



St. Paul's, Covingham  
St. Timothy's, Liden  
[www.dorcanchurch.org.uk](http://www.dorcanchurch.org.uk)

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

**WATCH AND BE READY!**  
MARK 13:24-37

**SERVICES - Sunday 3rd December 2023  
Advent 1**

**St. Paul's**

10.30am	United Morning Worship	Deacon Stephen Roe
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**St Tim's**

	No Service	
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**Christchurch, Old Town**

6.30pm	Service of welcome to Neil, Bishop of Swindon	All are welcome as we celebrate with our new Bishop
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Please pray for our clergy as they minister to our wider Church family today 3rd December, Alex is at Rodbourne & Neil is at Aldbourne supporting the wider Circuit.

<b>SERVICES - Sunday 10th December 2023 Advent 2</b>		
<b>St Paul's</b>		
10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Stuart Fisher
4.00pm	Messy Nativity	Messy Team
<b>St Tim's</b>		
10.00am	Messy Nativity	Messy Team

<b>What's On This Week</b>		
<b>Monday 4th December</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
St Tim's	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Christmas Unwrapped - Liden School
St Tim's	4.30pm - 6.30pm	Standing Committee
<b>Tuesday 5th December</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
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	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Christmas Unwrapped - Liden School
St Tim's	2.00pm - 3.15pm	Prayer Meeting
St Tim's	6.00pm - 9.00pm	Home Group
St Paul's	7.45pm - 9.45pm	Bible Study & Prayer Group
		Continued overleaf

## What's On This Week (Continued)

<b>Wednesday 6th December</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
St Paul's	10.00am - 11.00am	Morning Prayers
St Paul's	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Tiny Tots
St Tim's	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Tiny Tots
St Paul's	6.00pm - 7.30pm	Blaze for School year 2-6
St Paul's	7.30pm - 9.00pm	Youth Club for School year 7+
<b>Thursday 7th December</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
St Tim's	9.00am - 12.30pm	Liden Christmas Service x 2 - Trudie
<b>Friday 8th December</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
St Tim's	10.00am - 12.00pm	Food Collective - Paul

## Dates for your Diary

### As at 1st December 2023

Saturday 20th January - Growing Faith Together - St Michael's  
Church Centre, Stoke Gifford

**Friday 10th May 2024 - Quiz Nite @ St Paul's Church, Coving-**  
**ham**

7.00pm - 9.30pm

Saturday 11th May - Everyday Faith @ Pattern Church, Swindon

Saturday 13th July - We're in this together @ St Paul's,  
Chippenham

Saturday 14th September - Creating Pathways into Faith - St

## **Advent Knitalong 2023**

As they did last year, Victoria Methodist Church (Bristol) will be hosting a smaller mystery Advent Knitalong.

Starting knitting on 1st December and leading up to Christmas, participants will be invited to knit a large table mat and use the accompanying reflections.

The whole pattern for the table mat, as well as the accompanying reflections will be released in one single document on Monday 27th November via email and on Facebook. There will be a suggested schedule of which rows to knit each day for those who'd like to knit along each day and finish on Christmas Eve, but of course knitters can work at their own pace.

If you would like to join the knitalong but don't do emails or Facebook I would happily print you a copy just let me know.

Angela Roe

## **Christmas Cards**

As indicated in previous notices, Christmas cards will be available in church from Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> November. 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.

Any difficulties, please email me on [lanedianne63@gmail.com](mailto:lanedianne63@gmail.com) or phone or text on 07810627671

Thank you in advance for your help  
Dianne Lane

## Christmas Toys

As in previous years we shall be having a toy service this year, and would welcome donations of new toys and books, as before.

The date for the service is to be **26<sup>th</sup> November for St Tim's** and **December 3<sup>rd</sup> for St Paul's**. Toys for younger children are usually well represented, but often items for 9-17 year olds are in short supply, especially for boys. Ben and Grace have given us some ideas for gifts for older children. They are as follows:

Puzzles/games: wooden puzzles; Rubix cube; padlock games; cards Uno; 3D jigsaws;

Books: Bear Grylls; Tim Peak; Harry Potter; Apollo 13; Martians and similar

Adult Lego; Portable chargers; Leads; Bedside clock/radio;

Scientific calculator; body spray (male & female); Make-up; Bags;

Earrings; Craft items. Also Chocolate/Xmas treats.

Gifts should not be wrapped, but rolls of wrapping paper 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.

Thank you

## Scout Stamps

I now have Scout stamps for sale, 35 pence each. Posters are in the centres.

Diane

## **Church Family Christmas Cards**

Very soon many of us will be turning to think about writing Christmas cards. This year there is again the opportunity to send one card to the whole church family, particularly as we look to be an ECO church. Instead of displaying on a board, we invite you to stand your church family Christmas card on top of the Bible cupboard at St Paul's and/or on one of the tables at St Timothy's – we can then more easily see the picture and message inside. If you are giving individual cards, please can we ask that you hand them to the recipient rather than leaving out at both centres for hopeful collection? There are often a number left after Christmas that don't get to those they are addressed to which is a pity. (it will also make for happy stewards!) Thank you.

## **Carol Service Sunday 17 December 6.00pm at St Paul's**

Please let me know if you are willing to do a reading at the Carol Service at St Paul's this year. I would also be grateful to receive any readings/poems that you would like to suggest for consideration to be included.

Stephen

## **Swindon Food collective**

Please note that they currently have plentiful supplies of cereal, pasta, tinned soup and baked beans. This year they are asking for a mixture of food items and household goods/toiletries and list the following in particular: Cleaning cloths/anti bac wipes, household cleaners, laundry pods/power/liquid/conditioner, Wash & Go 2in1 Shampoo/Conditioner, Deodorant (male & female), toothpaste & toothbrushes, toilet rolls, toiletries (male & female), biscuits, tinned fruit, small jars of coffee, tinned potatoes; tinned meat; tinned puddings; small bags of sugar; biscuits.

## **Congregational Meeting from 17<sup>th</sup> October – notes now available**

Thank you to those able to attend the gathering last month where we continued exploring how we might structure ourselves and express our ecumenical identity in the future. At that meeting we said that we would share some notes by the end of November outlining the discussions from our time together, answering questions raised where able, and providing some more information where we could following our subsequent meeting with Archdeacon Christopher and Superintendent David Gray. These notes were circulated electronically on 16<sup>th</sup> November and there are paper copies available in both centres for those who do not receive emails.

At our ECC meeting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November and we looked at gathering a group to start the work of drafting a Local Ecumenical Co-operative Scheme – a formal document which will detail how we wish to express ourselves ecumenically. This work will be focused in the first quarter of next year and during that time we will look to hold another congregational meeting to explore further some of the detail of what is important to us – a task we started at this recent meeting. Therefore it will be into the new year before there is any further developments to share.

In the meantime, there are three things we are all invited to do:

1. to continue in prayer;
2. to offer any other ideas on how we might address our challenges detailed in the paper
3. to think about we express our ecumenical essence practically to ensure what is important to us continues.

Thank you for all that you have already shared and considered as we look to the future. It is not easy to consider change, especially when we value something so deeply, so thank you for your prayerful and gracious approach as we look to a path forward given the significant challenges we face.

*Trudie and Stephen*

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

Our thanks to you all for participating in the recent Congregational Meeting, in which we discussed the future of our Local Ecumenical Partnership.

A paper was circulated on 16<sup>th</sup> November and some hard copies are 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 the congregation, in order 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 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.

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## 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 for us by mid-April 2024, which will be circulated for further comments and feedback.

## 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 Sunday 17th December 2023. 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.

## 13.07.2024:

### **We're in this together - St Paul's Church, Chippenham**

An opportunity to reflect together on how we can create networks of support and communities that will encourage us in the journey of culture change.

## 14.09.2024:

### **Creating Pathways into Faith - St Michael's Church Centre, Stoke Gifford**

Building or identifying communities around our churches and thinking together about how we can create clear pathways that will lead people from encounter, through belonging and into commitment.

## **Thank you, Thank you, Thank you**

To everyone who came, ate, purchased, donated, ran stalls, bought raffle tickets, made incredible things, including sandwiches, cakes and mince pies, we made an incredible £929.66

Thank you so very much

Diane

## **Resources from October quiet day and prayer breakfast**

Last month, a few of us gathered for either the Quiet Day or subsequent prayer breakfast and reflection. This was led by Rev Moira Slack and she focused on the theme "Change and Un-change" and she has kindly shared the notes she wrote from the two gatherings. These were circulated electronically on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November and there are a few hard copies available in both centres. Thank you Moira for your preparation and leading us in these two days.

## **Christmas services – information:**

If you are receiving this electronically, attached are our services for this Christmas. Instead of separate flyers this year, we are using our printed Christmas cards as material to give out detailing our services, as well as using them for our usual door to door delivery. Please do sign up to help with delivery (see separate email), and also take a card for yourself and one for someone you would like to personally invite to come and worship with us this Christmas.

## **Growing Faith Together – Discipleship**

### **A conference invitation to us all**

A significant strand of the Transforming Church Together Strategy in Bristol diocese is a focus on discipleship. Over four days in 2024 there are opportunities to come together and explore discipleship themes as detailed below. The hope is that ministers, preachers, leaders and others who are interested in taking a lead and growing their understanding of discipleship and everyday faith, will come as parish teams together.

Trudie and some of the house group leaders will be going to the first one on 20<sup>th</sup> January. If this also appeals to you and you would like to join us, please let Maggie know and we will see if we can share cars. Tickets need to be booked here for catering and set-up purposes: [Growing Faith. Together Tickets, Sat, Jan 20, 2024 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Discipleship is a key area in our lived-out faith, and this programme in 2024 certainly looks helpful in supporting us, both as individuals and as a church family. I do hope that between us a number of us will be able to go these events to learn and reflect .

## **Link to Hope Shoeboxes**

The Dorcan Church sent 46 shoeboxes and Christchurch sent 55. These were sent on 10th November to Worthing. Two lorries have left for Ukraine and Romania. In time for Christmas, people in need will receive their box with our love and best Wishes.

Thank you all for your continued support and generous donations to Link to Hope.

Paul Tayler

## **20.01.24: Growing Faith Together**

### **St Michael's Church Centre, Stoke Gifford**

Reflecting on how spiritual patterns of discipleship can be incorporated into our daily lives and exploring Benedictine spirituality. Workshop and talks include:

- Benedict spirituality: Fr Christopher Jamison, former Abbot of Worth Abbey, helping us to reflect on how spiritual patterns of discipleship can be incorporated into our daily lives
- Discipleship in the workplace: LICC will be introducing the next training event in May
- Holy Habits
- Discipleship pathways in a priority context
- The "543+1" course, creating a common vocabulary for discussion on spiritual development
- The "Gold Course"
- Prayer and personality
- Creating and sustaining a culture of small group learning
- Including and learning from different cultures in our discipleship plans
- Lay leadership in helping people to grow in faith
- Discipleship pathways for Young People
- Pilgrimage

**11.05.2024:**

### **Everyday Faith - Pattern Church, Swindon**

Exploring how churches can equip people to live as disciples making connections between our faith and every day life. Keynote Speaker: Steve Rouse from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.



## Answers to last week's quiz

Connections. What connects the answers to each question below

1. Which actress played Mary Poppins in the 1964 film? = **Julie Andrews**
2. Who was the first President of the USA? = **George Washington**
3. In the 1999 version of A Christmas Carol, which Star Trek captain played Scrooge? = **Patrick Stewart**
4. What is the name of the shepherd boy who became the second king of Israel? = **David**
5. The connection is...**Patron Saints**....

## This week's quiz

**Trivia Trail. The last letter of the answer to question 1 starts the answer for Question 2 and Question 2 starts Question etc.**

1. Kingston is the capital of which island ?
2. Drug used in the treatment and prevention of bacterial infections
3. Disheveled detective played by Peter Falk
4. Cinema chain founded by **Oscar Deutsch**
5. Fourth largest planet in our solar system

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 reused for ten years to be comparable.



**Christmas 2023 at The Dorcan Church**

**St Paul's Church Centre, Covingham SN3 5BY**

**Sunday 3rd December**

**10.30 am Advent Morning Worship**

**Sunday 10th December**

**10.30 am Advent Communion**

**4.00 pm Messy Church Nativity**

**Sunday 17th December**

**8.45 am Advent Reflections**

**6.00 pm Carol Service**

**Sunday 24th December - Christmas Eve**

**4.30 pm Christingle Service**

**11.30 pm Midnight Mass**

**Monday 25th December - Christmas Day**

**10.00 am Christmas Celebration with Communion**

**St Timothy's, Uden Community Centre, Uden SN3 6HP**

**Sunday 10th December**

**10.00 am Messy Church Nativity**

**Sunday 17th December**

**10.30 am Carol Service with Communion**

**Sunday 24th December**

**3.00 pm Christingle service**

**Sunday 31st December**

**10.30 am Christmas Communion**

Phone: 01793 435967 Email: [dorcan.church.office@gmail.com](mailto:dorcan.church.office@gmail.com)

Website: [www.dorcanchurch.org.uk](http://www.dorcanchurch.org.uk) Facebook: Dorcan Church Notice Board

# NOTICES

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent by **Tuesday 5th December 2023**

to [notices@dorcanchurch.org.uk](mailto:notices@dorcanchurch.org.uk)

Thank you.

These notices are also available on-line at

[www.dorcanchurch.org.uk/latest\\_notices](http://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