



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: 17 March 2014

The Big Spring Clean Weekend – 2014 Celebrations at St Paul's

Last weekend (15th and 16th March) saw the first of four big weekends at St Paul's Church, Wokingham to celebrate the church's 150th Anniversary.

Dubbed **The Big Spring Clean Weekend**, it involved lots of activity preparing the church for the coming Easter celebrations as well as the usual work in the churchyard of Churchyard Working Party volunteers and the Community Payback (1st and 3rd Saturday of each month).

Being such a large church, preparations for Easter begin well in advance and include cleaning the brass-work and removing candle wax from the floor and woodwork before it can all be washed clean prior to polishing. In addition to this, a group set about installing a new pump to empty the water in the crypt, a by-product of all the rain we've had over the last few months. Teri Austen, acting Church Warden said, "Having water in the crypt doesn't interfere with the day to day running of the church short-term, but it does make it very cold. So we do try to keep it as clear as possible in an effort to keep heating costs reduced to a minimum."

A **Lent Lunch** was served at lunchtime (12-2pm) by the St Paul's Social Committee. Diners were offered a choice of Broccoli & Stilton, Carrot, coconut & vegetable, Curried Parsnip & Apple, Minestrone, Pumpkin, and Leek & Potato soups. Margaret Davies, Chair of the Social Committee said, "This year our Lenten charity is Save the Children (Syria) and we have been delighted by the number of people we have



PRESS RELEASE

served today, all in a very worthwhile cause, raising just over £340." A Chinese Raffle was held and the £50 raised will go towards the 2014 Fund.

A Victorian Games afternoon was organised by Jenny and John Ellerbeck. This was great fun and caused great hilarity with games such as Pin the Tail on the Donkey, Pass the Dressing Up, Beetle Drive and Musical Chairs. Fr Richard said, "I am very grateful to Jenny and John for organising the games this afternoon. We've had lots of fun and there's certainly been plenty of laughter."

Sunday saw the third of the church's **2014 Choral Evensongs** sung by St Paul's Choir to the "Short Evening Service" by Thomas Tallis and the "Lamentation" by Bairstow. Retired Archdeacon Norman Russell preached on the life and work of St Paul. Fr Richard said, "We were delighted to welcome back Archdeacon Norman Russell who was such a great friend to the parish during the interregnum."

Rounding off, Fr Richard added, "This has been a very full and enjoyable weekend. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in our first 2014 Big Weekend."

The next choral evensong will take place on Sunday 18th May when St Paul's will welcome back one of their former Rectors, Fr Peter Rapsey. This will be preceded by the 2014 Anniversary Big Tea Party in the St Paul's Parish Rooms.

For further details on plans for 2014 celebrations, please see the website www.stpauls-wokingham.org.uk or call the Parish Office on 0118 979 2122.

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Notes for Editors:

Background

2014 sees St Paul's Church, Wokingham celebrating its 150th Anniversary. To find out what's on go to <http://www.stpauls-wokingham.org.uk> or call the Parish Office on 0118 979 2122.

Attached files:

- St Paul's logo and uses
- Photographs:
 - CYWP Preparing to Pump the Crypt Stewart Fairhead, Vince Pearson, Lyn Austen.jpg
 - Cleaning the Church – Jenny Perris.jpg
 - Noah, Naomi and Esther Lamey enjoy their Lent Lunch 15-03-14
 - Members of the Social Committee.jpg
 - Pass the Dressing-up – Games at St Paul's.jpg
 - Musical Chairs.jpg
 - 2014 Choral Evensong at St Paul's with Archdeacon Norma Russell and Fr Richard Lamey.jpg
 - John Griffin enjoying a chat and glass of wine with Archdeacon Norman Russell (retired).jpg

Contact:

Fr Richard Lamey, Rector
St Paul, Wokingham
0118 327 9116

Mrs Margaret Davies
Chair, Social Committee
0118 978 7788

Parish Office
0118 979 2122 |
office@stpauls-
wokingham.org.uk

The Communications Team

0118 979 2122 | office@stpauls.org.uk | www.stpauls-wokingham.org.uk
Parish Office, St Paul's Parish Rooms, Reading Road, Wokingham RG41 1EH

The Parish of Wokingham St Paul

St Nicholas, Emmbrook † St Paul, Wokingham † Woosehill Community Church