

March — April 2015

Woosehill Church Magazine



*We are 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,

Social media is a frequently used term nowadays. What does it mean to you?

Do you tweet, text, Facebook, email, phone, write with pen and paper or indeed just talk? Just as long as we keep those channels of communication open, it doesn't really matter which.

These days though, our churches have to keep up to date in the ways they present themselves to the world, and more especially their local area. You will notice on the front cover of this issue that we have a brand new logo and we hope you like it!

A Google search on the computer may be the first contact that our neighbours have with us—have you looked at our new website lately? Listened to our sermons which are recorded weekly for you to catch up on those you missed? Or caught up with Paddy's tweets? "Liked" the Facebook pages of Woosehill and also that of the Parish of St Paul's Wokingham, Woosehill and St Nicholas?

If none of this means anything to you, don't worry, we'll keep on talking face to face as well!

God Bless,

Val

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

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Editor and contents	2
Letter from the Clergy Patrick King	3-4
Reflections on a special day in York Richard Lamey	5-6
Worship through Giving The Stewards	7
Worship Consultation Steve Bottom	8-9
Cake! Quartermaster's store	10
Technobabble	11
First Steps	12
Easter reflections	13
Journey to Pentecost	14
Foodbank shopping list	15
Sermon series	16
Cut and come again cake Lynn Smith	17
Church and Parish news	18
Regular meetings	19
Services diary	20



Lenten thoughts

One crisp winter's day, an artist sat down to paint a country scene. He set up his stool, arranged his easel and began to sketch the hills and fields that stretched out in front of him. A mouse cycled up to him, to enquire what he was up to. "Mr Artist, what are you doing?" "Little mouse, I am sketching this beautiful countryside. Now move out of the way so I can concentrate and get it right!" The mouse pattered off. Later in the day he returned, to find the artist still hard at work. "Mr Artist, it's getting dark, why don't you come and stay with me tonight... you can finish in the morning!" The artist, seeing that the little mouse was right, grudgingly accepted, and headed off for a good night's sleep in the mouse's house.

The following morning, snow had fallen all around, covering the hills and the trees, sparkling magically in the sunlight. The artist cursed his luck. He screwed up yesterday's sketch into a little ball and threw it away. Then he began again... he set up his stool, arranged his easel and began to sketch the hills and the fields that stretched out in front of him, glistening in the crisp morning light. The day progressed, and he was pleased with his work. The little mouse sledged over to see how things were going. "It looks good, Mr Artist, but it's getting late, and you're not going to finish before it gets dark. Why don't you come and stay with me again tonight, you can finish in the morning!" The artist, seeing that the little mouse was again right, grudgingly accepted, and headed off for another good night's sleep in the mouse's house.

The following morning, the snow had melted. Spring had come, and new life was bursting forth among the hills and the fields. The artist angrily screwed up yesterday's sketch and stomped out to set up his stool, arrange his easel, and begin to draw the scene again. He lost himself in his work, capturing a wonderful likeness of the beautiful vista. The day swiftly passed, and the little mouse turned up on his roller skates to see how he was getting on. "It looks good, Mr Artist, but it's getting late, and you're not going to finish before it gets dark. Why don't you come and stay with me again tonight, you can finish in the morning!" The artist snarled at the mouse "Get lost! Every time I agree to stay with you, something out here changes and I have to start all over again! I'll stay out here all night if I have to!" The little mouse headed home sadly.



In the middle of the night, it began to snow heavily. The little mouse noticed this, and, wrapping up warm, took rugs and a thermos flask of hot chocolate out to the artist, who was still perched on his stool, cursing the snow as it fell around him. The mouse greeted him cheerily. The artist frowned.

“Little mouse, why are you always so cheerful? You see me struggling and yet you potter about smiling happily!” The mouse paused, thinking hard. “Mr Artist, you spend all your time and energy trying to stop things from changing. I have a bicycle, a sledge, some roller-skates... even a canoe somewhere. I am prepared for whatever comes my way!”

Lent gives us all a chance to look at how we relate to a changing world, and to consider our relationship with the one who never changes.

Paddy

Rev'd Patrick King

Lunchtime fellowship

Where? Woosehill Church

When? Wednesday lunchtimes from 12 noon.

Friendship and fellowship, chat about anything and everything, plus a chance to look at the scripture reading for the following Sunday.



Bring your own sandwich, tea and coffee provided.



Reflections on a Special Day in York

It was a huge privilege to be in York Minster on Monday the 27th of January for the ordination of Libby Lane as Bishop of Stockport, the first female Bishop in the Church of England. It was clearly a historic occasion in its own right, but it was also a pivotal day in the lives of Libby and her family, who have been close family friends of ours for over 12 years. I was ordained Deacon in Chester Cathedral in June 2002 and served my Curacy in the Stockport South West Team Parish. Libby joined the team as Team Vicar in November of the same year and so, for the rest of my Curacy, she was a key influence in my development as a priest and as a person. She was imaginative, charismatic, prayerful and deeply committed to enabling people to come closer to God. She was a joy to work with. Later on I worked closely with her again when I was Rural Dean of Mottram and she was Dean of Women in Ministry in the Diocese, alongside running a large and flourishing parish in Hale.

I am really excited that Libby has been ordained Bishop because she is everything I hope a Bishop will be - committed to the growth of the Kingdom of God, an encourager and enabler, a passionate defender and explainer of the faith, unfazed by disagreement, strategic and pastoral at once, and someone who's priesthood is personal and not a mask. I am delighted, as a fierce advocate of parish ministry, that the first female Bishop is someone who has been chosen largely because of the superb job she has done in building up a parish which had undergone a time of real trauma and uncertainty before she came.



The day itself was hugely memorable. All five of us were able to go, which was super, and we enjoyed watching banks of TV cameras filming everyone who came past from the security of a coffee shop. There was a hugely positive atmosphere in the Minster and it was great to meet so many people who are part of Libby and George's world who we'd heard of but not met. I sat on the North side of the altar but Becca and the children had a much better view from their reserved seats in the second row of the Nave. Over 100 Bishops (virtually every Bishop in the Church of England plus others from around the world) surrounded Libby in a sea of red as they ordained her.

The children were most struck by the size of the Minster, the number of Bishops around and the quality of the Choir. It is the personal things I will remember most, I think - meeting Libby's childhood Vicar who inspired her to keep coming back to church when she walked in on her own and was known by name the week after, seeing old friends from my parish in Hyde, the sense of quiet joy in the congregation, the privilege of assisting with Communion on such a day, the sense that this would soon be normal and not worthy of comment. Even though the world's press was watching, it still felt personal and joyful, all about God and the Church calling one of their priests to ordination as a Bishop.

And the passion fruit cheesecake at the reception afterwards was, to coin a phrase, historic.

Richard



Woosehill Church

Worship through giving

To follow up on what Gavin and Paddy were talking about on Sunday 8 March in church, and to ensure that donations are made in the most tax efficient way, we have prepared an information sheet for you to describe different ways of giving and the importance of a gift aid declaration. With church costs increasing and the need to maintain our charitable giving, we would encourage everyone to review their financial arrangements with the church so that we can maintain and grow our ministry in this place.

Regular, tax efficient giving as part of our worship and witness here in this place, will best equip our church for its future mission to the community.

This is never an easy subject to broach, but here we aim simply to lay out the facts; there are several options available:

Standing order

A standing order is the easiest means of giving and can be set up easily. This enables you to make a regular fixed payment to the church. When this is supported by a gift aid nomination the church receives a further 20% as a refund from the taxman.

So for every £1 donated, the church receives £1.20

This is easier than any other means of giving as it is all done for you. If you would still like to place a sign of your donation into the collection purse during the Sunday service, small cards are available indicating your donation is by standing order. Please see the steward on duty for this.

Envelope scheme

If you would prefer to give regularly in cash or cheque, then these can be given in the envelope scheme. Each week has its own envelope which is provided to you. You place your regular donation in the envelope and put it in the collection bag during the service. This too can be supported by a gift aid nomination to gain the maximum benefit for the church.

Ad hoc donations

Should you wish to make additional donations on a Sunday, these can be made in gift aid envelopes which are available.

Should you require any assistance in organising your giving life in the church, please see any of the stewards, who will be pleased to help.

Yours faithfully,
Staff and Stewards of Woosehill Church
8 March 2015



Notes from the Worship Consultation Meeting

Held in church on 9 February 2015

Review of Services Oct 14 to Jan 15.

- The Armistice service worked well, with good attendance from the Scouts this year, and planting poppies in the recently cleared ground between the Church and Chestnut Avenue was very meaningful.
- The Advent service on 30th November was well received, but conflicted with the Suffolk Lodge service causing some problems for those supporting both events.
- Trialling the Christingle service on a Saturday seemed to work very well with a good attendance especially from Church and Tadpoles families.
- Tadpoles held their second successful Christmas service, led by Paddy.
- The Crib service was extremely well attended as usual, with around 280 present.
- The Carol service benefitted from extra publicity with more attending than last year. Both services received good feedback and are highlights of the Christmas period.
- The new Christmas Eve service drew praise and many would like to include this as a regular feature of our worship services with about half the congregation coming from outside the Church family; it did not seem to affect the Christmas Day attendance.
- The Cafe Church format seems well suited to the Sunday between Christmas and New Year and the inclusion of extra musicians was well received. This was followed by a lovely Epiphany Carol service early in the New Year. Many really appreciate the Covenant Service which this year was held on the 18th Jan, but could do with greater publicity to explain the background of this very special service.
- We thanked the Music Group for their meteoric efforts over the festive period, and the support from Paula Seddon to fill gaps in the music rota.



Review of 3rd Sundays

Leading up to the meeting a number of people had felt that the 3rd Sunday services were not quite meeting the needs of the congregation overall, and this was starting to manifest itself in noticeably reduced attendance. We had a general debate about the services, and whether we thought the congregation would like to change anything. One comment seemed to resonate with many, the need for more continuity of service leaders. Staff and Stewards had reviewed this at their last meeting and proposed trialling a Service of the Word led predominantly by the Ministerial Team with support from Local Preachers, perhaps once each rota. This more closely reflects some other Churches such as The Church at the Pines. The format of the services should reflect the ecumenical nature of Woosehill Church and would still allow some flexibility within a structured format. With the circuit finding it harder to meet all their Churches' needs for ministers and local preachers it was felt that this idea may help them and make good use of the resources available at Woosehill Church at the moment. There was a general agreement that this proposal could improve on the 3rd Sunday and would be planned into the Preaching Plan from August onwards.

Future Services

Paddy noted that there will be a meditative joint Parish service at Woosehill during Easter Week, most likely the Monday but to be confirmed. All other services are as included in the Preaching Plan. There will again be an Agape meal on Maundy Thursday and a meeting at the Church on Good Friday afternoon, as well as the usual Easter Services.

We discussed highlighting hymn numbers in a different way to avoid the fall hazard associated with the number board at the front of the Church. Projectionists will experiment with adding the numbers to the words at the start of each song.

There was a request to de-clutter the sanctuary, the book cases are rarely used and many of the books are no longer needed, including the blue loose leaf folders. If any sets of books are removed at least one will be kept for the archive.

Finally, we discussed the notices. An experiment has been conducted with the steward reading notices at the end of the service. Whilst not ideal most thought this was a little better than at the start of the service. Service leaders will need to decide exactly where at the end of the service the notices are read, either before or after the last hymn, and usually before the blessing.

Steve Bottom - Worship Co-ordinator



Cake !

One Saturday in early February, a hardy group of volunteers from local churches, armed with cakes, descended on some of the new houses in Wokingham as part of the Welcome Project set up by Churches Together in Wokingham (CTW). There were five of us from Woosehill knocking on doors and we arrived with a magnificent nine cakes! (and offers of more on both counts, which I shall be taking up in future!)

There were about 20-25 people there in all, from six of the Wokingham churches, and we successfully delivered about 45 cakes to the new residents of Montague Park and Mulberry Grove, along with a welcome postcard which gives a link to the Wokingham churches (www.welcometowokingham.org.uk if you want to check it out). Where people weren't in, we just left the postcard so that they still got the info.

It was very jolly and we all found folk were very friendly - some chatted, others just took the cake, but it generally felt like a good thing to do, and you never know what seeds you're sowing.

Huge thanks to door knockers and cake makers! So that's 45 down, approx 4,255 to go...



Louise

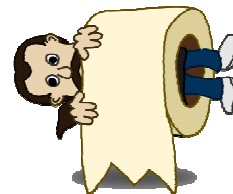
The Quartermaster's Stores

Our ever-willing Amy has offered to keep an eye on church stocks of various commodities such as tea, coffee, squash, biscuits, washing up liquid and the so important toilet rolls!

Please let Amy know if you spot supplies of any of the above are getting low so that more can be purchased.

On the other hand, you may like to top up our supplies on an occasional basis. Louise will be putting out a box now and again into which we can put some of these necessary supplies.

Why not sponsor a toilet roll??





Techno-babble

New Deanery Website

After the slight hiccup, the new website is now up and running and being developed as we go along. The URL is www.sonningdeanery.com Please could you make this a link from your Parish Website.

Also I should be very pleased to receive any information you would like published on the website.

Best wishes
Hazel Berry
Sonning Deanery Projects Co-ordinator

Lend Me Your Ears

A reminder that you can listen again to our Sermons on the Church's website - (<http://woosehillchurch.churchuna.com/home/about-woosehill-church/sermon-recordings/>) - or just go to the site and follow the links. After having some problems with this page loading on some portable devices, (I-Phones etc), we have now limited the number of Sermons to the last 6-8 weeks even though they were loading correctly on desk and lap-tops. The Sermons are recorded and archived - we have been doing this systematically from last August, (whereas before we used Mini-Discs on a 10 week rotation), so should you require a Sermon from August 2014 onwards, it should be available on request from the Tech Team.

However, click on the link or go directly to our new "Audio Archive" page for the best of our back catalogue! (<http://woosehillchurch.churchuna.com/audio-archive-2>). Here you will currently find a complete recording of the Choral Evensong that St. Paul's held at Woosehill, a re-mix of "New Creation" from 1996 and couple of Music Group tracks from a 2002 session. There are also some of our older Sermons and the occasional themed retrospective.

Hopefully you will something to audibly enjoy!

Roger Prior



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

9th April

14th May

11th June

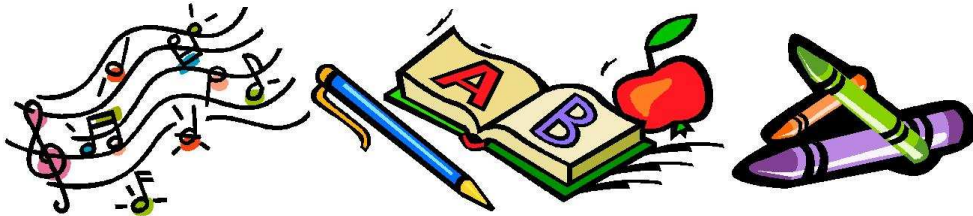
9th July

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 Richard Lamey 0118 327 9116
or Liz Gallagher 0118 989 1176.





Early Good Friday Morning

He told the truth.
This is how it is, He said, like this,
And this. This is the truth I tell you.

He told the truth so often, it became
Worn and thin in his ears, a coin,
Used and rubbed, its planes and faces smoothed
Out of all recognition. But still it was
The truth.

But now, before this judge, before
These jury members, and before the court,
He was himself his chosen advocate,
And knew it was no use; the truth was not
A currency they traded in.

It was not *legal* tender.

So, Pilate asked, contemptuously?
What is Truth?
And no-one
Had an answer.
Except perhaps the silent Man
He then went on to sentence.
Who later was led out
Into the hot sun, to die

For Truth.

Rosi Morgan Barry

Prayer for Easter

Living God,
Your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of the bread;
Open the eyes of our faith,
That we may see him in all His redeeming work;
Who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever,
Amen



(Both taken from past issues of the Wokingham Methodist magazine)



Journey to Pentecost

**You are warmly invited to join Corpus Christi
on a Journey to Pentecost.**

**With the new DVD series 'The Gift' we
will encounter the Holy Spirit and
be empowered to share our faith.**

**The presenters are David Payne, Michelle Moran,
Charles Whitehead and Jenny Baker.**

**Where: The Keenan Rooms at Corpus Christi Church,
Sturges Road, Wokingham, RG40 2HE.**

**When: 8 - 9:30pm on Wednesdays 22nd and 29th April,
6th, 14th (Thurs), 20th and 27th May and 3rd June.**

**For more information and to sign up please visit our
website**



www.journeytopentecost.wordpress.com



Foodbank update



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

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

Our current needs are:

1. Shaving Foam or Gel
2. Disposable Razors
3. Tinned Rice Pudding
4. Sponge Puddings
5. Tinned Custard
6. Pasta
7. Tinned Ham
8. Tinned Corned Beef
9. Fruit Juice 1lt
10. Sugar 500g or 1Kg

Updated

9/3/15

THANK YOU

**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. All at 6.15pm.

- 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.

Richard

The Rev'd Richard Lamey



Cut and Come Again Fruit Cake

Ingredients

225g / 8oz SR Flour

1 level tsp Baking Powder

75g / 3oz margarine

25g / 1oz Lard

4100 g / 4oz Soft Brown sugar

75g / 3 oz dried mixed fruit (I usually put a bit more)

15 g / ½ oz chopped mixed peel

1 Egg

Milk to mix

Glace Cherries washed and dried

Method

1. Line 7inch cake tin with greased grease proof paper
2. Sift flour and baking powder in a bowl
3. Rub in margarine and lard till it resembles fine breadcrumbs
4. Add Sugar, dried fruit and mixed peel
5. Mix beaten egg with a little milk
6. Pour onto dry mix and stir till a dropping consistency is reached, adding more milk if necessary
7. Put half the mixture in the lined tin
8. Lay the halved cherries on top and then add the rest of the mixture
9. Bake in oven at 350F 180C or Gas mark 4 for 45 minutes
10. Reduce temperature to 325f, 170c or gas mark 3 for up to another 30 minutes

(Thank you to Lynn Smith for sending the recipe for this delicious cake which the pastoral visitors so enjoyed at their meeting at Lynn's home in February.)



Church and Parish news

Easter in the Parish

In addition to the services advertised in the Services Diary on the back page, the following services will take place in the Parish during Holy Week:

30th March at 8pm : A meditative Holy Week Communion with Patrick at Woosehill.

31st March at 8pm: Holy Week Mass at St Paul's with Deborah Davison.

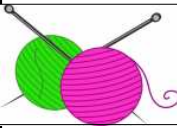
1st April at 8pm: Holy Week Mass at St Paul's with Richard Lamey.

2nd April, 8pm: Maundy Thursday Agape meal with Patrick at Woosehill.

3rd April at 2pm: Prayers at the foot of the Cross at Woosehill with Patrick.

5th April at 8.45am: Morning prayer at Woosehill with Patrick.

10am: Easter day Holy Communion at Woosehill with Patrick.



MMN Knitting news - a message from Melanie

If you would like to knit layettes for Medical Missionary News, I have been given by the representative patterns for babies' bonnets, booties, jackets and blankets. MMN also require knitted items for Sunday school gifts, so if you would like to knit smaller items such as gift bags, phone bags, clown hand puppets or soap ducks, please contact me for a pattern
Keep up the good work!

YOW

Youth of Wokingham - forthcoming dates are:

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 in term-time.

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@spauls.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
March			
29		Palm Sunday Café church Elaine and team	Evening worship 6.15 Rev'd Patrick King
April		See Page 18 for other Easter services	
5	Morning prayer Rev'd Patrick King	Easter Day Holy Communion Rev'd Patrick King	
12		Morning Worship Patrick/ Steve/ Home Team	Fairtrade stall after the service Thursday 16th Together in Prayer 8-9pm
19	Holy Communion Rev'd Nick Thompson	Morning Worship Peter Whalley	
26		Holy Communion Rev'd Richard Lamey	Evening worship 6.15 Patrick King
May			
3	Holy Communion Rev'd Patrick King	Morning Worship Patrick and Home team	Fairtrade stall after the service
10		Holy Communion Rev'd Richard Lamey	
17	Holy Communion Rev'd Nick Thompson	Morning worship Jenny Hattersley	Thursday 21st Together in prayer 8-9pm
24		Pentecost Holy Communion Rev'd Patrick King	Evening worship 6.15pm Rev'd Patrick King
31		Café Church/ Trinity Elaine and Home team	