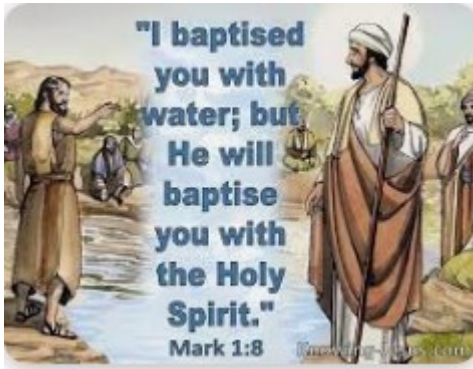




St. Paul's, Covingham
 St. Timothy's, Liden
www.dorcanchurch.org.uk

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



**SERVICES - Sunday 10th December 2023
 Advent 2**

St. Paul's

10.30am	Holy Communion	Rev Stuart Fisher
4.00pm	Messy Nativity	Messy Team

St Tim's

10.00am	Messy Nativity	Messy Team
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**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 17th December 2023 Advent 3		
St Paul's		
08.45am	Advent Reflections	Rev Moira Slack
6.00pm	Carol Service	Deacon Stephen Roe
St Tim's		
10.30am	Carol Service & Communion	Rev Trudie Wigley & Paul Taylor LLM

Please pray for our clergy as they minister to our wider Church family today 17th December, Stephen is at Stratton supporting the wider Circuit.

What's On This Week		
Monday 11th December	Time	Event
St Paul's	9.00am - 1.00pm & 6.00pm - 8.00pm	Christmas Toy Distribution
St Tim's	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Knit and Chat
Tuesday 12th December	Time	Event
St Paul's	11.00am - 3.00pm	Christmas Toy Distribution
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 Paul's	7.45pm - 9.45pm	Bible Study & Prayer Group

What's On This Week (Continued)

Wednesday 13th December	Time	Event
St Paul's	9.00am - 1.00pm	Christmas Toy Distribution
St Paul's	10.00 - 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	7.30pm - 9.45pm	Men's Fellowship
Thursday 14th December	Time	Event
St Paul's	9.00am - 1.00pm	Christmas Toy Distribution
Friday 15th December	Time	Event
St Paul's	9.00am - 12.00pm	Covingham School Christmas Services
St Tim's	10.00am - 12.00pm	Food Collective - Paul

Christmas Cards

As indicated in previous notices, Christmas cards will be available in church from Sunday the 26th 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 or phone or text on 07810627671

Thank you in advance for your help
Dianne Lane

Angels and Stars

Thank you to those who have been busy making angels and stars for the community. Could we please have any outstanding ones by Tues 12th December ready for tagging and bagging to go out on the 17th.

Thank you for all your hard work!

Deb and team



Toy Appeal

Once again we are to thank you all for your amazing generosity in donating toys and gifts to the toy appeal. Two car loads of toys were taken to the Bible Society on Monday to be pooled with others, sorted and redistributed to centres for families too choose their gifts. Thank you so much again for responding to this appeal.

Dianne Lane

A Service of Worship with baptism

Dear all,

I have a baptism booked for Christmas Eve at 10.30am. We welcome The Mudd family, Ian, Charlotte and Isaac and especially Milo as he is baptised into the family of Christ.

I have decided to make this service a 'service of worship with baptism', therefore 'open' to the congregation, as per the family request that all who can are welcome to attend. It will be a special service made even more special by the onset of Christmas.

God bless,
Stuart

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.

Living in Love and Faith:

Over the last couple of weeks you may have seen some news in the press following the November Church of England's General Synod regarding "Prayers of Love and Faith" for those in same-sex relationships. This is one particular aspect of the CofE's journey in exploring Identity, Sexuality, Relationships and Marriage. It can be difficult to follow and understand the decisions being made, and the legal canonical processes, so I have therefore written a paper to try and clarify where we are and this will be circulated shortly. I recognise that the paper would benefit from a summary section, however in the interest of getting it to you now rather than closer to Christmas, and with the House of Bishops meeting next week when there may potentially be some further developments, I wanted to get it to you as soon as possible. I would be very happy to have a conversation with you. Please do pray for those LGBTQA+ people who have been, and continue to be hurt in many different ways, and for the leaders within the CofE for wisdom, compassion and openness as they find a path forward.

Trudie Wigley

Congregational Meeting from 17th 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 16th November and there are paper copies available in both centres for those who do not receive emails. Our next ECC meeting is on Monday 27th November and we will be looking 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

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 17th 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 20th 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 .

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

Continued from overleaf

- 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.

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.

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 16th 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.

Continued on next page

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.

Scout Stamps

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

Diane

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



Answers to last 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 3 etc.

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

This week's quiz

Christmas

1. An orange is used to make a Christingle – what does it represent
2. Charles Dickens is said to have considered the names Little Larry and Puny Pete for which character?
3. In terms of the number of words, which Gospel in the New Testament is the longest ?
4. According to the Bible, which of Jesus' apostles was a tax collector ?
5. In which of the four Gospels do the wise men visit Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus

ECO Tip

This Advent ponder on Jesus' coming to be with us on earth. How are we preparing His creation for Him to live with us here? Pray for grace and wisdom to play your part in caring for creation.

NOTICES

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent by **Tuesday 12th December 2023**

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