



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

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



SERVICES		
Sunday 1st December Advent 1 - Toy service		
St Paul's		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Stuart Fisher
St Tim's		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Trudie Wigley

Please pray for our clergy as they minister to our wider Church family today 1st December 2024. Stephen is at Central Swindon and then Fitzwarren and Neil is at Stratton Court supporting the wider circuit.

**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 8th December Advent 2		
St Paul's		
10.30am	Morning Worship	Deacon Stephen Roe
St Tim's		
	No Service	

Please pray for our clergy as they minister to our wider Church family today 8th December 2024. Stephen is at Great Somerford supporting the wider circuit.

Christmas Toys

Our annual toy service will be held on 1st December at St Paul's and St Tim's. We would welcome donations of new toys, books and gifts, as before. Toys for younger children are usually well represented, but often items for 9-17 year olds are in short supply, especially for boys.

Gifts should not be wrapped, but rolls of wrapping paper also would be gratefully received.

There are many calls on your generosity, especially at this time of year, and we hope that you can find something to spare for families who are unable to give their children the Christmas that others enjoy.

We shall be hosting the event again this year, and families will come on week beginning 9th December to choose gifts for their children.
Thank you

What's On This Week

Monday 2nd December	Time	Event
St Paul's St Tim's	9.00am - 3.00pm 2.00pm - 4.00pm	Christmas Unwrapped Knit and Chat
Tuesday 3rd December	Time	Event
St Tim's St Paul's	10.00am - 12.00pm 10.00am - 12.00pm	CID's Café Too CID's Coffee Morning
Wednesday 4th December	Time	Event
St Paul's St Tim's St Paul's St Paul's	1.00pm - 3.00pm 1.00pm - 3.00pm 6.00pm - 7.30pm 7.30pm - 9.00pm	Tiny Tots Tiny Tots Blaze for school year 2 - 6 Youth Club for school year 7+
Thursday 5th December	Time	Event
St Paul's	9.00am - 12.00pm	Christmas Unwrapped
Friday 6th December	Time	Event
St Tim's St Tim's	10.00am - 12.00pm 1.00am - 3.00pm	Food Collective - Paul Christmas Unwrapped

Dates for your Diary

As of 1st December 2024

December 2024

Central Church Swindon

Sunday 22nd December, 4.30pm. Carols by Candlelight with Christingles, followed by a 'Bring and Share supper'

Bath Road Methodist church Christmas Services

Christmas Eve 24th December, Christingle Service 6.30pm
Christmas Day 25th December, Christmas morning service 9.30am

February 2025

Friday 7th February 2025 - **Tearfund Quiz Nite @ St Paul's Church, Covingham.** 7.00pm - 9.30pm. Details to follow

May 2025

Friday 9th May 2025 - Quiz Nite @ St Paul's Church, Covingham. 7.00pm - 9.30pm

Electronic Notices :-

Should you receive a paper copy of the weekly notices and your circumstances have changed. Please get in touch with your email address and I will add you to the mailing list.

notices@dorcanchurch.org.uk

Herman

Christmas Cards

Christmas cards will be available in church from Sunday 1st December. A list of streets, with the number of houses in each, will be available.

If you are able to deliver some cards, please tick off the relevant street/s and take the required number of cards. I can bring cards to anyone unable to collect them from church.

Would you please add your phone number or email to the list, in case I need to contact you. Thank you.

Any difficulties, please email me on lanedianne63@gmail.com or phone or text on 07810627671.

Thank you in advance for your help

Dianne Lane

Church Office Hours – some changes:

Our wonderful church administrator and centre manager, Maggie Johnson, keeps us fantastically organised and we are very grateful for all that she does for us.

Going forward, whilst Maggie's hours will remain the same, she will only be receiving "drop-in" visits between 11-12noon for church matters, and 2-3pm for hall bookings.

The office will additionally be closed for lunch from 12-1pm, and all day Wednesdays.

If you need to see Maggie outside of these hours, then please do drop her an email or phone to arrange a good time to pop in (dorcan.church.office@gmail.com / 01793 435987).

Thank you for your understanding and for supporting Maggie in all that she does for us.

Nativity costumes – help with sorting them

In a few weeks we will be holding our Messy and All-Age carol services at our two churches and using our wonderful nativity costumes. The only challenge is that they are in a pickle - some are broken, the shepherds think they are angels and are occupying their bag, and the wise men have left their camels in the bag with the sheep and they aren't getting on at all well. Are you able to take them and sort them all out please? New zipped bags will be provided. This would be a great help and if you are able to do this, then please contact Trudie. Thank you! (rev.trudie@wigley.org.uk and 07505 652781)

Confirmation: Are you interested in being confirmed?

Confirmation is a special service where we "confirm" the promises made when we are baptised. If you were baptised as a child, your parents and godparents would have made these promises on your behalf. At a confirmation service, we make these promises of faith anew for ourselves, supported by friends and family and the local Christian community. Are you interested in exploring possible confirmation and would like to talk about it? If so, please do have a chat with Trudie, Stephen or Stuart.

Alpha Course opportunity: Alpha is a series of sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith over 11 weeks. Each session has food, a short video and a chat at the end where you can share your thoughts and questions, and there is no charge. A group of us are looking to join with Pattern's Alpha course starting Wednesday 15th January and there is plenty of room for others to join if you are interested. As Dorcan church, the idea is that we will host our own table and any chat would be between ourselves, with either Stephen or Trudie on the table too. Lifts can be provided and depending on the group, we can explore whether we might wish to join the morning session, or an evening session. If at any point you decide that Alpha isn't for you, that is not a problem at all – there is really no pressure at all. If you are interested, then please do grab Trudie or Stephen for more information.

Swindon Food Collective

is your local independent food bank that collects and redistributes donated non-perishable food and non food items to those in need. We help individuals and families that are finding it hard to feed themselves for a variety of reasons such as low wages, low income, family crisis, delayed benefit payments, redundancy, bereavement or sickness. We currently operate 11 Food Distribution Centres in and around Swindon.

Paul Tayler is our contact and will be gathering all of our donations.

WHAT THEY DO NEED:

Regular sized Tins, Jars, Bottles, Cartons or Packets of the following:

" Potatoes; Meat; Fish; Tomatoes; Soup; Vegetables; Fruit; Puddings; Pasta Sauce; Cereals; Small Jars of Coffee; Tea (40 bags); Small Bags of Sugar (500g); Biscuits; 1L Bottles of Squash; Washing Up Liquid; Toothpaste; Laundry Pods; 2 in 1 Shampoo & Conditioner; Male and Female Deodorants"

DO NOT SEND:

Cereals and shower gel.

Prayer Group at St Tim's

The Prayer Group at St Tim's will start meeting again on Tuesday 12th November at 2pm. They will continue meeting every fortnight

- 26th November
- 10th December

Brenda Phillips



Festive Afternoon Tea



Dorcan Church

St Paul's Church Centre

Saturday 30th November

1.30pm—3.30pm

Raffle

Tombola's

Lots of seasonal goodies

Refreshments

Please come and join us

All are welcome

www.dorcanchurch.org.uk



tearfund

As we look forward to Christmas and celebrating the joyful news of Jesus' arrival and the hope he brought with him, let's keep sharing joy with others. It's not God's plan for anyone to live in poverty, but countless people around the world are stuck unable to provide for their family. **This Christmas you can help families around the world break the cycle of poverty and bring joy.**

Tearfund is helping communities in more than 50 countries break free from poverty by partnering with and training local churches in Kenya. When the worst drought in 40 years hit Kenya, Lokhu who lives in Marsbat county—could no longer afford to keep her children in school. Hunger quickly became a frightening reality for her family, who went from having two meals a day to just one. And as they live five miles from the closest borehole, without water they were not going to survive.

'There is a water crisis, food insecurity and this time it is a long drought. Even my parents have never seen this, says Lokhu.

But thanks to your kindness, Tearfund responded quickly through our church partner to provide emergency support. Since then we have helped the community rebuild and reintroduced vital training so people are not so severely impacted by climate change.

Many more people around the world urgently need the life-changing training Lokhu's community had. Your kind gift this Christmas could help families like Lokhu's leave poverty for good..

Your gift could train more people like Lokhu in climate smart-farming techniques, to help break the cycle of poverty. Poverty is not God's plan. You are. Will you donate today to help people around the world break free from poverty for good. To donate:

<https://www.tearfund.org/get-involved/donate/donate/donation-forms//donation-form?ContactGuid=EAFDB081-0906>

[Donation Form - Tearfund](#)



Answers to last week's quiz

Food and Drink

1. What is added to brandy to make a sidecar = **Quantro or orange liqueur**
2. A Chinese gooseberry is also known as what = **Kiwi fruit**
3. What cooking pot boils food at a higher temperature = **Pressure**
4. What seafood is fried in breadcrumbs and is Italian for shrimps = **Scampi**
5. Which fruit is dried to make prunes = **Plums**

This weeks quiz

General Knowledge

1. In which year did the demolition of the Berlin wall began?
2. A leveret is the young of which animal?
3. What is the currency of Argentina?
4. What type of food is a burrata?
5. Which team won the FA Cup final in the year 2000

Good luck

ECO Tip

Real trees have a much lower carbon footprint than artificial ones, especially if disposed of by wood-chipping. An artificial tree would need to be res-used for ten years to be comparable.

NOTICES

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent by **Tuesday 3rd December 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