



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: 30 June 2014

The Lighting Project – enhancing the architectural heritage at St Paul’s Church Wokingham

What: Public Meeting

Who: Church members, musicians, theatre players, choral singers, artists, schools, heritage, architectural and arts advocates and enthusiasts

When: Saturday 5 July at 10.00 – 11.00 am

Where: St Paul’s Church, Reading Road, Wokingham

Photo opportunity: Yes - 10.00 am and 11.00 am in church

Contact: Peter Wells, Churchwarden (peter.wells@spauls.org.uk)

On Saturday 5th July, there will be a public meeting at St Paul’s Church Wokingham for anyone who has an interest in the Church as a place of worship, exhibition, heritage or performance, the idea being that as many people as possible are able to contribute to the consultation process for the **Lighting Project** - an initiative that is part of the ongoing 150th celebrations at St Paul’s in 2014.

The rising cost of power, poor functionality and continued power outages, on a system that is no longer fit for purpose, has been the main driving force for change. The Lighting Project presents the church with an opportunity to install an up to date and flexible lighting system that, as well as being cost effective, will also benefit the



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varied number of artistes, music groups and schools who also use St Paul's for performance events.

Peter Wells, Churchwarden said, "St Paul's was built specifically to enable an enhanced musical performance as part of church worship. It is for this reason, together with the church's ability to hold large audiences, that St Paul's is often the venue of choice for groups who currently book the church. However, a flexible lighting system would provide us with the ability to considerably alter the environment as appropriate for each event, enhancing the atmosphere, mood and experience of the performers and audiences alike."

In addition, St Paul's Church will be a host venue on the Wokingham Arts Trail in September, offering exhibition space to artists for the first time and, if successful, future art exhibitions could also be considered.

Fr Richard Lamey, Rector of St Paul's, said, "As well as being a place of worship, the church is wonderful resource for the community. Engaging in the Lighting Project consultation gives everyone the opportunity to help shape a 'new' performance and exhibition offer for Wokingham, thereby ensuring the integrity of the architectural heritage at St Paul's for future generations. We hope the people of Wokingham will get behind this initiative and look forward to welcoming everyone on Saturday."

2014 sees St Paul's Church celebrating 150 years since its consecration. Various activities have been planned with the main events taking place over four big weekends. The next Big Weekend will be **19th and 20th July – Foundation Weekend**.

This will include a concert at **7pm on Saturday 19th July, *Love Divine: a choral celebration with St Paul's Choir*** singing Haydn's Little Organ Mass, Vaughan Williams, Bairstow, Mozart and more with special guest soloists and accompanied by



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organist, Edward McCall. The Mayor of Wokingham Town, Cllr Martin Bishop will be attending. Tickets (on the door) cost £8 (£5 concessions) and children under 18yrs go **FREE**. All proceeds will go towards the Church Restoration Fund.

On **Sunday 20th July the Bishop of Oxford, Right Revd John Pritchard**, will be visiting to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the church's foundation. This will be our opportunity to say a 'Big Wokingham Farewell' to Bishop John as he shall be retiring at the end of October. The Annual Parish BBQ will be from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, and Fr Richard Lamey will preach at Evensong at 6.15pm.

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:

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Attached files:

- St Paul's logo and uses

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The Parish of St Paul, Wokingham

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