



**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 29 - 39

SERVICES - Sunday 4th February 2024 2nd Sunday before Lent		
St. Paul's		
10.30am	United Holy Communion	Rev Stuart Fisher
St Tim's		
	No Service	

Please pray for our clergy as they minister to our wider Church family today 4th February 2024, Stephen is at Pewsey 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 11th February 2024 Sunday before Lent		
St Paul's		
10.30am	Morning Worship Danish & Praise	LLM Sue Morgans
St Tim's		
10.30am	Morning Worship	Deacon Stephen Roe

Please pray for our clergy as they minister to our wider Church family today 4th February 2024, Neil is at Bath Road supporting the wider Circuit.

Danish and praise 11th February 2024

Come and join us for pastries, fruit and hot drinks from 10am before the service.
Please note there will be NO refreshments after the service on that day.

Thank you
Sue

What's On This Week

What's On This Week		
Monday 5th February	Time	Event
St Tim's	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Knit and Chat
Tuesday 6th February	Time	Event
St Tim's St Paul's St Tim's St Paul's	10.00am - 12.00pm 10.30am - 12.00pm 2.00pm - 3.15pm 7.45pm - 9.45pm	CID's Café Too CID's Coffee Morning Prayer Meeting Bible Study & Prayer Group
Wednesday 7th February	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+
Friday 9th February	Time	Event
St Tim's	10.00am - 12.00pm	Food Collective - Paul

Ash Wednesday

To mark the beginning of Lent, a service for Ash Wednesday will be held at St Timothy's on **Wednesday 14 February** at 7.00pm. This will include an optional opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes as a mark of repentance and desire for forgiveness.

If anyone is willing to do a reading or lead prayers, please let Stephen know.

Dates for your Diary

As at 1st February 2024

Monday 26th February 2023, - Congregational Meeting 7pm at St Timothy's.

Wednesday 3rd March **Repair Café**, Eastcott Community Centre, Savernake St. Swindon SN1 3LZ.

Friday 10th May 2024 - **Quiz Nite @** St Paul's Church, Covingham
7.00pm - 9.30pm

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

Saturday 18th May 2024. Reflection and Quiet day 10.00am - 4.00pm at Liddington Village Hall

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

Saturday 14th September - Creating Pathways into Faith - St Michael's Church Centre, Stoke Gifford

St Pauls Church and Community Centre

Our special place to worship and celebrate; home to a play-school, dance groups for all ages, CID's café, Senior Citizens, Tiny Tots, craft groups, and many more community and personal events.

Unfortunately, we now have a very serious problem with the roof, its leaking, big time !!!!!

To enable us to continue worshipping and housing all the groups we urgently need your financial support, as we are approaching Lent perhaps you could give up an item and save the pennies for the roof ,or you might like to make a donation. We shall be looking at any ideas for fundraising so if you have an idea please share.

Applications are being made for grants and crowdfunding,

So folks if we don't want to be singing 'Raindrops keep falling on my head'.

Diane
Churchwarden

Membership

The Annual General Meeting will soon be upon us, and the time has come for records to be updated. I am happily aware that we have welcomed many new people to our services over the past few months. If you are one of those people, and you have been considering full membership of the Dorcan Church, you will need to complete a Membership form. These forms should be available in both churches, so please ask your local warden for one.

This is also a reminder to those who haven't returned the forms I have already handed out. Please speak to me, or any of the wardens/Ministers if you need any more information.

In Christ's love
Barbara

Congregational Meeting – Monday 26th February 2023, 7pm at St Timothy's.

Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership - Next Steps

At the end of last year ECC provided an update on our next steps in the journey to define in more detail what we 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. We had hoped to form a small group to focus on defining the requirements of a new kind of Ecumenical agreement (Local Ecumenical Co-operative Scheme, or LECS). However this has not been possible as there has been no interest expressed in being a part of this group.

ECC recognise the importance of expressing and documenting what is important to us ecumenically, but we do need your help. We would therefore like to invite you to a congregational meeting on **26th February, 7pm at St Timothy's**, to share and explore this amongst ourselves. To help us think about this, both before and at the meeting, we will share a document in the next couple of week which has some headings to help us shape and articulate our thinking. For example, one heading will be "worship". Under this heading, we need to ask ourselves about what it is specifically in our current ecumenical worship that we wish to continue cherishing, making sure that is documented for our current parent denominations to commit to e.g. communion words from different traditions, visiting preachers etc.

We do hope that you will be able to come to the meeting, or if you can't, to share your views with us. This new ecumenical document needs to be shaped by us all, so that it is ours and your ECC are asking for your help and support in something that we know is important to you. (And if it helps at all, there will be cake - and fruit for those who can resist the cake!)

Please do continue to pray, think, talk, discuss as we continue this path to what our future may be.

Trudie and Stephen, on behalf of ECC

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.

Annual Reports for the AGM

As part of entering in to a new year, we like to take time to look back on the previous year, and celebrate what God has done among us and through us in the Dorcan church in the previous year. This then forms our Annual Report, which is presented to our congregation at the AGM, but is so much more than just "a report". It is good to reflect and review, to recognise the good things that our Lord is doing in building his house in this place. We'd love for this report to reflect more of what our church community are doing, not just the legal minimums which are required for the charity commission. So if you run, or are involved in, a group or activity associated with the Dorcan Church, and you would like to share and celebrate what you did in 2023 with the rest of your church family, please will you consider writing a short paragraph for this annual report. It doesn't have to be formal; think of it as a written testimony of God's goodness through your group. In order to collate and print in time for the AGM, Maggie will need these submitted to her by **23rd February**, just under a month away. Please do ask if you have any questions.

Nathalie Marshall (Church Council Chair)

Lent Knitalong 2024

This year the Victoria Methodist Church Bristol Knitalong is a prayer shawl/lap blanket. If you would like to join in and are unable to access the details online please let me know and I will print off the pattern and reflections each week for you.

Angela Roe

Thanks

Angela

Swindon Repair Café

The Repair Café movement is a reaction to today's throw-away mentality. Bring a broken item to the café and volunteers will help you mend it, advise on repair or explain why it can't be fixed. It's a social way of keeping good stuff out of landfill. The café bit is important, have a coffee and some cake whilst waiting. Repair Cafe is joined by Free Shop, an opportunity to bring, take, or both, running alongside the Repair Cafe. In Swindon we have been very fortunate to be supported by generous musicians who have come and played at the event. There are nearly 3000 repair cafe's across the world, one of which is in Swindon, at Eastcott Community Centre, Savernake St. Swindon SN1 3LZ. It's held every 2 months, and the next is on 3rd March. If you have something to bring for repair, please just go along. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me and I will put you in touch with the organising team (I'm just an enthusiastic attendee!) There are usually people good with sewing machines, screwdrivers, and glue, and it's amazing what gets fixed. I know that more volunteers are also welcome. If you are on Facebook - the Swindon Repair Cafe is there and publishes the dates.

Nathalie Marshall

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.

Vacancies at Diocesan Office

We have the following Vacancies at the diocesan Office – please can you share with your networks?

[Diocesan Housing & Glebe Manager - Diocese of Bristol \(anglican.org\)](http://anglican.org)

[Director of People and Safeguarding - Diocese of Bristol \(anglican.org\)](http://anglican.org)

[Racial Justice Officer - Diocese of Bristol \(anglican.org\)](http://anglican.org)

Best wishes, Jo

Jo Stephenson
HR Officer

‘Black Lives Matter as an Expression of Black Theology’

Professor Anthony Reddie

10am-4pm, Wednesday 20 March 2024

The Ammerdown Centre, near Bath/Radstock/Frome

Don't miss this amazing opportunity to meet Professor Reddie as he leads a participative, inclusive and humorous conference/workshop at Ammerdown. Anthony is internationally recognised as one of the top academics in the field of racial justice. He is a Methodist theologian and Oxford University professor.

The day-long event includes morning coffee, a two-course lunch and afternoon tea. Only £40 per person. Please book online at: <https://www.ammerdown.org/WhatsOn/1139-/Black-Lives-Matter-as-an-Expression-of-Black-Theology> or contact Ammerdown (quoting "Anthony Reddie conference, March 2024")
Email: admin@ammerdown.org Phone: 01761 433709

Good COP or bad COP

A round-up of how things finished at the UN climate talks (COP28) in Dubai and the impact the Tearfund team had there.



The final outcome was a mixed bag. Significantly, COP28 reached **an agreement to transition away from fossil fuels but it also opened the door to dangerous distractions** and weakening of past commitments – falling short of its potential to deliver a landmark agreement to phase out all fossil fuels. Securing this commitment was widely seen as a measure of success for these talks.

It was good to see **countries pledge to triple renewables and double energy efficiency** by 2030, but this needs to go hand in hand with phasing out fossil fuels. There is no room for fossil fuels if we are to have any chance of averting the worst of climate catastrophe and delivering justice for millions of the most vulnerable people around the world.

Encouragingly, this COP saw **Norway and Australia sign the Clean Energy Transition Partnership**, which Tearfund and others have been campaigning on for years. If fully implemented, the partnership, which now has 41 signatories, could shift more than US\$28 billion per year out of fossil fuels and into clean energy.

The talks saw limited progress in scaling up finance to meet the escalating costs of the climate crisis. However, a key milestone was reached in making a 'loss and damage' fund a reality, with many countries, including the UK, pledging funds.

This is a welcome step, though it falls well short of the billions of dollars required to help people rebuild their lives in the wake of climate disaster. We need to see wealthy countries make regular and substantial contributions to the fund if it is to deliver justice.

Among the announcements came the welcome news that the Scottish government will allocate funds to Tearfund to support survivors of the devastating floods in Pakistan last year. These vital funds, totaling £250,000, will enable communities who have suffered enormous losses to rebuild their lives.

What next?

Following this year's COP, we will be holding leaders to account on all that was promised and everything that was left undone, until the next set of discussions at COP29 in Azerbaijan in 2024.

The climate crisis is part of the interconnected crises that we face on a global scale – rising poverty, inequality, environmental destruction – but we believe the church can be the most powerful agent for change.

That's why we're inviting hundreds of thousands of churches around the world to connect, speak out together and hold the powerful to account, changing the trajectory of this century through a [Restorative revolution](#).



Answers to last week's quiz

1. Which company has the advertising slogan 'Every little helps' = **Tesco**
2. How many rings make up the Olympic symbol = **5**
3. In the long-established grade of pencils, what letter apart from H and B are used = **F**
4. What is the four-letter word in Italian cuisine for a meat-based sauce = **Ragu**
5. Who won the Best Actor Oscar for Philadelphia and Forest Gump = **Tom Hanks**

This week's Quiz

General Knowledge.

1. Which band had a hit with 'Have I the right' : The Honeycombs, The Honeys or Honeywells
2. What is the Snellen chart used for . Is it hearing, smelling or eye test
3. In Ancient Rome what was a quadriga used for : Carriage, four Chariot or Pastimes
4. India shares land border with six countries. Nepal, China and Pakistan are three. What are the other three
5. What 1960s American pop group created the surfing sound: The Surfaris, Beach Boys or The Ventures
Good Luck

ECO Tip

Are you responsible for more or less than the average UK carbon footprint of 12 tonnes CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent)? Challenge yourself to reduce by 1 tonne this year. Climate Stewards have an easy to use carbon calculator

www.climatestewards.org

NOTICES

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent by **Tuesday 6th February 2024**

to notices@dorcanchurch.org.uk

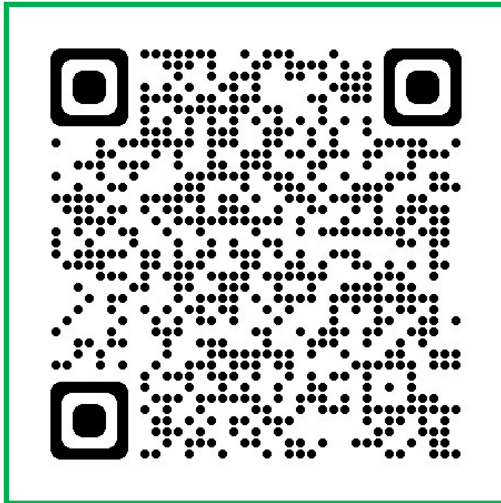
Thank you.

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