



**St. Paul's Covingham
St. Timothy's, Liden**
www.dorcanchurch.org.uk
6th December, 2015

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



2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

*“Someone is shouting in the desert:
‘Get the road ready for the Lord;
make a straight path for him to travel!’”*
(Luke 3:4 – Good news version)

SERVICES - 6th December

St. Paul's

10.30am United Holy Communion Revds. Andrew Wigley and
Mark Barrett

This morning we welcome Revd Mark Barrett, Superintendent Minister of the North Wiltshire Methodist Circuit and Chair of Swindon Churches Together.

4.00pm Informal worship Rev'ds Trudie and
Andrew Wigley

Lectionary Malachi 3: 1-4 Luke 3: 1-6
Readings Philippians 1: 3-11
6th Dec.

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.**

Cakes wanted Sunday Dec. 13th for Teachers in the Schools in the Dorcan Parish . It shows them we care and appreciate their hard work for our local children. Please contact Margaret (532849)or Leila (430350) if more info. needed.

For your prayers:

- *For this Advent time:* that we may herald the good news of Jesus to those around us
- *For Syria:* thinking particularly of events this past week
- *For those unwell:* for healing, and the medical staff who care for those who are poorly
- *For local businesses:* thinking particularly of Royal Mail in the parish as the staff start a busy few weeks

Safeguarding Officer – Sandra Marshall:

After over 10 years of serving us so well as our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Sandra Marshall will be stepping down at the end of this year. Over this time, there have been many changes to the law and guidelines surrounding this important area, and Sandra has done an amazing job keeping on top of this, as well as ensuring our processes and approaches reflect what we need to do, and that we all receive the relevant training.

It is hard to thank Sandra enough for all that she has done, and for her diligence and putting so much of herself into a role that has changed and expanded since she took it on.

A massive thank you to you Sandra for who you are, and all that you have done as you have served in this role.

Safeguarding going forward:

With Sandra stepping down and the changes to Safeguarding over recent years, we are looking at a new approach to the area of safeguarding at The Dorcan church. This will see the overall role and its responsibilities shared within a team into manageable areas.

At the current time, we see three main areas of focus: the first being to keep an eye on changes to national policy and ensuring our policies and procedures are up to date; the second being that of Recruitment involving DBS checks and reference; and the third being pastoral support.

This will be a new ways of doing things, so please do pray for this area of our church life going forward, and for those who may feel this is an area they are called to serve in. Thank you for your support and prayers. *Trudie Wigley*

The Revd John Monaghan on placement:

We are delighted to share that John will be joining us on placement throughout Lent next year. John is currently a training curate in his third year at Malmesbury Abbey and will be joining us to experience “being and doing” church in a different context. John is married to Alice, also a priest, and they have 3 young children. We look forward to welcoming John next year and getting to know him.

2015 accounts and 2016 Budget:

Last week ECC approved our financial budget for 2016, that will enable and support the mission and ministry of God’s church in Dorcan and thank you to everyone for your generous giving to support this.

In the meantime, we need to start closing off our 2015 accounts, so if you have any expenses yet to claim, or monies that need paying in, please could you liaise with Tony Prichard? With grateful thanks.

Dedication of New Chairs

Last Sunday we dedicated the new chairs at St Paul’s and St Timothy’s and we give thanks for all those who made this happen. We are in the process of putting together a framed print showing the names of those in whose memory some of the donations have been made, and this print will be displayed in each of the churches. Please see Diane or Viv to check the details on the list.

"Members of our Cell Group, together with Revd Andrew Wigley, are going to **sing Carols with the residents of Edgehill Nursing Home**, Liden on Thursday 17th December at 6.30pm. In the past this has been a very humbling and enjoyable event and we would love it if more people could join us. If lifts are required please ring me on 644024 and I will arrange them. You don't need a perfect singing voice - just enthusiasm"
Colleen Wiseman

Heating at St.Paul’s

We are delighted that we have proper heating at St Paul’s again. We will be tuning the system over the coming weeks, but please note that the temperature has been set so that you don’t need to wear your coat! There is still some finishing off work to do, but at least we have heat again. Please pass any feedback to Diane or Tony, or one of our stewards. Andrew

Shoe Boxes

Thank you for all the boxes the Dorcan Church have sent in - they have sent off 4002 boxes this year to **Ukraine, Liberia and Albania** last weekend. This means there are lots of children who will be thrilled to receive a present this year.
Christine P.



New Years Eve Party
Dec 31st 8pm –12pm
St Paul's Centre

**Bring and share supper (and your own drinks)
quiz, family games and dancing!**

All welcome for a fun family evening.

**please let us know if you are coming
so we know numbers.**

Margaret & Ray

532849



Building God's House

We continue to work together, Building God's House. There are many good things happening, so please do read and take away the leaflets that were made available last week. In case you missed it, here are the various leaflets:

An update on progress: including an invitation to take and distribute leaflets giving details of Christmas Services.

A reference leaflet: if you would like a summary of the outcomes and ideas from our Awayday in September then please take one

A statement leaflet: this provides the statement of our Identity, Purpose, Values and Picture of Church, which was shared on the Awayday

Our focus up until Christmas is Outreach, so please do invite your friends and neighbours along, and pick up a handful of our bright Christmas publicity leaflets. In the New Year and through Lent we will look at Discipleship.

I am following Barbara's brave but so sensible decision about Christmas

cards. We would also rather put a donation to a charity and will put one card for St Timothy's where we have been so warmly accepted and one card for St Paul's where we have always felt part of the crowd.

Forgive me but this also lifts a great burden from my mind as I Elizabeth really struggle with all the writing. It is so nice to be able to send to folk we do not see all year but I am sure we will all meet at one service or another in December.

God bless you all, *Elizabeth & Tom*

AND ALSO -

Dianne Lane & Maureen Tayler have decided not to send Christmas cards

to individual members of our church family but to include you all in one card each. This will cut back on recycling & benefit our chosen charities.

Hope this meets with your approval.

**Future Dates for the diary
As at December 2015**

Sunday 6th December 2015

Rev'd Mark Barrett, Superintendent North Wiltshire Circuit
Preaching at our United Service

Thursday 31st December 2015

New Year's Eve Party at St. Paul's

Thursday 25th February 2016

Deanery Synod

Tuesday 1st March 2016

Methodist Presbyteral Synod

Saturday 23rd April 2016

Methodist Representative Synod

Sunday 24th April 2016

Dorcan Annual General Meeting

Saturday 7th May 2016

Bristol Diocese Synod

Saturday 16th May 2016

Safeguarding Leadership Training (SG2) at St Paul's 10-4pm
For Churchwardens, LLMs, supervisors/leaders of children & young people's work
or work with vulnerable adults

7th February 2016

United Covenant Sunday. St. Paul's

Eye of the Needle Lectures - New College

18th February 2016 7.30pm Rev'd Dr Leslie Griffiths. Living in Divided Worlds?

2nd March 2016 7.30pm Rt. Rev'd Michael Doe. Being economical about the truth or truthful
about the economy? God & Money.

14th March 2016 7.30pm. Rev'd Dr. Michael Lloyd. The Mission of the Church in a
contemporary society. Facing the big challenges together.

6th July 2016

Ecumenical Confirmations St Johns, Parks & Walcot

Friday 16th-Sunday 18th September 2016

Dorcan church 50th anniversary weekend! Hold the date.

10th September 2016 - Methodist Representative Synod

24th September Bristol Diocesan Synod

3rd December 2016 Bristol Diocesan Synod

www.justpray.uk #Just pray:

Have you seen this website or twitter account? This initiative has been launched by the Church of England to encourage prayer and a film based on the Lord's Prayer was to have been shown in cinemas across the UK ahead of the new StarWars release. You will have seen in the press that it will now not be shown on the grounds of possibly offending those of differing faiths or no faiths.

Have you seen the film? If not, visit the website and see for yourself. **What do you think? What is your reaction to the fact that it is now not to be shown?** Prayer is part of our discipleship and relationship with God, so please do think about using this site to ask for prayer and to pray for others – it is immensely encouraging to be supported by other brothers and sisters as we unite in prayer.

And as for the film not being shown in cinemas?.....it has now hit 2.9m viewing on the website, the Lord's prayer has been all over the news and people are talking about it. Rather a wonderful outcome perhaps!



Amazing, Incredible, Fantastic, Brilliant,

We raised £1772.39

Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you

Diane

Carol Service 6pm Sunday 20th December

Refreshments will be available after this service; we would appreciate donations of mince pies, and biscuits please. Many thanks *Diane*

We will be making Christingles on 23rd Dec, 9.30am in the church.

These will be given out during the 4pm service Christmas Eve . If you would like to help ,please give your name to Pam or me. All ages welcome.

Thank you *Sandra*

All items for inclusion in the next notices should be sent to
Anna Newman by Thursday 10th December

Tel 695698 or email anagram673@hotmail.co.uk

(please let me know if you would like to receive notices by email)