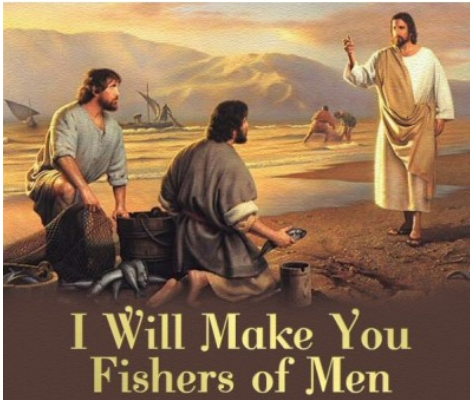




St. Paul's, Covingham
St. Timothy's, Liden
www.dorcanchurch.org.uk

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



Mark 1. v 14 - 20

**SERVICES - Sunday 21st January 2024
Epiphany 3**

St. Paul's

10.30am Morning Worship

Rev Stuart Fisher

4.00pm Messy Church

Messy Team

St Tim's

10.00am Messy Church

Messy Team

**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 - Sunday 28th January 2024 Epiphany 4		
St Paul's		
8.45am	Holy Communion	Rev Trudie Wigley & LLM Paul Tayler
10.30am	All Age Covenant with Communion	Rev Trudie Wigley & Deacon Stephen Roe
St Tim's		
10.30am	Morning Worship	LLM Paul Tayler

Please pray for our clergy as they minister to our wider Church family today 28th January 2024, Alex is at Pewsey supporting the wider Circuit.

What's On This Week		
Tuesday 23rd January	Time	Event
St Tim's	10.00am - 12.00pm	CID's Café Too
St Paul's	10.00am - 12.00pm	CID's Coffee Morning
St Tim's	2.00pm - 3.15pm	Prayer Meeting
St Tim's	7.30pm - 9.30pm	ECC
St Paul's	7.45pm - 9.45pm	Bible Study & Prayer Group
Wednesday 24th January	Time	Event
St Paul's	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Tiny Tots
St Tim's	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Tiny Tots
St Paul's	7.00pm - 9.30pm	Men's Fellowship
Friday 26th January	Time	Event
St Tim's	10.00am - 12.00pm	Food Collective - Paul

A HUGE Christmas thank you!

Thank you to you all who supported our various activities and ministries over Christmas. We committed to many additional things and it was Dorcan church at its best! We connected with a significantly increased number of people in our community, and also made new connections which was encouraging.

Whether you were involved upfront in our activities or supporting behind the scenes, this is a BIG, BIG thank you to you all - our Christmas plans would not have happened without you all.

We wish you a Happy New Year and Happy Epiphany season and look with expectancy and remain curious and alert as to where God will lead us this year.

Trudie Wigley

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday 18th May 2024

Reflection and Quiet Day: 10-4pm At Liddington Village Hall

We have planned another day of reflection, quiet and prayer for this year which will be held on Saturday 18th May and led by Rev Moira Slack.

At the beginning of April/late March there will be a sign-up sheet to indicate whether you are hoping to come. As we will be liable for full payment of hiring the venue within 4 weeks of the date, we will need to make an early decision as to whether there is enough interest.

The last two events have been special times together in their different ways, so if you are thinking of coming along, even though it's a while away, please do pop the date in your diary.

LENT MATERIALS

Lent Groups – “The Difference Course”

This year Lent starts early on Wednesday 14th February and Stephen, Stuart and Trudie have been looking at a number of Lent courses and recommend “The Difference Course” as the focus for our church family study this Lent.

The 5-week course explores how to follow Jesus in a conflicted and complex world, looking at how we can be peace-makers and play our part in reconciliation for a just and flourishing world: “for God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation” (2Cor5:18). It is God’s reconciling work that is the focus of our Lenten journey and Easter celebration which makes this course particularly attractive for Lent.

Each session includes a film, Bible study, prayer, discussion and some kind of activity and lasts around 90 minutes. The sessions explore themes such as: God’s call and equipping to transform relationships in a conflicted world; How to cross divides; Navigating disagreement; Practicing forgiveness within mess and complexity and Risking Hope such that it is transformative

The Different Course has been recommended and shared with small group leaders and some of the groups have confirmed that they will be following the material. If you do not belong to a small group, or your group is focusing on other material, then we will also be offering two courses led by Stephen, Stuart and Trudie over the Lent period – sign-up sheets now available.

Tuesday Day time	St Paul's Small Hall, Covingham 12:30-2pm to include a Lent lunch Starting 20 th Feb until 19 th March Led by Stuart Fisher revsffisher@btinternet.com
Tuesday Evening	23 Sedgebrook, Liden, SN3 6EY 7:30pm-9pm Starting 13th Feb until 19 th March (not 20 th Feb) Led by Trudie Wigley and Stephen Roe Rev.trudie@wigley.org.uk stephen.roe@methodist.org.uk NB 13 th Feb only at 11 Merlin Way, Covingham, SN3 5AN

Resources for Personal devotions and reflection

In addition to the Difference Course, we also recommend two books to the church family for personal devotion and reflection – they are:

- Tom Wright, “Lent and Easter for Everyone: From Wilderness to Glory”. A new book, only recently published by this popular author
- Stephen Cottrell, “The Things He Said: the story of the First Easter day”. A modern classic based on the last words of Jesus

Trudie (and I’m sure others) has copies of both of these books if you would like to look at them before reading them. If purchasing your own copy is prohibitive, please do speak in confidence with Trudie, Stephen or Stuart and we will gladly provide you with one.

As we prepare for Lent, we look forward to journeying through together as we travel with our Lord to the cross, and as we await the glory that lies beyond. With our love and prayers.

From Dorcan Church ECC Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership - Next Steps

This is a near repeat of the December 2023 notices, with an extended time deadline.

Our thanks to you all for participating in the October 2023 Congregational Meeting, in which we discussed the future of our Local Ecumenical Partnership. A paper was circulated on 16th November 2023 and some hard copies are still available in the two churches.

What's next?

Some very important feedback you provided is that you want our Ecumenical essence to be maintained if the LEP were to be dissolved. Our next step on this journey is to define in detail what we really mean by Dorcan Church's Ecumenical "essence", and to determine what would need to be in place for that to continue under a single-denominational structure. To achieve this, ECC is formulating a small group to focus on defining the requirements for a new kind of Ecumenical agreement (Local Ecumenical Co-operative Scheme, or LECS).

What will the group be doing?

The group will be responsible for collecting and documenting feedback from us all on how we wish to continue expressing our ecumenical essence going forward. E.g. communion settings from other traditions, Covenant service, visiting preachers. We expressed that these and other aspects are important to us and it is about getting these articulated, documented and agreed by our parent denominations so they are carried into the future.

This work is needed to create a draft document that will form the basis of a legally binding agreement between both denominations to ensure our Ecumenical essence lives on, whatever the structural and legal governance arrangements are. The group will be exploring questions such as:

- What does it mean for us to be an Ecumenical church?
- What are the things we do, say and think which make us Ecumenical?

- What things are needed both spiritually and practically to help us retain our Ecumenical essence?

For clarity, it is important to note that the scope of the group is focused on collating raw feedback into a document and then preparing a draft Ecumenical agreement (we have a template) for consideration as part of any decision to cease the current structure of the LEP. It is not to make any decision on the future of the LEP.

Who will be in the group?

We are looking for a group of around 6 people to join Stephen, Trudie, our Church Warden and our Senior Steward (Diane Killick and Nathalie Marshall) to work on this. The aim is to prepare a first draft of a document explaining what Ecumenism means to us by mid-April 2024, which will be circulated for further comments and feedback, although timing for this may now slip.

How can I sign up?

We need a range of views and experiences reflected in this group, so if you would like to be involved or to suggest someone (please ask them first!), please speak to Diane or Nathalie by Monday 22nd January. To enable the group to be of a size to work well, if more than six people are nominated then we will look to ECC to nominate the group, with particular attention to diversity in its many forms. Please pray for this group as we move forward with this work.

Good News

In the past few weeks I mentioned Paul Tayler was to be contacted by phone only. I am happy to say that Paul is back on line and can be contacted y email again

Paul



Answers to last week's quiz

1. The UK town of Stretford sits on which river = **Mersey**
2. Which instrument can be base, electric or Spanish = **Guitar**
3. What country borders Switzerland to the left = **France**
4. 2, 3, 7, 11, 19 are all types of what number = **Prime**
5. What is the name of the fourth book in the Harry Potter series = **Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**

This week's Quiz

General Knowledge.

1. I can do anything is from which musical?
2. Who is older, Bart or Lisa Simpson?
3. Which English football club is known as the Canaries?
4. Doberman, Shitsu and sharpie are all types of what?
5. What is the national currency of Spain?

Good Luck

ECO Tip

Switch to using a green search engine on the internet such as www.ecosia.org , which plants trees to absorb the carbon emissions from your web searches.

NOTICES

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent by **Tuesday 23rd January 2024**

to notices@dorcanchurch.org.uk

Thank you.

These notices are also available on-line at

www.dorcanchurch.org.uk/latest_notices

Previous editions are also available at:

[Dorcan Church Weekly Notices](#)



You will have noticed we no longer pass the offering basket round.

Scan this QR code with your mobile phone to make your offering.

Tony Prichard and the Finance Sub Committee