



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

Transforming lives and communities
Knowing Jesus and making Him known

There was a man sent from God
whose name was John.
He came as a witness to testify
concerning that light,
so that through him
all might believe.
He himself was not the light;
he came only as a witness to the light.

John 1:6-8 NIV



John 1 v 6-8 & 19-28

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 Tayler LLM

Please pray for our clergy as they minister to our wider Church family today December, Stephen is at Stratton 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 24th December 2023 Advent 4 - Christmas Eve		
St Paul's		
10.30am	Service of Worship with baptism of Milo	Rev Stuart Fisher
4.30pm	Christingle	Rev Trudie Wigley & Deacon Stephen Roe
11.30pm	Midnight Mass with Communion	Rev Stuart Fisher
St Tim's		
3.00pm	Christingle	Rev Trudie Wigley & Deacon Stephen Roe

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

What's On This Week		
Monday 18th December	Time	Event
Dorcan Academy	6.00pm - 10.00pm	Carol Service - Rev Trudie Wigley
Tuesday 19th 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

What's On This Week (Continued)

Wednesday 20th December	Time	Event
St Paul's St Paul's St Paul's	10.00am - 11.00am 6.00pm - 7.30pm 7.30pm - 9.00pm	Morning Prayers Blaze for School year 2 - 6 Youth Club for School Year 7+
Friday 22nd December	Time	Event
St Tim's	10.00am - 12.00pm	Food Collective - Paul
Saturday 23rd December	Time	Event
		Christingle Preparation

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

St Tim's Prayer Group

The Prayer Group at St Tim's will not be meeting over the holiday period. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th January at 2pm. We will then meet every other week.

Brenda Phillips

Christmas Cards

A big thank you to those who worked hard to deliver the Christmas cards to almost every home in the parish. Your efforts is greatly appreciated.

Thank you most kindly.

Dianne Lane

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

Happy Birthday

Last Sunday George O'Neil celebrated a significant birthday. We all wish you a Very Happy Birthday George.

A wonderful idea showing our appreciation. Get in touch if you would like to wish a member of our church family a happy birthday or anniversary.

CHRISTMAS UNWRAPPED

Thank you so much to all who were involved in any of the 7 sessions. Thank you too to those who helped in preparation and prayed. All the feedback has been positive. One staff member said she had begged to come despite not being in the right age group! Over 180 8- and 9-year-olds came and clearly enjoyed the experience.

We aim to have a meeting in January 2024 for a debrief as well as planning for next year!

Watch this space!

Sue and Diane

And thank you Sue and Diane for all your work and commitment in co-ordinating the team! It is appreciated.

Trudie

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.

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.

Nathalie Marshall

A Christmas gift from our church family – thank you!

One of our church family has been busy being creative and is blessing us with some Christmas gifts. Some of you will have received them last week, and there are more at both centres this coming Sunday – please do take one! Their love and encouragement in making these gifts for us is appreciated and we shout out a massive THANK YOU to our secret angel in the Dorcan church!



Answers to last week's quiz

Christmas

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

This week's quiz

1. From which town did the Grinch steal Christmas?
2. In the song 'The Twelve Days Of Christmas', how many swans were a-swimming?
3. In which fictional land is it always winter but never Christmas?
4. On which date is Epiphany celebrated in the traditional Western calendar?
5. Scrooge never celebrated Christmas – what was his clerk called in 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens?

Good luck

ECO Tip

Watch your shopping trolley. In the UK our food spend increases by 16% in December, make sure you are not over catering and that extras are not going to end up in the bin.

NOTICES

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent by **Tuesday 19th 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