



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

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

Sunday 29th November 2020



SERVICES

Sunday 29th November 10.30am

Advent Sunday Morning Worship

Rev. Trudie Wigley

The service will be posted as live on the Facebook page "Dorcan Church Notice Board" which you can find at:

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

At 11:30am we will be hosting after service coffee and chat on Zoom.
Link will be posted on the closed Facebook group.

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.

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday, December 6th 10:30am. Second Sunday of Advent

We are delighted that we will be able to gather once again in our buildings, and the good news is that St Tim's will be opening and holding its first service since earlier this year! St Paul's service will continue to be live-streamed for those unable to join us at this time

St Paul's 10:30am	Advent Communion	Revd Trudie Wigley
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St Tim's 10:30am	Advent Communion	Revd Stuart Fisher
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Web addresses for service and reflection posted in the last week:

Sunday 22nd November:

<https://www.facebook.com/199619460387075/videos/373667810359364>

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Almighty God,
As your kingdom dawns,
Turn us from the darkness fo sin to the light of holiness,
That we may be ready to meet you
In our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ
Amen.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 3rd December

Private Prayer at St Paul's Church.

St Paul's chapel will be open for Private prayers on Thursday mornings from 9.45 to 11.30 am and will continue until Christmas.

Toy Service – St Paul’s 13th December

Each year we offer gifts of toys to be distributed to those in need. This year our usual charity, the NSPCC, are unable to take gifts and therefore ECC have agreed to support The Swindon Churches Christmas Toy Appeal. Last year they helped over 350 children, with need even higher this year. They provide some helpful ideas for gifts which are shared below, so please bring your unwrapped gifts to the service where we will pray them on their way.

If you know anyone in need who would benefit from being included as a recipient of the toy appeal, please do talk with Trudie to ensure that we follow the GDPR compliant referral guidelines.

0-3: Dolls, teddy bears, baby clothes, bath toys, CDs of suitable music and nursery rhymes, puzzles, educational toys (sorting) and role play items.

3-5: Dolls and action figures, cars and lorries, DVDs and CDs (music and nursery rhymes), colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles, Play-Doh sets and role play items.

5-9: Educational games and toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), CDs and family-friendly DVDs, books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords, craft sets, annuals and novelty back packs.

9-12: Games and toys, gadgets and novelty toys, stationery, DVDs, books, hair accessories, annuals, novelty back packs.

13-16: Books, make-up and toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergenic ingredients if possible), hair accessories, gift vouchers, gadgets and novelty items.

Membership of Ecumenical Church Council (2020-2021)

Elected Members (elected for 3-year term)

Jenny Poole*	until 2021
Clare Smith	until 2021
John Davidson*	until 2022
Janet Prichard	until 2022
Tony Prichard*	until 2022
Nicki Broom	until 2023
Nicki Clinch	until 2023
Sam Glennerster	until 2023
Nathalie Marshall	until 2023
Peter Mulcock*	until 2023
Chris Rose	until 2023
Clare Rose	until 2023

Co-opted Members (co-opted for 1-year term)

Sue Morgans	until 2021
Alex Scott	until 2021

Churchwarden (appointed on an annual basis)

Vacant

ECC officers

Revd Trudie Wigley	Chair
Tony Prichard	Treasurer
Jackie Hancock	Acting ECC secretary (non-voting)

Ministers

Revd Stuart Fisher
Revd Andrew Wigley*
Revd Trudie Wigley*

Standing Committee

Names marked *

Deanery Synod Representatives (elected for a 3-year term)

Jenny Poole	until 2023
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Representatives to the Circuit meeting

John Davidson
Nathalie Marshall
Tony Prichard

Other Appointments: Church Stewards (appointed on an annual basis)

St Paul's

(Vacant) (Senior Church Steward)

Nicki Broom

Angela Davidson

John Davidson

Sandra Marshall

Chris Rose

Colleen Wiseman

St Timothy's

(Vacant) (Senior Church Steward)

Viv Craig

Dianne Mills

Sarah Paterson

Committees and groups

Finance Committee

Tony Prichard

John Davidson

Pete Mulcock

Sam Glennerster

Church Centre Management Committee

Rev Andrew Wigley

Tony Prichard

Cheryl Pottinger

John Davidson

Pete Mulcock

Viv Craig (as required for St Tim's)

Start-up team

Rev Andrew Wigley

Rev Stuart Fisher

Tony Prichard

John Davidson

Pete Mulcock

Cheryl Pottinger

Viv Craig (as required for St Tim's)

Safeguarding Team

Jenny Poole

Sue Morgans

Dianne Lane

Jackie Morgan

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Christmas is not cancelled - we are just doing things differently this year!

Our Christmas cards and publicity will be available shortly, but here's what we've got planned this year. There are some things that will be different, but we are rather excited about our celebrations this year.

Some details are yet to be finalised but we have a pretty good idea of what we are hoping to do. Below are some key dates to note, with some explanation and ideas of how you can help afterwards

Services and activities

Saturday 5th – Friday 18th December

Two Nativity trails in the community

Sunday 6th December

St. Paul's 10:30am

Advent Communion St. Tim's 10:30am (TBC)

Advent Communion

Sunday 13th December

St. Paul's 10:30am

All-Age Toy Service

Unwrapped toys to be given to a charity (TBC) for distribution to those in need

Saturday 19th December

Knitted Advent Angels to appear flying around the community

Sunday 20th December

St. Paul's 10:30am

Morning worship

St. Tim's 10:30am

Christmas Communion

St. Paul's 4pm*

Pick up pre-ordered Christingle bags – gazebo outside

On-line and projected* at St Paul's at 6pm

Carol Service

Thursday 24th December

On-line and projected* at St Paul's at 4pm

Crib service

St. Paul's 11:30pm*

Midnight communion

Friday 25th December

St Paul's 10am

All Age Christmas

Celebration

Sunday 27th December

St Paul's 10:30am

Christmas Communion

Sunday 3rd January

St Paul's 10:30am

Epiphany (Communion?)

*Requires pre-booking. Details TBA

Some more details – and where you can help!

Carol Service (20th December) and Christingle/Crib (24th December) – arrangements:

These are our most popular services and with social distancing restrictions we have decided to go on-line this year for these events. These services will be posted as live on our open Facebook page – Dorcan Church Notice Board (<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsstimothysswindon/>) - in the same way that we have been doing each Sunday. However, there are some in our community who do not have access to the internet/Facebook, and we will therefore be showing the video on the screen at St Paul's for people to come and watch. Booking will be required. Please note, there is not a service at St Paul's, only the projection of what is online for those with limited internet access.

For the Christingle service, a team led by Sandra Marshall, is preparing a "Christingle in a bag" for people to pre-order and pick up which will have all the bits to make at home during the Christingle service. It will be a different Christingle this year, yet one where we can still shine the light in our homes.

6th-13th December: Nativity trails around Covingham/Nythe and Eldene/Liden

Deb Mulcock and Liz Pearce are organising two Nativity trails which will run concurrently - one covering Nythe and Covingham and one covering Eldene and Liden.

Saturday 19th December: Advent Angels: These will be flying around the four villages declaring the Good News again this year! Many of you have been busy knitting and please do contact the wonderful organisers to help – they are Dianne Lane and Mo Tayler.

Carol singing: Depending on latest Covid guidelines, we are hoping to carol sing at some point near Christmas. If you'd like to be involved then please contact the organiser Nathalie Marshall who would be grateful for your beautiful singing voices!

Christmas cards: We are printing Christmas cards to distribute in the community again this year. **They will hopefully be ready for distributing by Sunday 6th December.** More than ever, this engagement with the community is important this year and it will include a short message of hope as we pray for comfort and joy this Christmas. We will need people to deliver the cards as we have done in the past, as well as someone to co-ordinate their distribution to willing deliverers! We have a full list of roads in the parish to help. **Is anyone willing to co-ordinate the distribution please?** If so, please speak to Trudie.

Nativity Trail

Hello all. Liz Pearce and I are organising a Nativity trail and hope that you will be able to join in. There will be two trails running consecutively one covering Nythe and Covingham and one covering Eldene and Liden.

We would like people to decorate their front window(s) with a scene from the Nativity story (we will let you know which one!). Each window will also need the word Hope on it and a letter. The idea is that people view the windows in a particular order to follow the Nativity story. Fairy lights around your display will also be a good idea.

The letters will make up a word/phrase and people who do it will win a small prize. If you live out of those areas but would like to make a display that someone else could put in their window that would also be great and of course anyone willing to have a display in their window but feel they can't make one that would be fab too!! The trail will take place from Saturday 5th Dec (needs to be up the night before) until Sunday Eve 13th Dec.

This will be a great outreach to our community and if you feel able to offer any of the above can you please reply to this post in the first instance and we will get in touch. Your display can be as simple or as detailed as you like (its about telling the story - not about who can produce the best display!!)

I do hope we can make these trails really worthwhile so please consider supporting this!!!

Many thanks Deb

Local Ecumenical Partnership Listening Process – your views are requested!

LAST CHANCE

Last month we received correspondence from ecumenical officers and senior staff on behalf of the URC, Methodist, Baptist and Anglican churches inviting us to take part in a listening process for all Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnerships (SCLEPs) across the Bristol-Swindon area. Dorcan Church is an SCLEP as neither of the two churches are designated or authorised as only Methodist or only Anglican, and instead we hold Methodist and Anglican services in either church which makes us a Single Congregation LEP.

The correspondence shares that over the years, resources, commitment and understanding of ecumenical work has reduced and sometimes the sponsoring denominations have not been good at listening to the experience of LEPs. This is repeated across the country and this listening process is therefore to try and discern a share vision and path forward for LEPs, including exploring the resources, structures and commitment necessary to enable them to thrive.

The listening process comprises a number of questions and as a church we are being encouraged to consult as widely as possible. We are asking you, as the church and congregation at Dorcan, to be a part of this listening process as your views and perspectives are important. Attached with this newsheet are questions which we are asked. Whilst there are 28 questions to the process, we don't need to answer them all. Maybe pick out the ones that speak to you and on which you have things to share. I would be very grateful if you might engage in this please and take a look at the attached questions and send any thoughts and responses to Jackie Hancock, our administrator (dorcan.church.office@gmail.com). Our deadline is the end of the month **so by tomorrow 30th November** - would be helpful please.

If you have any queries then please do phone me and I can share more. For your information, other groups also being asked to contribute include the ECC collectively, clergy individually, house groups, ministry team and certain church officers. This is our opportunity to feedback on our experience, to shape resources and understanding of future LEPs and to consider what might be helpful for us in our future as an LEP.

With my thanks. *Trudie (326128)*

Are you planning any Church activities or events for 2021?

Cheryl Pottinger, our Community Centre Development Manager, has started to plan (Covid permitting, etc.) for the use of our church buildings in 2021.

Church activities need to be included on the Booking System. So, if you are planning either a regular or one-off activity in 2021 that needs to use part, or all, of the St Paul's or St Tim's buildings (including the chapels), then please would you let us know about it. (The only exception to this is if the activity will take place on a Sunday morning, when both St Paul's and St Tim's will be 100% reserved for church use).

Please let us know, either by dropping an email containing the detail of: (1) what the activity is, (2) which area(s) of the building are required and (3) dates and times, to hall.bookings@dorcanchurch.org.uk , or, alternatively, by directly creating a request in the Centre booking system at <https://www.book-online.co.uk/st-pauls-covingham/> .

This information is being requested to ensure that all relevant reservations are recorded on the Centre booking system. If a church activity is not recorded accurately, then there is a significant risk that a conflicting booking will be accepted (be it from somebody else in the church or from a hirer). Sadly, there are recent examples of this!

If you would like to talk to somebody about this, please contact Cheryl on 07939 939893 or 01793 435987, or you can contact me, Pete Mulcock on 07958 448249 (I'm now Cheryl's line manager so I'm supporting her with this planning activity).

Cammish Sermons. (Notice from Pete Mulcock).

Matthew Cammish was a long-lived Methodist Local Preacher who took services in the Swindon area, (and before he lived here, elsewhere) for many years. He passed away in 2018, aged 98.

The texts of his sermons are now in the possession of somebody who is keen to share them with others. I recently picked up a call on a church phone from this person (who turned out to be somebody known to me) to ask if I would be willing to receive a copy of a sermon that was preached here at St Paul's in 1995.

I agreed to this, but also now find that I am on a regular distribution list for these sermons, receiving one a week, each Sunday. My friend's idea is that the people to whom he sends these sermons make them available across the churches in which they worship.

So if anybody is interested in receiving copies of some (e.g. the one preached at St Paul's) or all of these sermons, please let me know and I will willingly forward copies on to you.

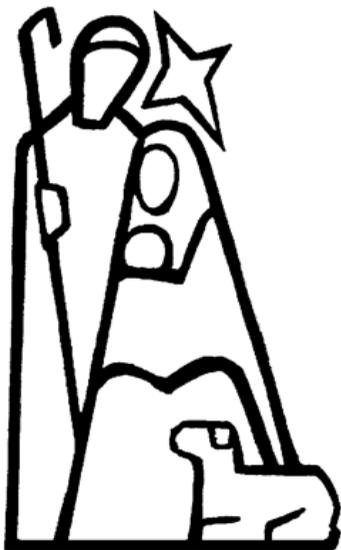
Please contact me by email pmulcock1@gmail.com, or on my mobile 07958 448249.

CHRISTMAS ANGELS

We have now heard that we are able to distribute the angels again this year. We hope to put them out on Saturday 19th December so please will you start/continue to knit them? Please would you let Dianne Lane or Maureen Tayler know if you have some and approximately how many? We are happy to collect them from you so that we can get them into bags.

Dianne: 639863 Maureen: 538842

The Lighthouse Christian Bookshop, Highworth.



The Lighthouse will be re-opening next Wednesday, 2nd December, after the national lockdown.

The Lighthouse is extremely well stocked with Christmas cards from various Christian Charities such as Samaritan's Purse, Tearfund, Leprosy Mission and others. We also stock Advent books, Advent Calendars (including the Meaningful Chocolate Co) and Advent Candles to help with your preparation for Christmas.

Do remember that when you buy charity cards from the Lighthouse you are supporting 2 charities – the one of your

card choice and also Seekers Light Trust (for which The Lighthouse Bookshop is the trading name).

The opening hours are:

Mon – Thurs 9am – 3pm.

Friday CLOSED

Saturday 9am – 1pm

Contact details: The Lighthouse Bookshop, 40 High Street, Highworth, SN6 7AQ.

01793 763337. info@lighthouse.books.plus.com

I would like to wish everyone in the Dorcan Church a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. As I am unlikely to be at the Christmas Services, and will not be sending many cards, I want you to know that I will be thinking of you all. God Bless,

Pauline Bates

Many, many thanks to all my friends in the Dorcan church family for their cards and prayers.

My hospital stay was interesting!

I am now back at home recouping slowly. Viv

Family Reference Bible.

New King James Version. (Boxed) approx A4 size.

Burgundy padded hard cover with gold edged pages.

Pristine condition and an ideal gift for a young family who wishes to keep a record of their family history, past and present. Also includes colour pictures and biblical maps.

Free to a good home.

Please contact Colleen on colleensmay@yahoo.co.uk

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to
Anna Newman by Wednesday 2nd December
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.