



## Woosehill Church Magazine

January - February 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](http://woosehillchurch.co.uk)



*Dear Church Family and all other readers,*

I always feel the need for some decluttering at the start of a new year; the shredder is working overtime; trips are made to the charity shop; bundles to the Salvation Army for their monthly jumble sale. There's even some decorating going on.

I recently read an article, which described applying the stages of: **Evaluate, Eliminate, Enjoy, Repeat** when sorting out one's wardrobe. Sound advice, I thought and one I should maybe take.

It went on to apply the same rules to life. Now I'm sure that is good advice too, but more challenging I think. It says:

"The same principles apply to the clutter of our low-priority activities and commitments we pile in the closet of our schedules."

So I guess I need to spend less time on my Ipad, especially Facebook; stop ironing; drink less coffee; less wine?

Maybe I'll stick to the wardrobe!

Happy New Year!

*God Bless,*

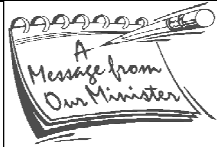
*Val*

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:**  
Sunday 13 March 2016

Articles as usual preferably by e-mail to:  
[valerie.weedon@btinternet.com](mailto:valerie.weedon@btinternet.com)  
Or to me in church

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## New Year reflections

With a new year come many new beginnings. We make resolutions, begin new diets, give up alcohol for a month... it's become a time for turning over a new leaf; a time for a fresh start.

At church we recognise this, and so various practices have evolved to mark these new beginnings, and to ask God to be present in the coming year.

On the feast of the Epiphany, many Christians mark their front doors with chalk (prompting the neighbours to ask about the 'graffiti') and to pray a blessing on all who call it home and all who enter in. (More on this later - see page 8!)

At Woosehill on Sunday 17th January we had our annual Covenant Service, in which we are reminded about the promises God has made to us, and re-commit ourselves to his service. This is a Methodist tradition, and a prayer written by John Wesley, but is also found in Anglican liturgy to mark and dedicate the new year.

We pray, "I am no longer my own, but yours. Your will, not mine, be done in all things" and it is a prayer that is not to be taken lightly. If we listen carefully, and are faithful to God's call, we should expect to be disturbed, challenged, nudged into new and potentially daunting situations in the coming year. But we do so with God's blessing and his promised presence.

For the coming year, in all your encounters and endeavours, may God's presence be blindingly obvious to you. And may you have the courage and the conviction to hear and respond to his calling.

**Paddy**



## PMC Timeline Event



On Sunday 17th January, following the annual Covenant Service, a group of over 30 members of the Woosehill Church family gathered expectantly in response to an invitation to a PMC Timeline Event. The aim of the meeting was described as to

“Help us construct a Church Time Line showing:

**Our Red Letter Days**

**Our Darker Times**

**Our Shoots of Hope”**

Paddy introduced the meeting with our “Dwelling in the Word” reading from Luke chapter 10, verses 1-12, a passage of scripture which has been chosen for year 1 of the PMC initiative and is read and has been discussed regularly at church meetings throughout the past year. Following discussion in pairs about what struck us in the passage on this latest reading we set to work on the business of the day.

At this point, Paddy left us to get on with the task in hand and although he described himself as “our spiritual guru”, staying on the fringes of the action, in fact he also figured largely in the kitchen as chief soup maker, serving up delicious butternut squash soup and rolls towards the end of the session. He was ably assisted by Mary Cassidy from St Paul’s who is overseeing the PMC project for the parish but spent a good part of the time helping Paddy in the kitchen - thanks Mary!

A frieze of paper stretched across the Sanctuary in the altar area under the Cross and on it were written some key events in the life of our church, from its inception in 1984 when it met in Hawthorns School and people’s homes.

Gavin ably led the proceedings, introducing us to his coloured sticker system for each category: red for the Red Letter Days (well they were actually bright pink!); blue for the Darker Times (the Blues) and green for the Green Shoots of Hope.



Seated in groups at tables, with some general discussion, it was left to each of us to decide what we would write on each sticker and where we would put it on the timeline which was divided into decades in the early years but individual years in recent times.

The result was very interesting, providing a snapshot of events since the church began, the cluster of stickers being mainly over the past decade or so and showing clearly the different times that the church has gone through; times of change, good and bad, and a picture of a church that has gone through periods where it lacked direction and growth, went through financial crises and more recently regained a spirit of optimism with new ways of worship, new initiatives and new worshippers joining; it showed what is important to the church family members.

In summing up Gavin thanked us for our contributions and confessed that the attendance had been “better than I feared”. I don’t think there was a lot of soup to eat up! The meeting finished with prayers and the sharing of The Grace.

I have written this as my personal account of the day since the magazine deadline coincided with the meeting, but I imagine it will be more formally reported on elsewhere. I know that photos were also taken by Paddy and Mary of the groups in action.

Thank you to the PMC team for hosting this very valuable and thought-provoking event and allowing us be a part of our church’s future.

**Val**





## SEASONS

I'm still waiting for the chance to build my first snowman since we moved to Berkshire four winters ago. I was recovering from a fractured arm the one time it has snowed after my bicycle became a Transformer without warning and turned into a catapult. We seem to have had most other weather conditions in the last few weeks- torrential rain, beautiful winter's evenings, thunder and lightning, crisp mornings - so it must be our turn for snow soon.

In their different ways, in the different questions they raise in me, I relish all of the seasons of the year. I love winter when it is stark and clear, the blackness of trees clean against the eggshell blue sky. I love the fact that I have to look outside at the weather and see what I need to put on to keep me warm and dry. I love the way that the world around is hidden from me by night rushing in and the way that watching my breath cloud in front of me makes me feel like a child again.

I love the way that winter makes me engage with my environment and remember that, powerful though we are in our ability to buttress ourselves against the conditions, I am still a living creature and sometimes all I can do is wrap up warm or hide beneath a broly. Above all, I love the way that all of this makes me feel human, alive. I love the way that winter reminds me that I am a creature, that sometimes my longings are only for warmth and light, that God is God and I am not, that God is God and has given us all of this beauty and feeling and colour to delight in. Seeing my breath reminds me that I am alive and that I am loved by the God who gave breath and life.



**Richard**

(There has been some snow since you wrote this

Richard!)



### Thought for the Month



A monk called Brother Jeremiah once said: "If I had my life to live all over again, I'd try to make more mistakes next time. I would relax; I would limber up; I'd be sillier than I've been this trip. You see, I've been one of those people who never go anywhere without a thermometer, a hot water bottle, a gargle, a raincoat, aspirin and a parachute. If I had to do it over again I would go places, do things and travel lighter than I have --- I would ride on more merry-go-rounds; I'd pick more daisies; I'd eat more ice-cream and less beans."

Sometimes it takes our children to help us out of our puritan pit. In the end, we all need to be in touch with the free child within us. Jesus said, "Whoever does not receive the Kingdom like a child will never enter it." I'm sure entry to the Kingdom will be found as much through playfulness and light-hearted, inquisitive exploration as anything.

So take your cue from Brother Jeremiah! Do something for fun, something crazy, something you've never done before. If you're really boring and unimaginative like me, consult your children, or someone else's children and let them dream up something for you. It doesn't have to be expensive. Go on! Give yourself a break --- you deserve it! After all, ice-cream needn't cost more than beans.

(Taken from a hospital newsletter for the RBH, written by the chaplain of the time, Rev. Heather McGivern - some years ago, but I like its sentiments! Ed.)





### Epiphany House Blessing

There is a beautiful and ancient Christian tradition of marking the main door of a house or building with chalk that has been blessed in Church on Epiphany Sunday. It is a house blessing which reminds us of the Incarnation and invites God to be part of our home and lives in the New Year that lies ahead. It is a perfect thing to do which works on many different levels. It invites Christ to be with all those who live in the house or work or worship in the building. It invokes a blessing on those who come into the house and on us as we go out into the world. It is a reminder of Christ's presence in every room of the house, in every conversation, in every joy, in every disappointment, in every moment and beating heart.

It also works as a way of involving those who can't come to Church any longer in the life of the parish, and tells and shows them they are not forgotten by the Church or by God. Even if they only leave their homes occasionally, when they do, they will see the mark of the chalk on the doorframe and remember that they are loved and remembered in turn.

It also acts as a way of starting some interesting conversations with those who come to the door and ask what the chalk marks mean. Often we wait and wait for someone to ask us what we believe or why we go to Church or what it all means or why it matters. Marking our doors offers that on a plate.

In short, it is a beautiful, corporate way of marking the Epiphany, and the New Year and the Incarnation, and the endurance of the Wise Men, and the presence of God with us always and everywhere. A few of us from Woosehill Church embarked on a walk around the area on Wednesday 6th January, marking up and praying for our homes, and bumping into various parishioners as we walked!

What is written on the door lintel is this:  
20 + C + M + B + 16

The year is obvious, as are the crosses. CMB is either (or both or usually) the initials of the Wise Men who travelled to Bethlehem but it can also be read as the first letters of 'Christus mansionem benedicat', which means Christ bless this house. I like the fact that it means both.

Whatever you choose to do, I pray that, entering into this tradition or not, you will know again something of the joy of Christmas and remember God's presence in your life and home always. And next time you spot some strange chalk marks around Woosehill... you'll know what they mean!

**Paddy**





## FAIRTRADE

Although we no longer have a monthly Fairtrade stall, we ARE a Fairtrade church and as such are required to promote Fairtrade in our church, especially at the time of Fairtrade Fortnight which is coming up at the end of February, so here is some information about events.

### ***Sit down for breakfast. Stand up for farmers.***

The celebrity-fronted multi-platform campaign will run from 29 FEBRUARY – 13 MARCH 2016 and highlight the severe lack of food security for farmers around the world, bringing together shoppers, campaigners and businesses to take action. Fairtrade Fortnight 2016 will feature a giant Fairtrade breakfast to inspire UK public to sit down for breakfast in support of the farmers who grow the food we have every morning, such as coffee, tea, cocoa and bananas.

Lack of food security is one of the world's most critical issues. Despite millions of farmers and workers in developing countries working hard every day to grow the food we eat, many don't earn enough to know where their next meal is coming from. Half of the world's hungry people, nearly 400 million, are estimated to live on small farms.

Shoppers in the West can change this by harnessing the power of a Fairtrade breakfast – so that farmers and workers behind our products can feel secure, knowing they can feed their families, all year round.

Fairtrade works with 1.5 million farmers and workers in parts of Africa, Asia and Latin and Central America enabling them to earn a sustainable income and the Fairtrade Premium that they can invest in vital community, business and environmental projects.

In Nicaragua, many coffee farmers can suffer food shortages for 3-4 months of the year, during what they call the 'thin months' before the coffee harvest. However, farmers at Fairtrade coffee co-operative COOMPROCOM have invested their Fairtrade Premium in programmes that focus on nutritional security in the community, allowing them to grow food crops, and helping them become self-reliant.

Nilufar Verjee, Public Engagement Director for the Fairtrade Foundation, said:  
"When people are paid a fair price, they can have more control over their lives when times are hard, and worry less about how they will feed their families. Whether it's having the money to spend on food or being able to expand their farms to grow



more food to eat, Fairtrade means many farmers and workers are able to do what we take for granted – put enough food on the table for the people they care about, all year round.

“Farming is the backbone of the world. It’s simply wrong that whilst farmers work hard to produce what we eat so many of them should go hungry themselves.

“This Fairtrade Fortnight, make your breakfast count with Fairtrade – use the power of your shopping to help ensure food security for world’s most vulnerable famers and workers.”

Food security is linked closely to economic growth, stable incomes and reduced risk and vulnerability. A better income means more money to buy food and the ability to invest in generating other food sources, such as growing new crops.

Research shows that some smallholder farmers who are part of Fairtrade earn about a third more than they did before joining Fairtrade, which means they can now afford more of the important things, like food, medical bills or sending their children to school.

With Fairtrade, as well as famers getting a sustainable price, they also get extra to invest in developing their farms so they have can grow food for themselves as well as crops to sell. That way they start to get a fair return for all their hard work.

Fairtrade Fortnight is the highlight of the year for shoppers, campaigners and businesses in the UK.

Campaigners up and down the country will hold hundreds of breakfast events as part of Fairtrade Fortnight 2016 and the **#YouEatTheyEat** hashtag will be used to spread the word on social media.

For more information, visit [www.fairtrade.org.uk/breakfast](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/breakfast).





### Clergy Letter from Richard

In his book "Anglicanism", Martyn Percy, the Dean of Oxford Cathedral writes of the Church of England and of each Parish Church of places where building something vital is a journey:

"As a Church we tend to cook issues slowly. We savour and discern the varying flavours of the issues that unite and divide us. We believe that to become church takes time; that unity is not uniformity; and that some of the sharpest and seemingly bitterest things we chew on are best taken slowly. Sometimes, that frustrates and infuriates. But it is also what we celebrate too. Church, like prayer itself, is a banquet to savour even if not everything at table is to our liking. Perhaps above all else, this really should not be hurried. Church, like prayer, is for growing into; we break bread apart so we can share in Christ's body corporately. So we always break it together; and this necessarily takes time- which is what the church ultimately is; rich time, shared with each other, feasting on the bread of life." [p. 9-10]

As we begin a new calendar year, as we begin to turn our gaze from the manger to the call we have to make known the love of God-with-us in the world around us, these are important things to recognise- a church (whether that be the Church of England, St Paul's, St Nick's, or Woosehill or the Parish of which we are part) is never finished and perfect but always emerging and deepening; a church is a place where we learn to disagree well, with respect and empathy, skills the world is in desperate need of; above all, a church is a place and a community and a movement where we take time to be human to each other before God and with God and in God.

This, as Percy suggests, will not always be easy- but it will always be important and it will always be worth it. All of this suggests why having a parish of three Churches with different histories and different ways of working and different ways of doing things is so useful- because we fundamentally see that what we hold in common and what we can do together and what we can learn from each other is so much greater than the small things that we might disagree over.



The way we speak of God in the world, and live for God in the world, is together, in community, at the service of the wider community. The Methodist Covenant Service which is such a highlight of the month of January emphasizes that in the church, despite all of its frustrations and delay and fragility, we find something worth building, and being part of, a vision which is worthy of our best efforts and our clearest vision because it is both the body of Christ on earth and the best hope of a broken world.

“I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, exalted for you, or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing: I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.”

Even if we didn't get to Woosehill on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January for the Covenant Service, to pray this prayer as one, I offer it to you as a prayer for your own use, a reminder at the start of 2016 of who we are and whose we are and what we are called to, a reminder of the kind of selfless love and absolute commitment which a church needs if she is to become truly herself, a reminder that, because of Christmas, he is ours and we are his eternally and always.

**Rev'd Richard Lamey**





***From 'The Mood of Christmas', by Howard Thurman***

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart.





### Support Yeldall Manor in 2016

#### Thank you!

We want to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who donated Christmas presents for our residents' Christmas 'stockings', or who supports us in other ways. The residents had an enjoyable and relaxing time, and were very touched to receive so many gifts from our supporters.

As the new year started, a couple of residents have left us early, but several are coming to the end of their first-stage programmes and moving on to the second-stage Lodge programme or elsewhere. As they move on, and new residents join us, please continue to pray for all of our residents, that their determination will remain strong and that they will move forward into lasting freedom from addiction. If you'd like to pray more for our work, you can receive our monthly Prayer Diary by email or by post, or attend our prayer meetings on the first working Monday of every month.

#### Did you miss the boat for 'Dry January'?

Why not go 'AbstiLent' for Yeldall Manor? How do you feel about the idea of going without alcohol for forty days? Or television? Chocolate? If the idea fills you with dread, imagine giving up for life. That is what the residents of Yeldall Manor have to do.

Will you stand alongside our residents, as they give up alcohol and drugs, by pledging to give up a habit of your own for Lent (from 10<sup>th</sup> February to Easter Sunday)?

It can be a good exercise for you, with possible physical and spiritual benefits (if you choose to let God fill the void left by whatever you give up) and it is a really practical way of standing shoulder to shoulder with the men on the programme, experiencing a taste of what they go through.





By joining in our AbstiLent challenge and being sponsored for giving up alcohol (or, if you don't drink, perhaps chocolate, caffeine or television), you could let your friends know about Yeldall's work and help to raise funds so that more men can be helped with their addictions. If you are interested in joining us this year, please contact Sue Hedger on 0118 940 1093 / [sue-hedger@yeldall.org.uk](mailto:sue-hedger@yeldall.org.uk).

### **Celebrate with us!**

Join us at our Celebration evening on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. Come along and find out more about the work here, hear news and testimonies and join us in some sung worship. The evening finishes by 9pm, but do stay and have a chat over tea and coffee.

**Sue Hedger** - Administration and Supporter Relations Manager, Yeldall Manor

### **A last Beatitude**

#### **A sonnet for all churches from Fr. Malcolm Guite...**

And blessèd are the ones we overlook;  
The faithful servers on the coffee rota,  
The ones who hold no candle, bell or book,  
But keep the books and tally up the quota,  
The gentle souls who come to 'do the flowers',  
The quiet ones who organise the fete,  
Church sitters who give up their weekday hours,  
Doorkeepers who may open heaven's gate.  
God knows the depths that often go unspoken,  
Amongst the shy, the quiet, and the kind,  
Or the slow healing of a heart long broken,  
Placing each flower so for a year's mind.  
Invisible on earth, without a voice,  
In heaven their angels glory and rejoice.

*(Lifted from Richard's Facebook page!)*



Dear Friends,

You may or may not be aware that we are your local stockists for the Real Easter Egg. Please place your orders with us as soon as possible to guarantee fulfilment. Don't forget, Easter is early this year!

With thanks,

Ali from Quench Wokingham

### **The egg that shares the Easter story**

This year The Real Easter Egg range has had a makeover and each single boxed egg includes a unique copy of the Easter story in the shape of a pull out 37 cm high cross illustrated by Helen Cann.

The Original milk chocolate egg includes images of spring and three crosses on the box with Mark's resurrection text under the lid. It also includes a Fairtrade milk chocolate Yummy Bar.

The Special Edition egg this year comes with an olive wood holding cross keyring from Bethlehem and an orange milk chocolate bar.

### **Not enough space for Easter eggs**

Every year, 80 million Easter eggs are sold in the UK. But with Easter day falling on 26th March this year, it means there is not enough shelf space available in shops or enough time for online retailers to post them all out leading to shortages. So if you normally buy your Real Easter Eggs online, from supermarkets or a local shop, then act now.

### **Tastes good and does good**

The Real Easter Egg remains the only Fairtrade chocolate Easter egg to have an Easter story booklet in the box and to make a charitable donation from sales. Since its launch in 2010, the number of Real Easter Eggs sold has been rising. The volume of sales means that production of Fairtrade chocolate has had to be moved from Europe to the UK. This is a great success story which churches and schools have played a part in making happen. In addition more than £200,000 has been donated to charitable and educational causes.

### **Where to buy**

Please note that the Dark egg and Special Edition are not being sold in supermarkets but can be bought from independent stores or ordered online.

This year, you can buy from [www.realeaster.co.uk](http://www.realeaster.co.uk), Tesco, Waitrose, Morrisons or from independent stores, bookshops.

(Please consider supporting your local Christian bookshop out at Holme Grange Craft Village - Ed.)





### **Thank you!**

Thanks to your generous donations from Harvest Festivals and over Christmas we have sufficient stock of most items. However there are just a few things that we still need so, if you can, please buy one of the items below and place it in one of our collection points.

Our current needs are:

Tinned carrots

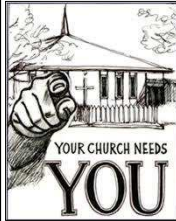
Size 1 nappies

Size 2 nappies

Size 6 nappies

Small washing powder or gel.

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](http://wokingham.foodbank.org.uk)



### VOLUNTEERS

Our Church is very dependent on the wonderful volunteers who do so much - from ad hoc working parties who maintain the fabric of the church and surrounding area, to those involved on one or more of the rotas which ensure that the Church, (and services), run smoothly. However, a couple of the rotas could do with a few extra names on them! Could this be you? In particular, *we are urgently seeking volunteers to count the collection occasionally* – if you could help with this, or are interested in finding out more about the volunteer roles in the Church, please have a word with a steward.

### CONFIRMATION

We have the Bishop coming on Tuesday 17th May 2016 for a confirmation - here in Woosehill Church!

It would be lovely to have a gaggle of Woosehill folk as part of that. If you've not been confirmed and would like to be - please let Paddy know.

### FIRST STEPS

For pre-school children and their parents, grandparents or carers to introduce the children to church in a relaxed, fun and friendly way.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of Each Month**  
**11<sup>th</sup> February,**  
**10<sup>th</sup> March**

Please come along with your pre-school children for **songs, stories, craft activities** and **refreshments**.

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





## REGULAR MEETINGS

### Sunday

**Church services** - see Services Diary and weekly newsletter

**Youth Group YOW:** A place to discuss views, play and catch up with friends  
6.30 - 8pm, dates and themes as advertised here and in church.

Contact: [patrick.s.king@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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/ 07919062770

or [valerie.weedon@btinternet.com](mailto:valerie.weedon@btinternet.com)

**Lunchtime fellowship:** meet in the church at 12 noon.

### Thursday

**Together in prayer:** monthly on third Thursday from 8-9pm

Contact Lyn Brown: 9782816

### Saturday

**Church work party:** first Saturday in month 10.30am

Contact John Hoskins: 9792597

### Church contacts

Rev'd Patrick King: [patrick.s.king@gmail.com](mailto:patrick.s.king@gmail.com) 0118 9773397

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

[richard.lamey@stpauls.org.uk](mailto:richard.lamey@stpauls.org.uk)

Louise Cole, Senior Steward, 0118 9772239

[louise.cole@sky.com](mailto:louise.cole@sky.com)

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

0118 979 2122 ( Parish administrator Becca Lamey)

[office@stpauls-wokingham.org.uk](mailto:office@stpauls-wokingham.org.uk)

For room hire bookings contact Tony Sayer on 0118 9786560 or email  
[tony.sayer@ntlworld.com](mailto:tony.sayer@ntlworld.com)



### **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**

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.