



# PRESS RELEASE

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**For immediate release: 21 July 2014**

## **Bishop John's visit is the icing on the cake**

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Dubbed the Big Foundation Anniversary Weekend, the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July was a very busy one for St Paul's Church, Wokingham.

On Sunday, St Paul's Church marked the church's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a special Eucharist celebrated by the **Bishop of Oxford, Rt Revd John Pritchard**, before a congregation gathered from all three churches in the parish – St Paul's, Wokingham, St Nicholas', Emmbrook and Woosehill Church - and other visitors, including the deputy Wokingham Borough Mayor, Cllr Parry Batth.

In his sermon, the Bishop talked of the importance of the church as a building, an object that roots us to our heritage. In a time when many are closing, the visual presence of St Paul's Church signifies to the community that after 150 years, God's work is very much alive and ongoing, and that the people of St Paul's were continuing to serve the community of Wokingham, just as generations had done so in the past.

He was encouraging in his remarks about the PCC's efforts to sustain the building for the future, particularly where lighting was concerned adding, with a note of humour, that he hoped people might give generously to the Lighting Project – an initiative to turn St Paul's into a much more flexible performance space – something, he was sure many of the organisations who used the church for other events, would be pleased to hear.



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At coffee after the service, there was a ceremonial cutting of the Anniversary Cake by Bishop John, joined by Fr Richard Lamey, Rector of St Paul's in the Parish Rooms.

This will be last visit Bishop John will make to St Paul's as Bishop of Oxford as he shall retire in the autumn. However, there is a further opportunity for people to say a personal farewell at the **Grand Day Out** event planned for Saturday 20 September, beginning at 10am in Christ Church Meadow, Oxford. Please see the Oxford Diocese website for details: [www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/projects/imagining-faith-grand-day/](http://www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/projects/imagining-faith-grand-day/).

For further details on plans for 2014 celebrations, please see the website [www.stpauls-wokingham.org.uk](http://www.stpauls-wokingham.org.uk) or call the Parish Office on 0118 979 2122.

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## Notes for Editors

For further details on plans for 2014 celebrations, please see the website [www.stpauls-wokingham.org.uk](http://www.stpauls-wokingham.org.uk) or call the Parish Office on 0118 979 2122.

## Attached files:

- St Paul's logo and uses
- Rt Revd John Pritchard Bishop of Oxford cutting St Paul's Anniversary Cake with Fr Richard Lamey – Rector of St Paul's.jpg



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- Bishop John of Oxford



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## **The Communications Team**

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## **The Parish of St Paul, Wokingham**

St Nicholas, Emmbrook † St Paul, Wokingham † Woollahill Church