

Summary Profile of Dorcan Church



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

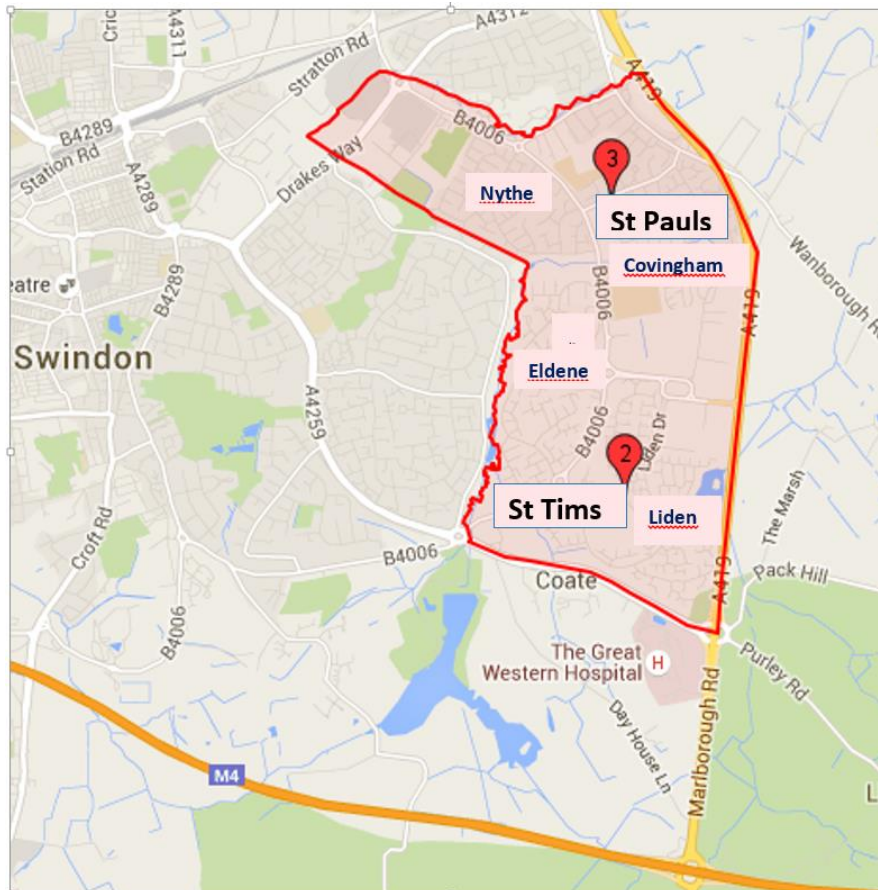
Background

Dorcan parish is situated in East Swindon, 4km from the town centre, with main roads and a dual carriageway effectively marking the boundaries of the parish. The parish is 3.5km from north-south and 1.5km east-west, and is the home to a population of c 17,000 people, as well as light industry and business offices. The parish comprises four main housing areas: Covingham, Eldene, Liden and Nythe, all of which were built in the last 50-60 years. Each urban village has a local primary school and a few local shops, and Dorcan Academy Secondary School serves the whole area.

The church serves the community through two 1970s worship centres – St Paul's in Covingham and St Timothy's in Liden. Whilst we are under the governance of the Church of England, we are an Ecumenical congregation under a Co-operative Scheme between the Church of England and the Methodist Church.

St Paul's, Covingham is our largest building, and also serves as the local Community Centre. As well as a worship space, there are a number of rooms for hire and we are a popular venue for all sorts of local activities

St Timothy's Liden is our smaller and more intimate setting, and a part of the local Community Centre, which includes a library, social club, local radio and rooms for hire.



Church-run activities

Both churches are busy places, and in both centres, we run:

- Tiny Tots, a parent/carer and baby/toddler group, hosting a total of around 40 children and 50 adults each week
- CiD's Café, a community drop in space with refreshments and awesome cake, with around 50 adults.

At St Paul's we also lead a fortnightly youth group which 40 teenagers attend;

At St Timothy's we host Messy Church which 40 people gather at as their church, and a monthly Knit and Chat.

In addition, we have very good relationships with our local schools – primary and secondary - and a significant ministry. In our primary schools:

- we hold a number of regular assemblies
- schools attend the two churches for their Harvest and Christmas celebrations, and also 'Christmas Unwrapped' and 'Easter Cracked Open' events to learn more about the Christian faith
- we support year 6 classes by running Scripture Union 'It's Your Move' sessions as they navigate the change from primary to secondary school.

Community activities

The St Paul's Church and Community Centre has an expansive space, and in addition to the Worship Area the building has a large hall, small hall, snug and kitchen for hire, and is in frequent use by local community groups – particularly as it is accessible, has a car park and is centrally located. We have over 20 regular bookings and users of our rooms include Kingfisher Pre School, North Dorcan Senior Citizens fellowship, dance groups, exercise classes, a singing group, birthday parties, private hire for meetings etc. The building is also used as an NHS Blood donation centre and is a polling station.

St Timothy's is a smaller venue with a room for hire, and is currently used for community meetings, a regular exercise class and a church-volunteer run Distribution Centre for the Swindon Food Collective.

Safeguarding

Good Safeguarding practice is central to the mission and ministry of Dorcan church. The Safeguarding Team works to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are safe in our churches, and that all those who are survivors of abuse are listened to, valued and supported. Ultimately, safeguarding remains the legal responsibility of the Parochial Church Council.

With our extensive mission and ministry to children and young people, as well as vulnerable adults, it means that there are more than 50 volunteers working in various roles within the Dorcan Church. Each one has been safely recruited (which includes a DBS check if necessary), has completed safeguarding training at the required level, and attends a refresher course every three years. This is a significant commitment on top of the service they are giving and we are grateful to everyone who is prepared to set time and energy aside for this important work.

This also needs careful documentation and appropriate record-keeping and we use two Church of England-wide tools to support us:

The Parish Dashboard: An online tool, that helps to keep track of safeguarding in the church and keeps us up to date with local and national changes in safeguarding requirements

The Hub: a suite of tools to keep track of training and DBS records for all volunteers and workers, and the safer recruitment process for new appointments.

Whilst we have a sound foundation in safeguarding, thanks to the work of the Safeguarding Team and our previous Parish Safeguarding Co-ordination Officer (PSO), we are however conscious that our processes, procedures and record-keeping need reviewing and updating. We are therefore looking for someone to join the team to update our policies and practices, ensure that they are implemented. and to oversee and co-ordinate a hard-working and amazing safeguarding team.

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