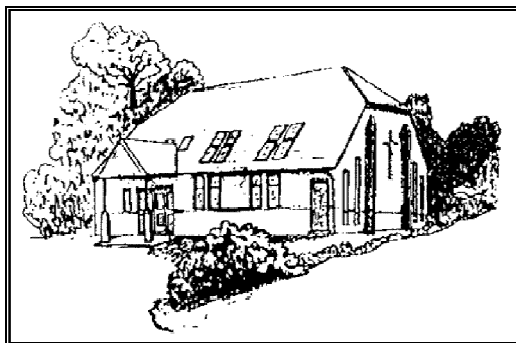




Woosehill Church Magazine

January - February 2015

HAPPY NEW YEAR



*Woosehill Church is 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 magazine editor, I always read editorials of other magazines which come through our door, looking for ideas for style and content. Since most are about wildlife, mainly birds, and National Trust properties - and also Saga magazine!- the content is not often relevant.

At this time of year though, there is a common theme; "We will remember 2014 for ---"

Well, for our family it was challenging, a year in which I lost both my parents, but looking back there were also good bits: a new grand daughter arrived (our fifth); unable to go away for any length of time, we sat in the garden more in the summer sunshine; and throughout all we were loved and prayed for by our church families at Woosehill and St Paul's.

I know that for others at Woosehill it wasn't an easy year; I hope there were good bits to treasure too.

I wish you and those you love a happy and fulfilling year and, as we renew our Covenant in our special yearly service, one in which we see our wonderful church go on from strength to strength!

God Bless,

Val

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
15 March 2015**

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

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Where do we go from here?

Whilst there is a great deal to feel positive about in terms of the Churches' responses to the prevailing social and economic situations across the country there is an abidingly uncomfortable feeling that things are by no means improving, but rather continue to grow much worse for more families and individuals. Alison Webster reports 31,000 people died unnecessarily in the UK last winter, 10,000 of these deaths due to cold homes and fuel poverty (Webster, *the Door* January 2015 p11). Being cold for prolonged periods seriously thwarts child thriving, health and development, sometimes with permanent consequences.

It is deeply heartening that the churches, including in our own community, quietly and with immense commitment make voluntary provision – to a highly efficient and effective standard - by provision of Foodbanks for example. However, many of the accounts one hears about Benefit Sanctions and cuts are frankly cruel. Volunteers, shocked by the accounts of people's experience, circumstances, and the desperation with which they have had to seek help, also challenge our political leaders and policy makers about the *causes*. Clearly Foodbanks, and other voluntary projects, are a colossal lifeline – not only for their efficiency, and the 'professionalism' with which they are organised, but they have the merit of being corporately organised by the community for the community. But these measures, vital though they are, do not and cannot address the fundamental and long-term needs for everyone to have secure living wages, decent housing, underpinned by the strong safety net of reliable state benefits. This is beyond the scope and capacity of voluntary agencies with volunteers – however skilled and generous they are.

So what is to be done – when people turn to us in emergencies, out-of-hours, which is when crises tend to occur? Recourse to emergency help from the statutory sector, in personal experience, seems simply a figment of optimistic imaginations. Those on the 'front desk' may be over bound with bureaucratic red tape, weary operatives, or simply hugely overworked themselves. No one is to blame. Yet we all are responsible. DO we simply give financial handouts, which can be very undignified for individuals, and be patronising on our part. Surely that is what taxes are for, isn't it? And why



no person should have to undergo the indignity of going cap-in-hand to another unto whom he or she may feel unduly beholden. This is neither just nor human, and is a far cry from what our forefathers and foremothers, not least William Temple and Beveridge strived for together all those years ago.

Is there a return to the Cathy Come Home scenario, whereby parents live in genuine fear their children be removed from them if the gas and electricity services are cut off? If such a fear is well founded, then such a situation is utterly outrageous and totally unacceptable. Inadequate housing, unjust sanctions, and insufficient wages to feed and equip families are no less than institutionalised child abuse.

For those who may question the 'spirituality' of this article, I would respond simply by saying: we *are* the body of Christ, and also are *all* God's people, aren't we? So where do we go from here?

Rev'd Deborah Davison

Curate

LUNCHTIME FELLOWSHIP



Where? Woosehill Church

When? Wednesday lunchtimes from 12 noon.

Friendship and fellowship, chat about anything and everything!

Bring your own sandwich, tea and coffee provided.



Women's World Day of Prayer 2015

On **Friday 6 March** the annual World Day of Prayer Service will take place at the **Methodist Church in Rose Street at 2pm.**

World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of Christian women joined together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday of March. Their motto of " Informed prayer and prayerful action" signifies that prayer and action are inseparable.

This year the service has been written by Christian women in The Bahamas with the theme '**Jesus said to them: "Do you know what I have done to you?"**' This year The Bahamas Committee did not include a formal address and the service will flow naturally, telling us about the islands which make up this country, and about their people. It will include a short period of quiet reflection and sharing.

The Bahamas is a place of beauty. The beautiful colours gifted by nature are reflected in the worship service and the artwork. The islands give voice to the people of The Bahamas who invite the world to "come and be washed in God's ever-flowing ocean of grace: to bask in the iridescent light of Christ's love, and to be embraced by [God's] Holy Spirit with the cooling trade-winds of transformation."

Radical love is the theme that weaves together all the components of the worship resources. They eloquently tell us that Jesus is God's presence of radical love in the world. Following Jesus' example of washing his disciple's feet, we are asked to continue the gesture of love in The Bahamas and in our own communities. That is how the spiral of informed prayer and prayerful action moves around the globe.

As we listen to our Bahamian sisters throughout the worship service, we realize that transformation is seen when a teen mother does not feel alone as she finds support to continue her education and to raise her child, when a breast cancer survivor or people living with HIV and AIDS find strength to live out their journey, and when the chains of oppression and enslavement are broken. Also, let's not forget the call for responsible stewardship of God's creation shared by all; whether it is those who step in the pink sand or swim in turquoise water of the archipelago, or those who enjoy whatever natural beauty has been gifted by God to your corner of the world.

All the churches in Wokingham are represented at this ecumenical service, which will be followed by refreshments served in The Meeting Place, which is the cafe area of The Bradbury Community Centre. Do please join us.

Everyone is welcome, not just ladies!



**Evensong at St Paul's
Sermon series 2015**

Theme: "My one prayer for the Church of England"

Following on from the great success of the 2014 sermon series, we are delighted to unveil the series for 2015. A leaflet will be printed in the next few weeks, but this is by way of advance preview and as a way of sharing our great excitement.

All at 6.15pm

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Feb 15th | The Rev'd Patrick King (Associate Priest in the Parish) |
| March 15th | The Rev'd Chris Howson (Sunderland University and Minster) |
| May 17th | The Rev'd Canon Dr Edmund Newey (Oxford Cathedral) |
| June 28th | The Rev'd Dr Peter Waddell (Winchester University) (4th Sunday in the month because of Patronal Festival) |
| July 19th | The Rev'd Canon Bruce Ruddock (Peterborough Cathedral) |
| Sept 20th | The Rev'd Canon Dr Julie Gittoes (Guildford Cathedral) |
| October 18th | The Rev'd Nick Hudson (Wokingham Baptist Church) |
| November 15th | The Rev'd Canon Leanne Roberts (Southwark Cathedral, and Diocesan Director of Ordinands.) |

The hope of the title is that it will inspire or provoke our exciting and bright preachers to think about the chief thing which the CofE needs more of, or less of, or to start doing, or to stop doing. Or it may be that they think the Church of England is practically perfect in every way, to coin a phrase, in which case they will preach about that.

Do please put the dates in your diary now, and do come along to as many of them as you can.

The Rev'd Richard Lamey



The Apprentice: What are we training for?

The Apprentice is a worrying insight into what happens when people are pitted against each other for the sake of money. From the outset, it's clear that such characteristics as ruthlessness, manipulation and unlimited greed are seen as the vital trappings of corporate success. In the total reversal of virtue and vice, what the Bible would deem godly traits are disregarded as weaknesses. Is this really what business relationships are supposed to look like?

The Bible offers an alternative vision for society in which enterprise is welcome but money is not an idol, where relationships are a central foundation rather than collateral damage, where the rights of the poor and needy are protected and where business is conducted with integrity. God's vision requires us to put love rather than money, above all other pursuits.

That is the treasure that truly lasts.

Emily Shurmer, October 2014 from the newsletter Engage, the quarterly comment from the Jubilee Centre - submitted by John Bausor



SORRY!

Twas the lady that made the tea
A little parsimonious was she
The coffee all went
The flasks were quite spent
And the culprit.....?
I'm afraid twas me!!
Apologies to all who didn't get their coffee on Sunday 4th

Amy





News from the Quench Bookshop

Dear Friends,

You may or may not have heard that plans to close our READING branch at Christmas have changed.

From 12th - 31st January, there will be a BIG SALE on in the Reading shop (10am - 5pm Mon - Sat, closed on Weds) followed by a change in opening times from February when it will be going to a 3 day week - opening Thursday to Saturday

The Wokingham branch is continuing with it's usual hours of :

10am-5pm Mon - Sat.

Thank you for your continued support!

May God bless you in 2015!

Ali

Quench Wokingham

Unit 11
Holme Grange Craft Village



Rev'd Nick Thompson

Congratulations to Nick on his appointment as Superintendent of the High Wycombe Methodist Circuit. Nick and Pam will be moving from Wokingham Methodist Church in the summer and will be living in Marlow, so not too far away. We will have chance to say our goodbyes to Nick with a special service nearer the time.

Many of you will know that Pam has been our Traidcraft supplier during the time she has lived here and her contribution too will be very much missed.



Walking by Faith – A Christian Aid Lent Retreat

Loko Jarso lives in rural Ethiopia. She walks alone for eight hours a day, in shoes so thin that thorns repeatedly pierce through to her feet, to gather and sell firewood so she can feed her children. Loko refuses to give up hope and so she prays as she walks. Her faith pushes her on.

During Lent we remember Jesus' own walk in the wilderness at the start of his ministry culminating in the walk to the cross and the transformational work of Easter. Christian Aid invites you to our 'Walking by Faith' Lent retreat, a special day of reflection, learning, prayer and fellowship as we consider the call to justice in this season of fasting. We'll be sharing stories of women like Loko from rural Ethiopia who are walking in faith with hope for change.

The retreat day will include a delicious Ethiopian lunch.

Friday 20 February

10.30am (for 11am start) – 4pm

St Nicholas Church Earley, Sutcliffe Avenue, Earley, RG6 7JN
Cost: £10 including Lunch

RSVP Essential: to book your place contact Jessica Hall on 01865 246818
or email jhall@christian-aid.org

Contact Louise Cole for more details
or to share a lift.





Happy New Year - by email from Lynn Smith

The boarding on **Flight 2015** has been announced

Your luggage should only contain the best souvenirs from 2014

The bad and sad moments should be left behind

The duration of the flight will be 12 months. So, tighten your seatbelt.

The next stop-overs will be: **Health, Love, Joy, Harmony, Well-being and Peace.**

The captain offers you the following menu which will be served during the flight.....

*A cocktail of **Friendship***

*A supreme of **Health***

*A Gratin of **Prosperity***

*A Bowl of **Excellent news***

*A Salad of **Success***

*A Cake of **Happiness***

All accompanied by a burst of laughter

Wishing you and your family an enjoyable trip on board flight 2015May God Bless You in the Year Ahead. I wish you a

Fantastic **January**

Loveable **February**

Marvellous **March**

Useful **April**

Enjoyable **May**

Successful **June**

Wonderful **July**

Independent **August**

Powerful **September**

Tastiest **October**

Beautiful **November**

Happiest **December**



Wokingham
foodbank shopping list

Please help local people in crisis by buying items from the list below and placing them in one of our collection points.

*Please, No tinned fish, baked beans, soup
baby wipes or tinned tomatoes
- we have plenty of those!*

Our current needs are:

- 1. Large Nappies,
-sizes 4, 5 & 6 or pull-ups**
- 2. Toilet Rolls**
- 3. Sugar**
- 4. Jam, marmalade or honey**
- 5. Rice**
- 6. Pasta**
- 7. Washing-up liquid**
- 8. Deodorant (Male & female)**
- 9. Tinned Sponge Puddings**
- 10. Washing Powder and
Fabric Conditioner**

Updated 01/01/15

THANK YOU



Prayer needs for our church

At the Together in Prayer meeting in January we prayed for volunteers to join the various rotas and fill the vacant jobs which keep our Church ticking over so smoothly (well, most of the time anyway!) This is becoming more important as our Church family grows. Please pray that the list of tasks below will be filled as we seek to do God's will for our Church, and it's presence on Woosehill ;

- more Sidespeople
- more offertory counters
- more Communion Stewards
- more Intercessors for our services
- someone to manage the Electoral Roll
- helpers and / or leaders for our Youth group on Sunday evenings. Much needed when Rachel finishes in the Summer.

There are more, but that's enough to be going on with,

With many thanks for all your prayer support,

Lyn Brown

EXPLANATION OF GOD - a child's view:

'One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies; I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.'

'God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bed-time. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.'

'God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mum and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.'



Fairtrade Fortnight 2015

Fairtrade Fortnight is coming - **23 February - 8 March 2015!** We've come so far since the first Fairtrade Fortnight in 1995, educating the public on why to choose Fairtrade and increasing sales on Fairtrade terms for marginalised producers. Over the past 20 years, together we've made the Fairtrade mark the biggest and best known ethical label in the UK.

78% of the UK public recognise the FAIRTRADE Mark.

From UK sales alone, £26m of Fairtrade Premium was invested by producers in 2013.

But we know there is still a long way to go to make all trade fair – just 1.2% of cocoa and less than 10% of tea globally is traded on Fairtrade terms.

So for Fairtrade Fortnight 2015, we're going to celebrate the impact of Fairtrade and ask you to turn a spotlight on the producers who grow the products we love. By sharing their stories in a fresh and compelling way, we can remind the UK of the dramatic difference choosing Fairtrade makes and how much it is still needed. We're focusing on a few core commodities – cocoa, sugar, and tea – in new materials, case studies and a brand new 15 minute film that will be available for Fairtrade Fortnight.

Whether you're an individual or part of a Fairtrade group, there will be opportunities to take action – including asking businesses directly to switch to Fairtrade in a "Stock it" challenge.

Albert Guébré, a Fairtrade cocoa farmer from the Côte d'Ivoire says:

"Cocoa enables me to educate my children - the co-operative helps us with schooling loans at the beginning of the school year. Now that I have grandchildren, more sales of Fairtrade cocoa would enable me to better support my family."

For fellow Côte d'Ivoire cocoa farmer Traore Issouf, part of the ECOOKIM co-operative, it means benefitting from a stable income and a business he and other co-operative members can invest in improving;

"There's happiness in the co-operative! Before we didn't earn enough. Now when I get ill, the co-op looks after me. We have learnt to do pruning and to maintain our cocoa trees and now we get a better harvest:

WE HARVEST GOOD QUALITY COCOA SO THAT CONSUMERS CAN EAT GOOD CHOCOLATE."



Wokingham Borough Fairtrade Churches network.

This group was an offshoot of the Wokingham Fairtrade Campaign and has continued to meet twice a year in January and July to share information and ideas about the promotion of issues of fair trade and social justice in those of our local churches which have Fairtrade status. It has had active support from representatives from Wargrave, Park URC (in Reading), Finchampstead, Earley and Wokingham as well as here at Woosehill.

As a reminder, to achieve Fairtrade status, the Church Council at Woosehill had to agree to:

- Use Fairtrade tea and coffee after services and in all meetings for which we have responsibility
- Move forward on using other Fairtrade products such as sugar, biscuits and fruit.
- Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and during the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible.

During this time, we have moved onto excellent Fairtrade REAL coffee, which is much appreciated by church family, Tadpoles and visitors. Our Tadpoles group also always uses Fairtrade bananas, in spite of difficulties sourcing them at Morrisons (please keep asking for them!).

Over the years we have shared magazine articles, lobbied Primark following the Rana Plaze fire in Bangladesh and shared information on new Fairtrade products as well as initiatives in our own churches. It has been a very supportive group, with interesting and encouraging meetings and I have valued being a member of it. At our last meeting on January 15th the group decided that, due to changes in the circumstances of several of its members we would no longer meet face to face but would continue to exchange information and ideas as a "virtual group." Also, after a good number of years of being our Fairtrade champion I have decided to stand down from running our Fairtrade stall with effect from July. I will continue to be a passionate supporter of Fairtrade and social justice and to be a member of the online group.

It would be good to remember our Fairtrade status especially during Fairtrade Fortnight, this year from 23 Feb - 8 March and especially during our prayers of intercession at this time. There are resources on the Traidcraft and Fairtrade Foundation websites.

We hear in church on Sunday about God's heart for the poor and His love of justice. We are also called to put our faith into action throughout the rest of the week.

Val

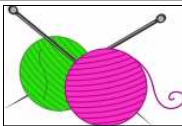


James 2: 14-17:

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.



Knitting news - a message from Melanie

Many thanks to all the ladies who regularly knit blankets, baby jackets hats and blanket squares for the work of MMN. We have recently received a letter from the charity saying how grateful they are to everyone who has contributed and supported them.

Please keep up the good work and keep knitting. Knitting can be given to Melanie or left in the vestry





Tadpoles



Our Tadpoles sessions have started again for the New Year; we are a happy group of Mums, Grannies, children and have occasionally welcomed a Dad too!

We do need help in setting up, making refreshments and clearing away every Wednesday in term time between 9 and 11am and whilst we have a faithful band of volunteers, it is not enough to fill the rota this term.

Could you help out on just one Wednesday this term? We'll show you what to do!

The rota is up on the notice board by the office/vestry.

Please give thought and prayer as to whether you could support this wonderful outreach group. Thank you,

Val

Church family news



Congratulations to John and Linda Hoskins on the arrival of their grandson Jake John born on 20 December and weighing in at 6lbs 5 oz - a precious son for Sarah and Paul and a brother for Bronte (one of our newest Tadpoles!)

And, rather belatedly, good wishes to Tony Sayer on the arrival of his grandson Harrison, the gift of a son to Beth and Michael born on 11th November.

Quiz Night



We will be holding our usual Quiz night in the Parish rooms on **Saturday 7th February** 7.00 pm for 7.30 start. This is a fun evening with a fish or chicken and chips supper; please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements when you purchase your tickets.

Tickets cost £10.00 for adults, £5.00 for under 12s or a family ticket for £25.00 and can be obtained from Chris Piper at Woosehill.

Please bring your own drinks and glasses - we look forward to seeing you there.

St Paul's Social Committee





Parish News

CHURCH WALKS

These normally take place on the fourth Sunday of each month, meeting in the Parish Rooms car park around 2pm. The walks are not too long or strenuous, providing plenty of opportunity to chat along the way and usually end with refreshments at a local hostelry!



More details from Teri Austen at St Paul's: teri@theaustens.net or talk to Chris or Amy!



FIRST STEPS is an exciting new chapter for pre-school children and their parents, grandparents or carers to introduce the children to church in a relaxed, fun and friendly way.

Thursdays
12th February
12th March
9th April
14th May
11th June

9.15am - 10.15am in the Children's Chapel at St Paul's Church

Please come along with your pre-school children for **songs, stories, craft activities and refreshments** - 2nd Thursday of each month.

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





CHURCH NEWS

JOURNEYING GROUP

A new group has recently started at Woosehill on Tuesday evenings. Usually led by Paddy, and not a conventional Bible Study group, the time together will aim to cover a range of topics exploring and strengthening faith in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.

Beginning at 8pm - finishing at 9pm. Short but sweet but regular is the name of the game!

Each session stands alone, so if you are unable to make this or any session, you're very welcome to drop in to as many as you can!

Paddy



WORSHIP CONSULTATION

The next Worship Consultation meeting will be on:

Monday 9th February, 8pm in church

Everyone very welcome to come and talk about what we've been doing over the past few months and what we can do in 2015.

YOW

Youth of Wokingham - forthcoming dates are:

8th Feb: You Choose

12 April: Lent

10 May: Relax and breathe!

14 June: Who am I?

12 July: Summer BBQ

A place to discuss views, play and catch up with friends

Sundays: 6.30-8pm





REGULAR MEETINGS

Sunday

Church services - see pages 19 and 20

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: rachel_paine2003@hotmail.com or patrick.s.king@gmail.com

Tuesday

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

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

Wednesday

Tadpoles group: for pre-school children and their carers 9.00-11.00am

Contact: Val Weedon: 9791156/ 07919062770

or 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

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

richard.lamey@stpauls.org.uk

Elaine Steere Licensed Lay minister 0118 3488375

elaine.steere@sky.com

Louise Cole, Senior Steward, 0118 9772239

louise.cole@sky.com

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

0118 979 2122 (secretary Val Clifford)

office@stpauls-wokingham.org.uk

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





SERVICES DIARY

	8.45 am	10.00am	More
January			
25		Holy Communion Rev'd Richard Lamey	Evening worship 6.15 Rev'd Patrick King
February			
1	Holy Communion Rev'd Patrick King	Morning Worship Home Team	Fairtrade stall
8		Holy Communion Rev'd Patrick King	
15	Holy Communion Rev'd Nick Thompson	Morning worship Local preacher	Thursday 19th Together in prayer 8-9pm in the church
22		Holy Communion Rev'd Richard Lamey	Evening worship 6.15 Rev'd Patrick King
March			
1	Holy Communion Rev'd Patrick King or deputy	Morning Worship Home team	
8		Holy Communion Rev'd Patrick King	Fairtrade stall
15	Holy Communion Rev'd Nick Thompson	Mothering Sunday Home Team	Thursday 19th Together in prayer 8-9pm in the church
22		Holy Communion Rev'd Richard Lamey	Evening worship 6.15pm Rev'd Patrick King
29		Palm Sunday Café Church Elaine and Home Team	