



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

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

Sunday 11th October

*Blessed
is the one who trusts
in the name of the
Lord
Jeremiah 17:7*

SERVICES
Sunday 11th October - 10:30am St Paul's 18 th after Trinity Mary Boitz
Sunday 18th October 10:30am St Paul's 18 th . After Trinity Rev'd Andrew Wigley Followed by the AGM. This will be a short meeting

**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.**

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 16th October

6-12midnight on Zoom “Good News for Swindon” evening of prayer
Link will be on closed Facebook group

7-7:30pm Trudie will be leading on prayer for business and
commerce in Swindon

Catching up with Rev’s Andrew, Stuart and Trudie: We recognise how frustrating it is to not be able to mingle and catch up with each other after our worship services, especially as fellowship is an important part of being church family. Yet thank you for all that you are doing to follow current government guidelines and the example we set to the community as we leave our premises.

Andrew, Stuart and myself are conscious that part of the restrictions mean that it is difficult to have those personal conversations we might have had after worship. Therefore, after services, please do briefly share with us that you’d like a conversation and we can arrange a future time to have a chat. Also, please do not hesitate to phone us during the week. I know it can be frustrating when we can’t answer and it goes to answer machine, but please do leave a message and we promise that we will get back to you when we can.

These are strange times that will continue into next year. Whilst we may not be able to meet and chat in the same way we have done in the past, we will find different ways and please do get in touch if you need to talk.

Blessings to you all from Trudie, Stuart and Andrew.

Trudie: 01793 326128 / 07505 652781

Stuart: 01793 497169

Andrew: 01793 523810

**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”*.

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 C of E /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

NHS QR Code for Covid-19 app:

You will see as you come into St Paul's that we have a QR code for the NHS Covid-19 smart phone app. We are required to display this code, yet use of it is voluntary. You may have heard on the news that it is part of the government's approach to reducing the spread of Covid by alerting us if we might have come in contact at a venue with someone who has tested positive.

If you have a smart phone please do consider downloading the app and using the QR codes that you will find as you go about your day-to-day business as it is an important part of keeping this virus at bay.

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 2:2

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 – The electoral role is now closed to revision and is required to be displayed for 14 days ahead of our AGM. You will find the list on the notice board outside the old small office so please do check that it is correct and get back to either Barbara Wilcox or myself (rev.trudie@wigley.org.uk) if there are any omissions or amendments needed.

Financial Accounts for 2019 – you will also see on the notice board a copy of our financial accounts for last year which, again, are required to be displayed head of our AGM. Any queries then please direct them to our lovely Treasurer Tony Prichard. Thank you!

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 are available at St Paul's.

We are pleased to say that our children and young people's groups will be meeting again this week.

At the moment they will not be in the congregation at all but will go straight to either the library or the Youth room.

Can you please continue to pray for all our youngsters at this time as so much of their lives, like ours, has been changed both in school and home.

Deb & Team

...and a big thank you to the leaders of Dorcan's ministry to our children and youngsters. They have done brilliantly over the last few months keeping in touch and meeting virtually in this strange season, and have worked really hard. Thank you, and its super to see some of our youngsters back today.

Trudie

Swindon Youth for Christ – intern – Rob Friend!

We are delighted that our very own Rob Friend started as an intern with SYFC with effect from September 2020. And what is even better is that his placement for 10 hours a week will be with us at Dorcan Church! He will be focusing on youth work, including Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings, as well as other events such as weekends away etc. This is exciting news and we are so pleased for this opportunity for Rob to develop and be part of SYFC. Rob is a valued member of the church family and it is wonderful that he will still be with us. Please do keep Rob in your prayers.

The Anglican Church: the Independent Enquiry into child abuse:

This report was published this week and you may have seen coverage in the news. To read of failures as to how we, as a collective church, have historically dealt with allegations, victims and perpetrators is uncomfortable reading. The report makes a number of recommendations which in due course will undoubtedly also flow into our practice here at a local level.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of us all and thank you all for taking it seriously and following our procedures and training which can feel onerous. In both churches there is a notice of our commitment to safeguarding, a Code of Conduct and details of who to contact when you have a concern of something has been disclosed to you. Our responsibility is to listen, make notes of the information shared and refer to our safeguarding team to take forward.

At this time, I would like to thank our safeguarding team for all their work. They do a wonderful job and keep us up to date and informed. On behalf of Dorcan church a big thank you to Jenny Poole, Sue Morgan, Dianne Lane and Jackie Hancock!

Church Action in a Climate Emergency

A Deconstructed Conference happening across October and November.

In March this year our planned *Church Action in a Climate Emergency* conference was postponed, as it fell into the beginning of lockdown. But now it's moving online as a 'deconstructed' conference with sessions held throughout late October & early November. Some fantastic speakers are lined up to lead inspiring hour-long sessions on topics ranging from incorporating climate change into worship and teaching, to Christian activism and church divestment. We hope you'll leave the workshops feeling encouraged and equipped to take your church on the next steps towards a cleaner future.

Book your space: <https://forms.gle/sBU6DPkPcnUaxnsZ6>

Workshop 1: 'Why should Christians act, and why now?'

Monday, 19th October 7.30pm

Q&A with Ruth Valerio, author, environmentalist, and Global Advocacy Director at Tearfund

Workshop 2: 'Making Creation Visible: Incorporating the Climate Emergency into worship, prayer and teaching'

Tuesday, 20th October 7.30pm

Led by Deborah Tomkins, Chair of Green Christian & Rev David Stephenson, Vicar of Cotham & St Pauls Clifton

Workshop 3: 'Becoming an Eco Church'

Thursday, 22nd October 7.30pm

Led by Helen Stephens, Eco Church lead at A Rocha UK

Workshop 4: 'Church divestment: how to use your church funds to combat the climate crisis'

Monday, 26th October 7.30pm

Led by James Buchanan, Director of Operation Noah

Workshop 5: 'Provoking one another to love and good deeds: the role of activism in responding to the climate crisis'

Thursday, 29th October 7.30pm

Led by Luke Harman, Campaigns Manager at Christian Aid.

Link to hope Shoeboxes.

A reminder, to all who are filling shoeboxes that we will be blessing them on Sunday 1st November.

If you can't get your box/s to St Paul's on the Sunday, I will be at St Paul's car park on Friday 6th Nov from 09-00 till 13-00 then 14-00 till 16-30. to receive them.

Tony Prichard (Treasurer) has said that, if you wish you can use the contactless code in the church foyer to pay the three pounds per box, instead of taping the coins to the box. It would be helpful. If you use this method could you please indicate on the coin area of the leaflet that you used the code and how many boxes you filled. I have knitted hats and gloves, if you need any for your box/s please contact me by phone 01793 538842 or by

Email paultayler1@hotmail.co.uk.

Thank you for your support again this year

Paul

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to Anna Newman by Wednesday 14th October.

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.