



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

7th August, 2016

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



“To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for,
to be certain of the things we cannot see”

Hebrews 11:1

Services Sunday 7th August 2016

St. Paul's

10.00am

United Holy Communion

Rev'd Trudie Wigley
and Beth Lamb

There will be a group for children led by Debbie Mulcock

Building God's house: Following our away day last year, all our summaries and quarterly updates are now in an A5 folder in both churches, together with spares for you to take if you've missed one. Please do take a look and keep the picture of Building God's house alive as we continue to move forward. Our next update will be in the Autumn.

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.**

For your prayers:

- **For peace and a working to end violence across the world**
- **Those in Need of God's Healing and peace**
- **The friends and family of those who have recently died.**
- **For the Olympic Games to be a rewarding experience for all part taking, and to promote the Olympic charter**

What's on this week - Small groups and Cell Groups - please keep in touch with your leaders for dates and venues. If you would like to join one, please speak to one of the Ministers or Church Wardens.

Thursday 11th August	9.30am	Holy Communion at St. Tim's
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I would like to thank you for the cards, prayers and gifts you gave me prior to my moving to Kent. Thanks to Viv and Sarah for organising the lunch, it was lovely to have a get together with time to talk; it is always so busy on a Sunday morning.

I shall miss you all, but am sure I will be back from time to time. I will be in touch with my new address when I have moved into my own home, in the meantime I shall be staying with my son and family.

God bless you all, *Leila.*

SERVICES 14th August

St. Paul's

10.00am All Age Worship Rev'd. Andrew Wigley

Welcome: *Pam and friend*, Teas: *Hazel and Alison*, Sunday Club/Ignite : *All age service*

St. Tim's

10.30am Holy Communion Rev'd Trudie Wigley

Focus on Prayer

The existing pattern of praying for others ie; the Prayer Chain and Lectern List have worked extremely well over the years, thanks to the enduring efforts of Pam and Margaret. However, we met to see if there was a more 'joined up' and effective way that we, as a congregation could be praying for the needs of others. As a result of this, several things have happened.

Prayer Chain

Margaret has now amalgamated the two existing prayer chains, and she is still the person to contact initially. Your confidentiality will be respected by the Prayers, who can now be notified by email, text or phone call. If you are considering becoming a Prayerer yourself, please speak to Margaret. (You don't need a theology degree)

Lectern List

This list has now been superseded by a lovely new Prayer Board made by our Administrator Jackie. For the time being, it is hanging on the left hand wall. You'll notice that there is also a space for prayers answered.

If you have a prayer concern for either yourself or someone else

- Write that concern on the appropriate card, with the name of the person to be prayed for, the name of the person posting the prayer, and the date.
- The card will remain on the board for 2 weeks only, but if you wish, you may renew it yourself after 2 weeks.
- Also, if you wish it, the name of the person can be included in the notices for 2 weeks, as a reminder for people to pray at home. Pam is the person to contact initially, but Margaret if Pam's away.

Prayer Basket

There will now be a basket placed on the table next to the entrance. This will be for any of the congregation to put in a particular request for prayer for the following week. Each congregation member will be encouraged on leaving the service, to take a prayer request and pray for that person during the coming week.

I hope this all makes sense to you. If you have any concerns at all, please speak to;

Pam W. 343155 - Margaret H. 532849 –
Trudie W. 326128 or Barbara W. 538695

Happy praying - *Barbara*

St Pauls Work Morning Tuesday 16th August 9.30 - 1pm. Please come along if you are able to, lots of different jobs to help prepare the building for the **BIG** weekend. from gardening, to windows, hope you can make it. *Diane.*

September - November Rota

My apologies for asking you to think about the autumn, but would be very grateful to know any dates you would not be available.

Many thanks for all that you do, it is greatly appreciated.

Diane

Important notice re Christmas shoeboxes:

After much thought, prayer and discussion, the Church Council and Ministry Team have agreed that this Christmas we would like to support "Link to Hope", a Christian organisation which delivers gift boxes to needy families and the elderly in Eastern Europe.

You will be aware that we have previously supported Samaritan's Purse, and our boxes last Christmas went to Eastern Europe. After much discussion in Ministry Team and in consultation with Christine Parsons our local organiser, Church Council has agreed this change. The background to this is in remarks made in the US by CEO Franklin Graham, head of Samaritan's Purse, regarding homosexuality, and which has received attention here in the UK. Whilst there is a wide spectrum of views on homosexuality amongst Christians, and some of us may support Mr Graham's position, it was the tone and the uncharitable and unloving nature of the remarks which caused concern, and which has been reported in the press and social media sites. We have also read the Statement of Faith of Samaritan's Purse and found it to be strongly conservative evangelical, and which we could not fully support given the spectrum of views amongst Christians.

Trudie and Andrew met with Simon Barrington, Executive Director of Samaritan's Purse UK, to express our concern. Mr Barrington explained further the nature of the work with Christmas boxes, and how there is a degree of separation with their evangelical Christian mission. However, whilst Ministry Team recognised the goodwill in distributing Christmas boxes, we were of common mind that we should seek another Christian organisation to distribute our gifts. We explored a number of new options and, together with ideas from Christine, chose "Link to Hope" which provides a similar service, whilst also offering to families and elderly. They are also supported by others in Swindon, e.g. through Restore, and have a local collection point. Church Council subsequently agreed to this recommendation.

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We recognise that we have been supporting Samaritan's Purse for many years, but hope you will understand why there is this change. We appreciate the support and dedication of Christine Parsons for the last 20 years with Samaritan's Purse and her willingness now, along with Paul Taylor, to act as coordinator for Link to Hope. Some individuals may however want to continue their support of Samaritan's Purse for their own personal reasons, but as a Church, we will only be collecting for Link to Hope.

If you have any concerns or queries, then please do speak to a member of Ministry Team. There is an opportunity to learn more about Link To Hope through their website <http://linktohope.co.uk> as well as their leaflet as you go out today – more have been ordered. In both our united services in August and September we will be showing a video of the work of Link to Hope and talking a bit more about their work, in preparation for "Shoebox Sunday" on 6th November 2016.

The Ministry Team and ECC

Time to find out more?

If you feel ready to learn more about your faith, you might enjoy an Exploring Christianity course.

This is an evening course made up of six ten-week modules.

The next Exploring Christianity course in this area will start on Thursday 22nd September 2016, 7.30 pm, at Lydiard Millicent Primary School, SN5 3LR.

For more information and to register, contact Jayne Mathias at Church House – jayne.mathias@bristoldiocese.org – or ring the Ministry Development office on 0117 906 0100.

Calling all musicians and singers !!



In September, as part of the Church's 50th Birthday celebrations, it would be good to get a group of singers and musicians together to help lead worship on the Sunday morning.

Now, September may sound a long way off – but, as it's August tomorrow, we don't actually have that long to go! So it's probably time to start getting organised!

I would like to hear from any singers or musicians who are able to play a part in what promises to be an amazing service. We've already got some ideas for songs and how we can get everyone who wants to be involved, including, of course, our amazingly talented young people. But, to make this happen, I'll need volunteers as soon as possible, please, so we can start arranging practice sessions and the like.

So please let me know, either in person or via email, if you can help us make a joyful noise on the day, and I'll get the ball rolling. And don't be *surprised if I (gently) approach and ask you over the next week or so!*

Dave Jones

Saturday 17th September Community Day 2pm - 6pm

We are looking for volunteers to help man games, assist with refreshments, donate raffle prizes, and prepare for the event please see either Debbie or Diane

Am I called to be a Licensed Lay Minister? The Ministry Team would love to hear from you if you sense God may be prompting you to explore this particular vocation. The diocesan are also hosting an evening together to explore this ministry, so do go along and find out more!

Tuesday 15th November,
7.00-9.15pm.

Hillside House, BRISTOL

For further information, please feel free to contact Rev Helen Collins, advisor for Licensed Ministry on 0117 906 0100

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to
Anna Newman by Thursday 11th August
Tel 695698 or email anagram673@hotmail.co.uk

Please let me know if you would like to receive notices by e.mail.

**Dorcan Church 50th Anniversary Celebrations
Saturday 17th / Sunday 18th September**

This note is to help keep you informed about what is being planned for our special anniversary weekend, so that you can also tell friends and neighbours about it. **More help is still required, so please contact Diane Killick** with any further offers and suggestions. Let's make this a great success, for church and community.

Saturday 17th September, 2 – 6pm

COMMUNITY FUN DAY

Fairground Games, Tug-o-war Competition

Bouncy Castle / Slide, Quiz

Messy Church and Tiny Tots activities

Swindon YFC BIOS Bus

Tea, Coffee and refreshments

Including Cream Teas and Ice Creams

Hot Dogs and Chips (from 4pm)

Sunday 18th September, 10am

**UNITED SERVICE of THANKSGIVING
WITH HOLY COMMUNION**

**led by Revd Dr Lee Rayfield, Bishop of Swindon
and Revd Dr Jonathan Pye, Chair of Bristol District,
with invited guests of former ministers and local civic officers.**

**There will be celebratory cake and drinks for everyone after the
service, with lunch provided for our guests at 1pm**

NB Services at St Paul's on 4th, 11th & 18th September will start at 10am.

Future dates for the diary as at August 2016

Sunday 24th July – Sunday 18th September 2016

Between these dates Morning service at St Paul's will be at 10am,
this is an extension of the usual summer pattern for continuity
as we approach our anniversary celebrations

Monday 5th September 2016

Parish Share seminar 7.30pm -9.30pm, Community Centre, Christ Church

Saturday 10th September 2016

Methodist Representative Synod

Friday 16th-Sunday 18th September 2016

Dorcan church 50th Anniversary weekend!

Saturday 2-6pm Community Fun Day, St Paul's centre
Sunday 10am United Service of Thanksgiving, St Paul's Church led by
Revd Dr Lee Rayfield, Bishop of Swindon
and Rev Dr Jonathan Pye, Chair of Bristol District.

Saturday 24th September 2016

Bristol Diocesan Synod

Saturday 1st October 2016

Scripture Union training day (Re-Charge) 9.30am -4pm
Ladyfield Evangelical Church, Hungerford

Tuesday 22 November 2016

Deanery Synod Meeting - St John's Parks & Walcot

Friday 25th – Sunday 27th November 2016

3Generate2016 fun, faith and friendship for children & young people (now full)

Saturday 26th November 2016

Messy Church Leaders Training Day in conjunction with CPAS,
St Christopher's Church, Hampstead Rd, Bristol

Saturday 3rd December 2016

Bristol Diocesan Synod

Friday 13th - Sunday 15th January 2017

Lay Ministers conference at Brunel Manor in Torquay

Sunday 5th February 2017

The Very Rev Dr David Hoyle Dean of Bristol Cathedral preaching at St Paul's

Wednesday 26th April 2017

“Creating Connections” Diocesan conference

13th-22nd June 2017

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – further details from Paul Tayler