



Woosehill Church Magazine

May - June 2016



*We are on Chestnut Ave, just around the corner
from The Hawthorns School.
All are welcome.*

Find us on our website
woosehillchurch.co.uk



Dear Church Family and all other readers,

As I write, our garden is covered in pink snow where the cherry blossom is drifting off the tree in the breeze. We British are renowned and even ridiculed for talking endlessly about the weather but we are indeed fortunate to experience the changing seasons, the beauty of the countryside and even, or perhaps especially, the rain. As Christian Aid week approaches - and it will probably have passed by the time you read this - let's not forget how blessed we are, and spare a thought and a prayer for those in other lands who are not so fortunate.

Christian Aid tells us:

"Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and not just the ones next door or at the end of the street. Christian Aid Week unites over 20,000 churches to put this love in to action. " I know I am not alone in finding house to house collecting challenging and a bit scary, but it is as nothing compared to the suffering of many who will benefit from the money raised, so I will try to remember that and maintain a cheerful face - a chance to shine the light of Christianity in the street where I live.

God Bless,

Val

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

15 July 2016

Articles as usual preferably by

e-mail to:

valerie.weedon@btinternet.com

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Pattern of Services at Woosehill Church

Keep an eye out in the newsletter for more up to date information too.

1st Sunday:

8.45am Holy Communion

10am Morning Worship

2nd Sunday:

10am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday

8.45am Holy Communion

10am Morning Worship

4th Sunday

10am Holy Communion

6.15pm Evening Reflective Worship

(5th Sunday)

10am Café Church

5.30 pm Suffolk Lodge service

We are a relaxed and friendly church; we welcome everybody into our church. We have an informal and friendly style of worship which aims to be inclusive to all. Many of our services have a children's activity and we have a popular Sunday club most weeks in term time.

Woosehill Church is an Anglican – Methodist partnership; witnesses together of God's love here on Woosehill and beyond.



Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends

A while back I heard The Bishop of Chelmsford, Stephen Cottrell speak at a meeting about evangelism and something that he said struck me as particularly interesting.

A churchgoer had asked him how they could gain a deeper understanding of the Christian faith; I think perhaps they were expecting suggestions of books to read or study courses to attend, so the Bishop's reply was interesting. He told the enquirer to "go and live the Christian life more joyfully and share it more effectively"

He hastened to add to us that it is important for us as Christians to study our faith; we need to read the Bible, discuss it with others, listen to what theologians have to teach us and use our intelligence to question, challenge and deepen our understanding of what we believe.

But:

"Go and live the Christian faith more joyfully". This reminds me of Jesus' words that he came to give us life in all its fullness. When people come to our church community do they find it to be a joyful place and do they find us to be joyful people? Or would they hear us moaning and complaining about the weather or the preacher or our aches and pains? And would the people we meet day by day recognise a sense of joy in us. Our joyfulness is not necessarily about being endlessly up beat and cheerful, that would be impossible because we all have to deal with challenge, sadness and disappointment in our lives.

Yet even within these challenges I believe that it is possible for us to live joyful lives because we believe that God loves us, and that he has a purpose for us which enables us to be positive about the future whatever it holds.

"Share it more effectively." This might mean being more proactive and confident in talking about our faith with others? Or being able to articulate the difference that God makes in our life and being willing to share that with others? It not always an easy thing to do but I guess Bishop Stephen was hinting that it's often when you try to explain something to someone else that you gain a greater understanding yourself. I used to quite enjoy helping James and Hannah revise for school exams. I learnt a lot about their subjects and hoped that explaining them to me enabled their knowledge and understanding to grow. We don't need to know all the answers but I'm sure we could all become more effective in sharing our faith with others.



So I offer you a challenge to live the Christian faith more joyfully and share it more effectively. For I have a hunch that if we all did this, then our faith and our church community would become far more attractive to others – our faith would grow and our church community would too.

With every blessing

Catherine

Rev'd Catherine Bowstead

A Busman's holiday?



Shortly after Easter, I took a short break in Rome. Something of a busman's holiday you might think; spending a week trailing around and attending services in various churches, but it was my first time in Rome, my first time in Italy, and a hugely eye opening experience.

Now I grew up going to church. I consider myself reasonably church-literate. There is little out there that would confuse me - I've experienced high mass with processions dripping with lace around Oxford Street, and morning worship with tambourines and flag waving. I've experienced services in ancient chapels on wind-swept Scottish islands, and some in a school just off Lisson Grove.

To say that I had assumed I was 'au fait' with Christian belief and practise would be an understatement. Oh, and I'm a vicar in the Church of England.

But nothing could quite prepare me for Rome. If nothing else, the sheer volume of clergy is overwhelming. Normally in the United Kingdom, there is an unspoken bond between two wearers of 'dog collars'. If two clergy pass in the street, regardless of denomination, their eyes meet; world weary and full of exhaustion, and the silent nod that is exchanged says something along the lines of "Tch! Don't see many of us around do you! Keep your chin up pal!" Before you both hurry on with your day.

Not so in Rome! Macho clean-cut American Abercrombie styled priests lead around pilgrimage groups of adoring women. Stern looking nuns stride around purposefully; earnest young clergy emerge from the ecclesiastical outfitters in shiny new cassocks. And nary a glance is exchanged between any of them. There



are simply too many! Clergy roaming the streets is just too normal a sight, and to greet all of them on the road would add an hour to any journey.

Not that I didn't keep trying. I kept attempting to make eye contact, kept preparing my face for the little friendly nod-come-eye-roll that I've perfected over the years. But nothing.

Until, out of the blue, a man walking towards me nodded and smiled, paused, and said to me "Padre, will you pray?" (In English. I must look English.) I spent some time talking and praying with the man before he went on his way and I on mine.

As I rounded the next corner I realised I wasn't wearing my collar. I was in mufti that day, and yet had an encounter far more meaningful than a smile and a nod with a fellow cleric.

Rome this is not. But you will, on occasion spot a vicar in a collar pottering around Waitrose. I challenge you to do more than smile and nod, because sometimes, whether we mean to or not, we're looking in the wrong places for our encounters.

Paddy



Morning Prayer

Starting the day in prayer is an ancient Christian tradition which people have always found to be a firm foundation for the day. It roots us in God and strengthens us for all that lies ahead. In the parish we share Morning Prayer at 8.30am (at St Paul's on Mon, Tues and Thurs, and at Woosehill on a Wed). The service lasts about 20 minutes and includes readings, prayer and canticles. If you'd like to find out more then please speak to a member of the clergy, or to one of the congregation who already come. Or why not just turn up and join in?

Richard

A small group of us meet regularly at Woosehill on Wednesday mornings in term time, before the Tadpoles session. You are most welcome to join us! **Val**



Yeldall Manor Open Day, 2nd July

Where can you have a fun afternoon for all the family that is also inspiring and uplifting?

Come along to Yeldall Manor on Saturday 2nd July from 1pm (plenty of free parking) and start your afternoon with a pulled pork lunch (or bring a picnic). Then have a go at the games and activities – this year they are free as a ‘thank you’ to all our supporters – penalty shoot-out, golf, coconut shy, and a Yeldall photo booth. There will be things to buy including wonderful hanging baskets, handmade cakes and craft items. The Coach House will also be open throughout the afternoon, showcasing Chissock Woodcraft and the different services on offer there.

For the youngsters, there will be activities like face-painting and a bouncy castle to enjoy, whilst those preferring something more sedate can check out some classic cars or enjoy a cuppa and a chat on the lawn. It’s a great chance to catch up with friends old and new and learn more about the work of this local Christian drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre.

At 3.30pm, we move into the marquee for our Celebration service. There will be rousing worship and uplifting testimony as well as updates on life here at Yeldall Manor. At about 4.45pm, we will round off the afternoon with a strawberry tea enjoyed on the main lawn.

We hope that you’ll be able to stay all afternoon but, even if you come for just part, we know you will have a great time and hopefully go away inspired.

For more information, or if you can spare an hour to help on one of the stalls, do contact suehedger@yeldall.org.uk / 0118 940 1093.
Find us on Blakes Lane, Hare Hatch (RG10 9TA for SatNav).



Bethany from the charity **Home for Good** came to talk to us at the Sunday service at Woosehill on 8 May. If you missed it, or would like to know more about this worthy charity, here is some more information from their website www.homeforgood.org.uk :

“Our vision is a home for every child who needs one. As we head toward this goal, this is what we want to see:

- The UK Church knowing that there are children waiting to be adopted and a desperate need for more foster families – particularly older children, children from ethnic minorities, sibling groups and children with additional needs – and are part of the solution.
- The myths surrounding adoption and fostering that exist, particularly among Christians, being dispelled, and churches having a better understanding of the assessment process and being supportive of social workers.
- More Christians choosing to adopt and foster, and are able to find an agency or local authority to adopt or foster with, and are connected with children who are waiting.
- The church being equipped to be a welcoming place, and a supportive community, for families who foster or adopt.
- People who foster and adopt being easily able to access a network of ‘soft’ support and knowing where they can turn to for professional support.
- Agencies and local authorities being better equipped to work with churches and assessing social workers having a better understanding of faith so can ask better questions during the assessment process.

We are child-focussed, faith-rooted, and dynamic innovators

We know that together we can achieve so much more. We dream together, we make decisions together and we work together. We celebrate diversity, respect differences and are generous with our ideas.”



THANK YOU

Thank you so very much to everyone for your support during the recent final illness and ultimately passing away of my father, Gordon. The cards, flowers, hugs, understanding smiles, listening, chats over coffee and, most importantly prayers were so very much appreciated. The comfort & peace that Steven & I, Mum and indeed the whole family felt from the knowledge that we were surrounded by prayer was simply immeasurable. Many of you know that I had written the eulogy for Dad's funeral. I desperately wanted to read it myself, but feared I may not be able to due to the emotion on the day, despite the knowledge that many people were praying for me.



However, when the moment came, as I stepped forward I felt such a sense of calm, peace, and Gods presence that I was able to read and say all that I wanted to say without hesitation. Such clear answer to prayer! If anyone is in any doubt about the power of prayer, I would be quite willing to discuss with you over coffee any Sunday morning !!

With love – and prayers

Alison



Faith in the
Community

**Encouraging Christians in Wokingham Borough to
Engage with their Communities**

Encourage is the first monthly Faith in the Community Wokingham Borough newsletter. Each month we will be sharing projects, groups and support systems provided by Christians across the Borough. This is your resource; to tell the community what you are doing and to find out what might be useful for people you are supporting. Share this on your website, within your own communications and across the social media networks AND keep sending us your good news. Each month Encourage will have focus on one area of need being tackled in our community. This month... Loneliness

faithinthecommunitywokingham.co.uk/encourage-newsletter-may-2016/



Hot-Cross Commuters Wokingham Methodist Church

Commuters were given a tasty treat in the lead up to Easter, thanks to members of Wokingham Methodist Church.

More than 800 hot cross buns were handed out at Wokingham Station. This is the third year that members of the Church have taken part in the early morning giveaway.

It was coordinated by Rose Street Church's community and outreach worker, Andy Knight, who said: "It is an important and established part of the church's calendar. People look forward to it.

"The reaction seems to get better every year. People say they wonder what day we will be here - it's been very, very positive.

The buns, which are packed with a napkin telling the Easter story, were prepared by 16 volunteers on Monday and Mr Knight said that it was a fast activity.

"We broke our own record for assembly with a time of just 1 hour 35 minutes. It knocked an hour off the previous best!"

From The Buzz - news from Methodist Churches around the country



WOW

'Women of Woosehill' is a social group meeting once a month. Events start at 8pm unless otherwise stated. All women welcome.

Watch out for more details in the weekly newsletter.

June Midsummer walk and drink to Dinton Pastures and Wheelwright's Arms. Contact Chris on 0118 9783305 or Amy on 0118 9619987

July Alfresco Evening at 26 Camellia Way

Contact Lyn Brown on 0118 9782816 or
lynus@btinternet.com



August Games evening - details to be arranged.

September Early Autumn walk

Contact suefalquero@yahoo.co.uk



October Cake Tasting at 4 Tiffany Close. Contact Lynne Paine 0118

9774257, lynnepaine@yahoo.co.uk or
jennyamassey@hotmail.com



November Christmas gift wrapping at Woosehill Church

Contact gillian_payne @msn.com 0118 9619100



December Beer and Carols at the Leathern Bottel ?

TBA Louise and Mike Cole?





Church @ 4

Invite you to join them for
Afternoon Tea for the Queen!


 THE QUEEN'S
 90TH BIRTHDAY
 CELEBRATION

Sunday 12th June 2016
4pm
The Bradbury Centre
Tickets £5
(Under 12s £3)

Tickets may be purchased in advance via 'Church @ 4'
or the Coffee House (In the Bradbury Centre)

 Wokingham
 Methodist Church

Wokingham Methodist Church invite you to join them in celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday. All are welcome.

Wokingham Foodbank



The list of requirements changes regularly and will certainly do so during the life of this magazine so please check for updates on wokingham.foodbank.org.uk

This is the list currently on the website:

Longlife (UHT)milk, coffee, tinned carrots, 500g sugar
Deodorant, toothbrushes disposable razors, shampoo, hair conditioner
Dog food.



Toddler Groups

Lets think about praying with and for babies and under fives as we approach June, the National Month of Prayer for Toddler Groups, of course, remembering that Toddler Groups are NOT Church Sunday School.

Our own Tadpoles group, which is for parents, grandparents and carers as much as the children, hosts up to 20 families every Wednesday morning in term time. These values drawn up by a group in Oxford closely match our own here at Woosehill:

Mission

Belonging: To create a community through which parents, carers and toddlers come to know Christ's love.

Vision

Building a community of friendship and support in order to love and nurture those who attend.

Recognise and release God's presence

Integrity – being a transparent Christian community whose lives display Christ's love.

Drawing others into the community of the Church by providing a friendly meeting place.

Giving children, their parents and carers the opportunity to discover stories about God from the Bible.

Enabling people to develop a ministry where they can use the gifts God has given them in the service of others.

Values

Prayer. This should be a ministry soaked in prayer, praying for the parents, carers and children.

Service. Showing God's transforming love and grace; being accessible to all.

Compassion and care for all.

Evangelism. Using our lives to show the hope of the Good News to people wherever they are on their journey.

Acceptance. Welcoming and valuing those from every race, culture and religion.

Encouraging people to be active and participating members of the group.

Our group is led by Val, Sue Youle and Doreen-we always welcome extra help!



A Prayer for Peace

For an end to violence, let us pray:

For an end to bombs on buses
For an end to knives in backpacks
For an end to cars used as weapons
For an end to checkpoints
For an end to land stealing
For an end to home demolitions
For an end to walls built through vineyards
For an end to guns pointed at children
For an end to wages which do not cover basic bills
For an end to religious incitement
For an end to complacency in the face of injustice
For an end to acceptance of quiet in the place of peace
For an end to violence of every kind
Against all people
In every form
Even when it doesn't make the news

Let us pray:
Lord, hear our prayer.



Source unknown



What am I doing here? ***

I have just read this little book, written by Hilary Brand with entertaining cartoons by Dave Walker. The blurb on the back says “ Have you ever wondered what church is all about? Ever found yourself wondering what on earth is going on - and what is the point of it all?”

What am I doing here? is a beginner’s guide to church, written by an ordinary pew-dweller who has asked the same questions as you.”

Actually I don’t think you need to be a beginner at church to get something out of this book. I particularly enjoyed the bit on The Peace (“bear in mind it is not a competition to shake as many hands as possible!”) I quote:

- Maybe you need to make peace with someone, to offer an apology or rebuild a broken relationship.
- Maybe now is the time to welcome a stranger. Even if you feel a bit of a newcomer yourself, you can still make someone else feel welcome.
- Some people’s body language will signal that they don’t want anyone to get too close. Maybe they are shy. Maybe they need to use this time to get right with God. Show by keeping your distance that you respect who and where they are.
- Maybe it is appropriate to dare a hug, even with someone you hardly know. For some people this may be the only physical contact with another human being that they get all week.
- Don’t be afraid of an added word here or there either. It’s an ideal time to offer appreciation or praise.
- Perhaps you can comfort someone who is hurting. Watch for signs of need. Don’t be afraid to spend time just with one person if they need it.
- And don’t be afraid of letting your own need show. All of us are vulnerable at one time or another and it’s nothing to be ashamed of. It’s our common humanity we’re sharing here.

*****Church House Publishing @ £4.99, or borrow from me - Val**



The Great Woosehill Bake Off!

On May 12th a group of ladies from the WOW group had an evening decorating cup cakes at the Brown Bear Bakery in Holme Grange Craft Village. I think all of us would agree that Mary Berry has no need to be worried just yet, but it was a fun and relaxing evening.



Rees Tyrrell's volunteer trip

On the 15th of August until the 9th of September this year Gavin and Debbie's son Rees will be undertaking a placement in Bali with the volunteering organisation SLV. Rees is currently studying psychology at Birmingham City University and so this will give him important hands on experience that is hard to come by in psychology.

The focus of the placement is psychiatry and much of his time in Bali will be spent working in a psychiatric hospital. The rest of his time will be divided between teaching English and working with children who have developmental disabilities. In the first week of the placement they will be staying in the staff wing of a Balinese hospital before spending the other three in a homestay with a Balinese family.

Rees is seeking sponsorship to help fund his trip; the volunteering company charges £1400 to be put on a team and to have accommodation during the week. This payment does not include flights (£700), accommodation at weekends, food aside from the two meals provided a day, travel insurance, vaccinations, or any other expenses. Rees would be very grateful if anybody were willing to sponsor him and help him fulfil his goal.

Please talk to Gavin or Debs for information about how to sponsor Rees.



2016 Sermon Series at St Paul's church

**“Horrible Heresies : why what we believe really matters”
as part of Choral Evensong at 6.15 pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month.**

The series continues;

June 19th The Rev'd Bob Armstrong.

Bob works for Church Innovations in the USA. An ordained Presbyterian pastor, Bob brings over 30 years of experience working in local churches in Michigan and Ohio. Steeped in the church-growth movement for 20+ years, Bob brings his understanding of those dynamics to the challenge of shifting a church's focus from survival to growth to confident missional engagement. He is leading us through the PMC process in the parish and it's going to be hugely exciting to have him preach here.

July 17th The Rev'd Dr Helen Orchard

“All smiting and vengeance: why bother with the Old Testament today?”

Helen has been Team Vicar of St Matthew's Church in the Wimbledon Team Ministry since 2011. She trained at Westcott House, was ordained in 2003 and was previously Chaplain-Fellow at Exeter College, Oxford. Her publications include works on John's Gospel and spirituality and healthcare.

“Christians often feel uncomfortable with parts of the Hebrew Bible: there is more blood and guts than many can stomach and God does not seem very 'nice' in places. Why not dispense with it altogether?”

Further dates in the series:

September 18th

The Rev'd Dr Robert Mackley

October 16th

The Rev'd Kate Harrison

November 20th

The Rev'd Graeme Fancourt



FIRST STEPS

Calling all Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Childminders!

Do you enjoy singing songs and doing actions with your child?

Do you enjoy meeting with other carers and their children?

Do you enjoy sharing with your children in creating works of art?

Then the place to be is

**St. Paul's on the second Thursday of each month during term time,
9.15 – 10.15 am.**

Enjoy the chance to meet and chat with others over a cup of tea or coffee and give your children the opportunity to familiarise themselves with church in a gentle, fun, friendly way.

We really would love to see you and you will be made very welcome.

Hope to see you there soon!

9th June

14th July

For more information call Rev. Richard Lamey 0118 327 9116
or Liz Gallagher 0118 989 1176.



Dates for your diary

Saturday 2nd July, at 6pm Ordination of Julie Mintern (our new Curate) at Oxford Cathedral

Saturday 9th July Loving Wokingham event – Market Place

Sunday 10th July Parish BBQ and welcome to Julie and Keith Mintern.

Saturday 16th July PMC Away day for PCC members – all three churches



**Come As You aRe
(CAYR)**

The next CAYR is **7 - 8.30pm** on **7 June** at St Paul's Parish rooms.

All people with additional needs aged 13 and over and carers very warmly welcome.

No charge.

**Contact Rev Judi Hattaway.
Phone: 0118 976 1197 or email
judihattaway@mac.com**

Emm Fellowship Group

We are a small group with members from all three churches in the parish. We have been meeting monthly for several years on a mutually agreed day, usually Wednesday, in members' homes, for fellowship, including bible study, studying other books and prayer. We would welcome new members, so if anyone is interested in joining us, or in finding out more, then please speak to me.

Thank you,
Susannah Riley

0118 9792341.
Susannahr61@gmail.com



**Church contacts**

Rev'd Patrick King: patrick.s.king@gmail.com 0118 9773397

Rev'd Catherine Bowstead

5 Chetwode Close, Wokingham RG40 2LL 0118 978 1756

minister@wokinghammethodist.org.uk

Rev'd Richard Lamey, The Rectory, Holt Lane 0118 3279116

richard.lamey@spauls.org.uk

St Paul's Parish Office, Reading Road, Wokingham RG41 1EH

0118 979 2122 (Parish administrator Becca Lamey)

office@stpauls-wokingham.org.uk

For room hire bookings at Woosehill contact Tony Sayer on 0118 9786560
or email tony.sayer@ntlworld.com

Regular meetings

Sundays monthly: YOW youth group - a place to discuss views, and catch up with friends 6.30 - 8pm, dates and themes as advertised in church and newsletter. Contact: patrick.s.king@gmail.com

Tuesday

Fellowship group: Exploring Faith at 8pm in the church.

Contact Rev'd Patrick King patrick.s.king@gmail.com

Wednesday

Tadpoles group: Coffee and play for pre-school children and their carers 9.00-11.00am in term time.

Contact: Val Weedon: 9791156 or valerie.weedon@btinternet.com

Lunchtime fellowship: meet in the church at 12 noon. Bring your own lunch and enjoy fellowship and discussion of the Gospel reading for the following Sunday.

Thursday

Together in prayer, monthly on third Thursday, a small group meet for prayer in the church 8-9pm. Contact Lyn Brown 9782816

Saturday

Church work party: first Saturday in month 10.30am