



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

31st January 2016

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



*"Lift up your heads, O you gates;
Lift them up you ancient doors,
That the King of glory may come in"*

Psalm 24:9

SERVICES - 31st January

St. Paul's

10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev'd Andrew Wigley
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St. Tim's

10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev'd Stuart Fisher
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This morning Alex Scott is at Central Church supporting the wider Methodist circuit.

Readings 31st January	Malachi 3: 1-4 Psalm 24: 7-10	Hebrews 2: 14-18 Luke 2: 22-40
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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.

**Lent Course – “Life Calling” A course for everyone
God’s calling you! – Really? Me? – Yes, you!**

Please sign up for our short, 5-week Lent course which we will launch next Sunday, 7th February, and which begins the week of 15th February.

As part of Building God’s House, the Ministry team have chosen a course “Life Calling” which is aimed at **helping each one of us explore what God is calling us to do.**

Whether you are already a member of a house group, or whether this will be a new experience for you, we are hoping that many of you will sign up now to take part – Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 10th February. As well as the usual midweek evening groups, we are planning to offer one or two daytime groups, as well as a special one-off on Saturday 5th March.

This is an important part if we are to grow and develop as Christians, as well as helping to Build God’s House here in Dorcan.

So please, prayerfully consider, maybe even give yourself a bit of a challenge that will be rewarding, and sign up on one of the sheets available in each of the centres. Let’s join together as we explore God’s call to each one of us.

7th February – Lent course lunch – SIGN UP TODAY!

On 7th February we will be launching our lent course at the United Covenant service. After the service, we are looking to have a lunch together to share fellowship as we start our Lenten journey united as a church. A lunch will be provided of various salads together with quiches, flans, pizza etc. as well as choices for our younger ones, and a cheese board and desserts. There will be an opportunity to make a donation on the day towards the cost.

It would be wonderful if we had a good turnout, and to help us consider whether there is support for this and to cater for numbers **please could you sign up at the back of the church** at the same time as signing up for the course?!

Additionally, if you feel able to provide a dessert please could you let Barbara W. (538695) or Trudie Wigley (326128) know?

Many thanks. *Barbara and Trudie*

Please read this important notice.

This notice is about a crucial area of this church's life and which is now impacting the mission and outreach of this church. Please can I encourage you to continue to read on when I share that it is about safeguarding and this is a request for you to consider how you might help.

We are looking to build a team to work together and support each other as we fulfil our pastoral and legal duties in this area. We are thankful to Dianne Lane in her continuing role and to offers of some support from outside the parish, but the reality is that we also need more people to support this work who are here "on the ground" and are church family. Covering some of the more complex areas of the role is progressing, however we are in great need of administrative support.

Many of our processes and guidelines are set up but we need to ensure they are followed, maintained and kept up to date, and often involve liaison with other church members and groups. For example, ensuring job descriptions are drawn up by group leaders and signed, applying for DBS checks on line and verifying addresses, requesting references and ensuring receipt, periodic checks that registration forms are up to date and complete, updating training records and needs etc. Please can I ask you to consider two ways in which you might help, both of which are needed at this time:

Taking responsibilities for some of the administration:

This is a pressing need and if you would like to know more of the kind of things that may be involved then please speak with Trudie Wigley (326128)

Giving financially: This would enable us to pay for those particular aspects of the role which can be undertaken from outside our church membership. If this is an area you feel able to commit to, then please speak in confidence to our Treasurer Tony (520734)

We have now reached a point of no longer being able to undertake the process required for new volunteers for our various church activities, which is a particular concern when our children and young people's work is growing and thriving and we need more helpers. **This situation is therefore now impacting the mission and outreach of this church.** Please can you commit this to prayer, and particularly that God will guide us and that the right people will come forward to form a new supportive team? Thank you.

Trudie Wigley

**Future Dates for the diary
As at February 2016**

7th February 2016

United Covenant Sunday. St. Paul's

Thursday 18th February 2016

Eye of the Needle Lectures - 7.30pm - New College
Revd Dr Leslie Griffiths. Living in Divided Worlds?

Thursday 25th February 2016

Deanery Synod

Tuesday 1st March 2016

Methodist Presbyteral Synod

Wednesday 2nd March 2016

Eye of the Needle Lectures - New College - 7.30pm - Rt. Revd. Michael Doe.
"Being economical about the truth or truthful about the economy? God & Money".

Friday 4th March 2016

Women's World Day of Prayer service St Paul's, 6pm

Saturday 5th March 2016

Training day for Church-based youth & children's leaders, Highworth Methodist Church

Saturday 5th March 2016

Lent course – "Life Calling" special one off Saturday

Monday 14th March 2016

Eye of the Needle Lectures - New College - 7.30pm - Dr Michael Lloyd.
The Mission of the Church in a contemporary society. Facing the big challenges together"

Friday 18th March 2016

Archdeacon Triennial Inspection of St Paul's (10am) and St Timothy's (12:30pm)

Saturday 23rd April 2016

Methodist Representative Synod

Sunday 24th April 2016

Dorcan Annual General Meeting

Saturday 7th May 2016

Bristol Diocese Synod

Saturday 16th May 2016

Safeguarding Leadership Training (SG2) at St Paul's 10-4pm
For Churchwardens, LLMs, supervisors/leaders of children & young people's work
or work with vulnerable adults. Booking via Diocesan office essential.

6th July 2016

Ecumenical Confirmations St Johns, Parks & Walcot

Friday 16th-Sunday 18th September 2016

Dorcan church 50th anniversary weekend! Hold the date.

10th September 2016 - Methodist Representative Synod

24th September - Bristol Diocesan Synod

3rd December 2016 - Bristol Diocesan Synod

St Paul's 50th Anniversary

17th/18th September

A very special occasion which requires a very special event.

Would you like to be part of the working group?

Please get in touch so we can start the planning.

Diane 336420

Children Society Boxes

My dear friends of St Tim's - please can I ask if you hold a children Society box to please bring them into St Tim's over the next couple of weeks so that I might forward the collection. Thank you so much to your generous contribution over the 22 years I have been the honorary secretary.

I am about to step down from this role, in need of a rest, but also a move to Wroughton has also prompted this decision.

I plan to return to worship and keep contact with you all - although it will not be as regular as it has been. With Gods love to you all for all the support I have received over the years I have worshiped at Dorcan.

Brenda Robinson

Children and Young people's Registration Forms:

As part of good practice and our safeguarding policy, each year we ask parents of children and young people who attend our groups to complete a registration form. This contains important information and enables us to look after our children and young people well. These will begin to be given out over the next few weeks, so please could we ask that they are completed and returned as soon as possible. This would be a great help for all those involved in the nurture and care of our children and young people. Thank you.

Trudie Wigley

Walk of witness: from the Dorcan Church Ministry Team.

It has been proposed again this year that all members of the Dorcan Church are invited to participate in a 'Walk of Witness' for our faith. Two days have been put forward for consideration and these are 'Palm Sunday' (20th March) or 'Good Friday' (25th March).

In order that a convincing 'witness' be shown in our community it would be appropriate for a large number to participate, that is, at least 20 people. Are you willing and able to 'walk'? Everyone is welcome, adults, children and friends. There are a number of possibilities, including the Palm Sunday 'witness' possibly walking between St Tim's and St Paul's, with a short act of worship at the beginning and end. For Good Friday we may want to consider an act of worship (bible reading & prayers) at 'Morrisons' (with permission) with a walk to St Paul's and a final act of worship. These are all possibilities and to be considered in parallel with other services being planned.

Please let anyone in the ministry team know if you are willing to commit to this and which (if any) day you would prefer. It is not intended to do both. If we are to be effective witnesses for Jesus then we need to start planning. There is nothing wrong in saying 'I can't go' and no explanations are necessary; but we do need to plan, so please, one way or another, let your ministry team know if you can join in.

God bless you as you think about this opportunity.

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to
Anna Newman by Thursday 4th February
Tel 695698 or email anagram673@hotmail.co.uk
(please let me know if you would like to receive notices by email)