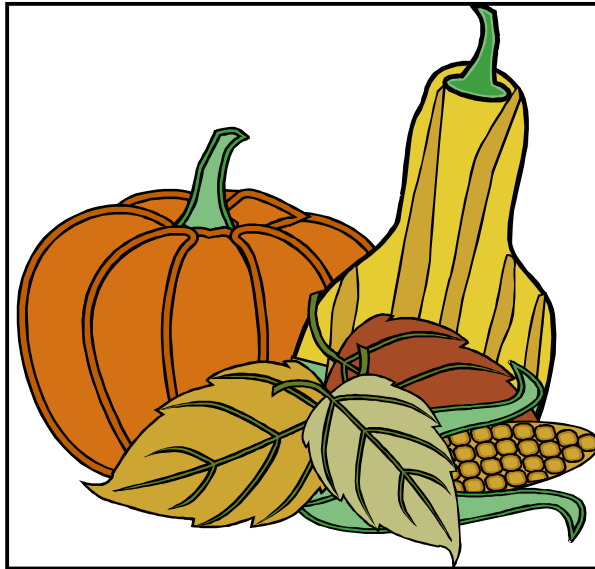




Woosehill Church Magazine

September - October 2015



*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,

At this moment when our screens, newspapers, our thoughts and our prayers are with those who are desperately fleeing their homes I can only quote from Christian Aid:

“The images of desperate refugees crossing the Mediterranean in unstable boats, or packed illegally into lorries, or protesting ‘We are human beings too’ in the port of Calais, are a distressing reminder of the shocking refugee crisis that led to the founding of Christian Aid in 1945.

Christian Aid is working with churches and other agencies in supporting humanitarian efforts taking place in Europe and the Middle East. Our partners can provide essential humanitarian supplies such as food, fuel for cooking, hygiene and sanitation kits, water containers and cash assistance, as well as psychological support for those who are suffering as a result of the conflict.

The numbers seeking refuge will grow as long as the conflicts in Syria and Iraq continue, and, as winter approaches in all countries of refuge, their needs will increase. We urgently need funds to continue supporting existing vulnerable families and prepare to reach thousands more.

Please help us respond to the immediate and long-term needs of refugees and provide vital assistance to those facing fear and uncertainty.”

Please also keep them in your prayers,

God Bless,

Val

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
****29 November 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
Clergy letter Rev'd Patrick King	3
A message from our Minister Rev'd Catherine Bowstead	4
Living Soil Eileen Fletcher	5-6
News from Quench	7
A sense of vocation Rev'd Richard Lamey	8-9
Out and about	10
Worship consultation Book review	11-12
Sunday Roast	13
Women's Missionary Fellowship	14
WOW	15
Book review Doreen Murgatroyd	16
Smile lines	17
Sermon Series	18
Regular events	19
Services diary	20



Clergy letter

Beauty in the brokenness

I love autumn. Possibly partly because growing up, it was always the season of birthdays and parties, but also because of all the seasons, it is the one that brings so many evocative images – golden red leaves scattering with the wind and crunching underfoot, the drawing in of the nights, the dewy mornings; it's almost enough to prompt one to break into song.

Part of what makes autumn so interesting is that in so many ways, it is a death. The charm that surrounds us during autumn is a morbid beauty – shrivelling leaves, freezing ground, dying light – the beauty of the season runs hand in hand with all that might serve to make us sad. We can simultaneously revel in the glory and the misery of it all.

There are signs, too, as we are inundated with news stories from eastern Europe, of a far more pervasive sadness within our society. It's far too easy to feel helpless, hopeless, as we are confronted with disturbing images, stories of suffering and discomfort, voices of people who find themselves without food or shelter. And there is a kind of beauty, in the faces, in the stories, the journeys, the perseverance... if you look, there is beauty.

And the reason there is beauty, is that there is hope.

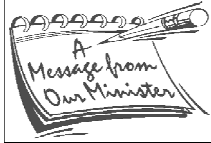
Without hope, autumn is simply death. Without the promise of spring, it is miserable, cold, wet and nothing more. But we know... we know that before too long, the green shoots of new life will be on their way.

There are signs of hope, even amid the desperation of the refugee crisis. Signs of hope, as the people of Europe join together in response. Signs of hope, as people up and down this country join their voices to proclaim "refugees welcome". Signs of hope, as Christians and Muslims and people of other faiths and no faith join together with a common cause.

Our story, as Christians, our narrative – is that death holds no sway here. There may be sadness and desperation, there may be times we feel helpless and hopeless – but no situation is completely without hope. That is our story. That is our message. That is our Gospel.

We can find beauty amid the brokenness. We proclaim hope.

Paddy



Rev'd Catherine Bowstead took over as minister in Wokingham in September and we look forward to getting to know her at Woosehill. She introduces herself in her first pastoral letter:

Dear Friends

For my first pastoral letter I thought it would be a good idea to introduce myself and my family.

We're coming to Wokingham after 11 very happy years in Colchester where I've had pastoral charge of 3 busy churches – one in the town centre and two congregations to the north of the town; one a young church plant and the other a more established congregation. Colchester has changed a lot in those 11 years as the rapid housing development has made it the fastest growing town in the UK. Before that we had 7 years in Southend-on-Sea and my first appointment was in Epsom. Before entering the Methodist Ministry I was a primary school teacher.

I'm married to Mike who works as a Tax Inspector – he'll be working at HMRC in Reading. He is a Local Preacher and enjoys singing. We have two young adult children; James has just graduated from university and will be spending the next year as Resident Organist at Pangbourne College whilst on Sundays he'll be Organ Scholar at All Saints Church in Fulham. Hannah is reading for a degree in Classics at Cambridge and is about to start her second year. She enjoys singing and a variety of crafts.

My particular joys in ministry are preaching and leading worship. I love being with people and enabling them to find and use their gifts, and I enjoy working with children and families. In my spare time I enjoy walking, reading and music.

I'm very much looking forward to getting to know you over the coming months, and keenly anticipating working alongside you for God's Kingdom. I hope and pray that I shall be able to use my gifts and insights to further God's work in this place. Please be patient as I try to learn your names, learn my way around the place and discover about our church family here in Wokingham.

With every blessing,

Catherine Bowstead



Living Soil



“My goodness,” exclaimed my neighbour. “I’ve never seen so many pelargonium flowers on one plant!”

I’d over-wintered that plant for two years but, by this spring, it had been on it’s last legs. In fact I’d almost thrown it out. Instead I left it in a corner to see if it survived.

I’ve always had very limited success with the pots. Nothing seemed to really thrive. Was it something to do with the quality of the potting compost I’d wondered?

Many years ago I’d been greatly impacted by a book called ‘**The Living Soil**’. There I gained insight into the role of beneficial flora in a healthy soil.

Could my lack of success with my pots be due to the fact that potting compost is sterilized I wondered? All flora, healthy as well as unhealthy, is thereby killed off.

In May I found a treatment for potting compost, containing a strain of *Bacillus subtilis*, which was claimed to promote healthy, vigorous root growth and prevent fungal attacks.

I treated every pot in the garden, then forgot about all it, until all my plants and climbers began to flourish and bloom profusely, even the puny pelargonium I’d almost thrown out!

By now my five Clematis plants would normally be covered in the fungal disease, ‘Clematis Wilt’, needing to be cut right back to ground level. This year not a sign of the disease!



We Christians sing: *“O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds thy hands have made. I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.”*

This summer I've been reminded that it's not just from *“lofty mountain grandeur”* that we can recognise our Creator's wisdom and provision, but even in the health-promoting benefits of a living soil.

Eileen Fletcher

(This article first appeared in the new Wokingham Paper in the Church Notes slot. Do look out for and support this local paper which is edited by Phil Creighton who also produces XN News about our local churches.)

Christmas Card competition



Christmas - no don't worry.... just the card competition. All those of year 6 and below - get drawing! We need a front cover for our Christmas Card. Deadline is the 1st November.





News from Quench

And the sun shone...!

On Thursday 17th September, Holme Grange Craft Village - the home of Quench Wokingham - played host to Christian Singer/Songwriter Philippa Hanna. It was a truly fantastic time with Philippa singing and chatting and signing her books/CDs in the courtyard outside The Grange Coffee House...AND THE SUN SHONE!!

Once again, we are your local stockists for the Real Advent Calendar. Get your orders in quick, as once they're gone...they're gone! Still only £3.99 and this year, there have been some changes - including different shaped chocolates, and activities to do throughout advent.

But Before Advent...

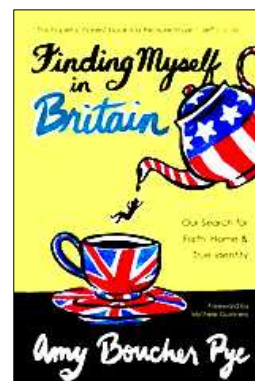
Quench Wokingham and The Grange Coffee House are looking forward to an evening with Amy Boucher Pye on **Monday 5th October**, to launch her book "Finding myself in Britain". Amy is well known for her contributions to a number of Bible Reading notes and magazines, and is a popular speaker at Christian events.

Think Michelle Guinness meets Bill Bryson. ***Finding Myself In Britain*** is a witty, insightful look at faith, identity and the quirks of British life by a stranger-turned-friend.

With a conversational style, this book explores rooting our faith in Christ to weather any storm and flourish in the sunshine. It helps readers look at Britain and its culture with fresh eyes while finding Jesus in the midst of it.

"You don't have to be an American to enjoy this book. Or British. Or a vicar's wife. You just have to be somebody who has found themselves in an unusual place, felt a bit out of their depth, and wondered where God was in all of that. That's most of us, I think." Bob Hartman.

6.30-8pm Doors open at 6pm





A SENSE OF VOCATION

(an article Richard recently wrote for The Door)

In retrospect, a lot of people around me discerned a priestly vocation in me well before I did. A sense of vocation is a tricky thing to define- how does it differ from the call made on all of God's people in baptism?- so the support and affirmations offered by my parents, by my friends, by the priests I knew and who knew me well, all of this was vital in turning what was (when I went to University) one of a handful of possible future careers into the thing I needed to explore first.

When I finished my History degree I worked for a Church in south London for a year as a Lay Assistant which was a great way of working out what parish life was like in all of its intense variety. I went to ABM (now BAP) while I was there, and started three years of residential training (the first two being devoted to a theology degree) when I was 22.

I found college very enjoyable, partly because I knew that the things I was learning would get me ready for my curacy, mostly because I was surrounded by people of a similar age who were as excited and overwhelmed by God's call as I was. Many of them are still my closest friends, and the people who are vital to my own sense of perspective and purpose.

I am delighted to say that I have spent all of my ministry in parishes thus far, because I firmly believe that parishes are the frontline of priestly ministry, places of possibility and adventure, enjoyment and grace. After a secure and encouraging Curacy in a Team Parish with three other clergy in Stockport, I went to be Priest in Charge of a parish on the eastern-edge of Manchester. It was the perfect place to learn to lead, full of willing people open to new ideas and secure in their own identity as a Church for the parish. After seven years there, including four as Rural Dean, I moved to be Rector of a parish of three Churches in Wokingham in 2012.

Being a priest is a vocation and not simply a job. The frustrations of the job are well known - constantly available, being friendly even when you don't feel like it, the impossibility of ever feeling that the job is finished. The rewards and benefits are less often stated - the flexibility of being able



to arrange the diary around family life, the privilege of being immediately at the heart of a community, the sense of doing something of great immediate significance to individual lives which is also of great eternal significance.

The joy of being a priest is being the person who rings the doorbell and is invited into the heart of a family's grief. It is going straight from there to talk to new parents about the baptism of their firstborn child, and having to ensure that the God who is named in one living room is the same in the other. It is being a visible disciple in the community, in Morrison's on your day off as much as in the pulpit. It is being both servant and leader.

It is standing at the altar and looking down the nave at so many faces and knowing, with absolute clarity, that God is at work in the lives of those who are rejoicing and those who are recovering, in the young and the old, in the person you have walked with through the valley of the shadow of death and in the person who has just walked in through the Church door for the first time in a decade. It is knowing that, in this moment, heaven and earth are one, and God is here.

Richard





OUT AND ABOUT



Would You Like To Make a Difference?

The Link Visiting Scheme is a befriending service for those in our community who feel isolated and lonely. We are looking for friendly faces to cheer someone up and give some much needed quality time. Social isolation and lack of contact is more worrying to many elderly people than health or financial pressures. Weekly visits from someone interested and willing to listen makes a huge difference to someone's life. Please get in touch if you'd like to make a difference to someone's life. We would love to hear from you and welcome you into our team!

Contact: Mandi Eagle, Volunteer Coordinator 0118 9798019 or 07823 772716

Visit: www.linkvisiting.org

or write to us 6, Shute End, Wokingham

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

2nd Thursday of Each Month

**8th October,
12th November, 10th December,
14th January**

9.15am - 10.15am

Children's Chapel, St Paul's Church

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

For more information call Richard Lamey 0118 327 9116 or Liz Gallagher 0118 989 1176, or just turn up!





Worship Consultation – 29 June 2015

Review of recent services

Good feedback was received on all the services over the Easter season, particularly the new Ash Wednesday and Good Friday services. The Agape meal was very meaningful.

We wondered whether the young people can be involved in creating the Easter garden, but the practicalities and timing of that probably means not at this stage. However, next year we will see if we can advertise this more to encourage others to join in.

Two changes made recently were discussed: Moving the notices to the end of the service, and introducing a video with music at the start of the service. Generally both are well received, noting that the video is not really suitable for Cafe Church services.

A special mention was made in support of the recent speaker from Quench who was very interesting. Visiting speakers are popular – Elaine is currently planning the launch of the new charity which may be another opportunity for a guest speaker. Jonny Cunningham's service on Mothering Sunday was also a highlight.

Technology is being used more, with live streaming of a recent Baptism service to South Africa! Roland's accordion playing is also very well received during communion services.

After a short discussion on healing services, the general view was that these could be held between two and four times per year; perhaps one per school term would be about right.

We discussed the children's toys which are now laid out in the sanctuary. It would be really helpful to talk with parents to see how well they thought this was working, and to gather feedback from a wider group to see how effective this was. This would help us understand if there is a better way of engaging the very young and their parents during services. In the mean time setting out the toys will continue.

Future services and the preaching plan

The plan for July to January 2016 was reviewed and a few changes made. In a typical month there are two early services (both Holy Communion if Catherine can support this in place of Nick).



The 10am services generally follow the pattern: Home Team, Holy Communion Paddy, Service of the Word, Holy Communion Richard, Cafe Church (if there is a 5th Sunday).

One evening service per month, on the 4th Sunday will continue to be led by Paddy.

Christmas services will follow last year's pattern, including the Saturday Christingle service, and the new Christmas Eve midnight service.

Steve Bottom

Next Meeting – 5th October 2015

Book Review

The bad Christian's manifesto

Reinventing God (and other modest proposals)

Dave Tomlinson

I picked this book up at the Church House Bookshop when we were at the Greenbelt festival recently. I recommend it as a good and thought-provoking read.

Don't be fooled by the rather light-hearted title and chapter headings, there is a lot of quite deep thinking here presented in a readily accessible way, and I found a lot to agree with.

The "blurb" on the back says;

"Welcome to the bad Christian's manifesto, an argument for:

- Keeping faith with scepticism
- Making a virtue of pleasure
- And finding heaven in the ordinary things of life.

Dave Tomlinson was a house church leader for many years before founding Holy Joe's, a church in a pub in Clapham for disaffected churchgoers. He is now Vicar of St Luke's Holloway, a thriving parish church in north London. He is the author of the seminal "The Post-Evangelical Re-Enchanting Christianity" and most recently 'How to be a bad Christian.' He is a regular contributor to Radio 2."

Val



Stage-fright's **SUNDAY ROAST**

A new interactive all-age Bible activity.

Each Sunday we'll focus on one story from the Bible. Then, starting with the original version, re-tell it in the imagination, words and actions of 21st century people.

No theatrical knowledge, experience or aptitude required!

SEPTEMBER

27th Wokingham Methodist Church

OCTOBER

11th St. James', Finchampstead

18th All Saints', Wokingham

NOVEMBER

15th St. John's, Crowthorne

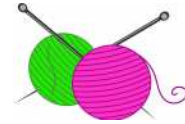
22nd St. Mary's, Twyford

Stage-Fright is a Wokingham based organisation working with people from all aspects of the community to encourage creativity when exploring issues of ethics identity, spirituality and faith.





Thanks to our Knitters!



Women's Missionary Fellowship

Central Distribution Centre
Tel: 00 44 01562 560050
e-mail: wmfgb23@gmail.com



Onslow Rd Gospel Hall
Vincent Rd
Luton
LU1 9AN

16th July 2015

Dear Melanie,

It was good to meet you yesterday and thank you so much for delivering the knitting to me.

Please pass on my thanks on behalf of Women's Missionary Fellowship to everyone who has contributed to the collection of blankets, baby knitwear and the colourful squares. I have a number of helpers who are happy to put the squares together so making a blanket.

We have just sent 100 layettes out to missionaries in Africa, where they are always very welcome. These layettes are an incentive to get mothers to go to hospital clinic and have their babies delivered in the mission hospital rather than visit the witch doctor in the forest, where their lives would be put at risk.

So many thanks again for your continued support of this work.

Yours sincerely

Nearl Chapman

Registered Charity No: 253911

Founder: Mrs Muriel Hogg

Trustee - Office: Mrs. Merrill Down

Leader: Mrs Janet Stafford



WOW Women of Woosehill



Join us once a month for a chance to get to know one another at friendly social events.

Coming up:

Monday 28th September : Skittles evening at the Frog and Wicket formerly the Toad and Stumps at Eversley opposite the cricket ground.

Lynn Smith 9619393



Sunday afternoon 18th October 2-4 (ish)

WOW will be planting spring bulbs around the church, and are extending an invitation to anyone who would like to help, to join them. Families particularly welcome; copious amounts of tea and cake provided!



If anyone feels able to make a donation of bulbs, it would be much appreciated. Henry Street have donated a few, and if you have contacts with other garden centres, perhaps you could contact them on the Church's behalf.

More details from Chris Piper 97833 / Amy 9619987

November: Bring a pudding to 2 The Hudsons, Chestnut Avenue.

Date to be confirmed.

Jenny Massey and Lynne Paine 9774257



December: Christmas meal, venue to be confirmed.



For more information contact Gillian Payne on 0118 9619100

Gillian_payne@msn.com

**Book Review****All to bring Victoria home by Delwyn Jones-Schmidt,
Ambassador Publications, 2002**

We met Vicki last May when she came out to help lead the worship at our Spanish church weekend away and to perform at the Sunday evening concert. She was in the same small group as me for the discussion sessions and is clearly an intelligent, well balanced, committed Christian as well as a talented musician. And so we heard her story; I don't think I'd have believed it if I hadn't met Vicki.

The book, written by Vicki's mother, tells the story from her mother's point of view but it's the same incredible story. A story of slander and prejudice, of corruption and incompetence and it takes place in modern France, in the heart of Western Europe, not behind the Iron Curtain or in the third world or the Middle East. The members of a small free evangelical church, meeting in Paris, are raided by the police early one morning without warning and their children are removed. They are accused of being a cult and of child abuse. No evidence can be found but that is assumed to show how clever these cult members are! Victoria is just 3 years old.

The book chronicles Delwyn and Axel's agony and their fight to get Victoria back. It is years before they are even permitted to see her. There is eventually a happy ending: the family are allowed to stay in the UK and Victoria grows up to become the beautiful young woman we met in Spain.

Doreen Murgatroyd

******* Next magazine deadline *******

As we are away for the second half of November, the November-December issue of the magazine will not appear until December - unless someone wants to take on a guest editor slot ???!

Let's make this a really festive edition, full of our events, stories, poems and prayers for the Advent and Christmas season.

Val



Smile Lines

And the congregation replied ---

Down in the southern United States, there are many churches know as 'answer back' churches. When the preacher says something, the congregation naturally replies.

One Sunday, a preacher was speaking on what it would take for the church to become better. He said: "If this church is to become better, it must take up its bed and walk." The congregation intoned: "Let it walk Preacher, let it walk."

Encouraged by their response, he went further. "If this church is going to become better, it will have to throw aside the hindrances and run!" The congregation chanted: "Let it run, preacher, let it run!"

Now really into his message, he declared: "If this church really wants to become great, it will have to take up its wings and fly!" "Let it fly, Preacher, let it fly!" the congregation shouted.

The Preacher then bellowed: "If this church is going to fly, it will cost money!" Whereupon the congregation murmured softly: "Let it walk, Preacher, let it walk."

(Taken from the parish magazine of Appleby-in-Westmorland)



Advance notice

The evening service on the 25th October will be a service of prayers for wholeness and healing. A sheet for prayer requests will be circulated beforehand, or you can email them to Paddy at:

patrick.s.king@gmail.com

**2015 Sermon Series****“My one prayer for the Church of England”**

as part of Choral Evensong 6.15pm on the third Sunday of the month.

October the 18th at *Woosehill Church*
Rev'd Nick Hudson - Friends reunited

Nick Hudson is currently Minister (Team Leader) at Wokingham Baptist Church. His only claim to fame is that as a boy he sang the first verse of Once in Royal David's City in the Carols from Kings College, Cambridge. That was a long time ago. He is now married with two teenage children, is an armchair fan of Manchester United, and still sings a bit when he gets a chance.

Nov. the 15th at St Paul's
the Rev'd Canon Leanne Roberts
Life Abundant

Leanne is Canon Treasurer of Southwark Cathedral and Director of Ordinands for the Diocese of Southwark. Previously she was Chaplain of Hertford College, Oxford, an Honorary Chaplain with Oxford and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust, and a Vocations Advisor in the Diocese of Oxford.

Prior to ordination Leanne studied music, and worked in the field of mental health research. She likes to sing, travel, and read detective fiction; she has recently been trying her hand at writing icons, and her recent fortieth birthday heralded an unexpected enthusiasm for gardening.



REGULAR MEETINGS

Sunday

Church services - see back page

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

Tuesday

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

Contact Rev'd 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 0118 9773397

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 (Parish administrator Becca Lamey)

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
September			
27		Holy Communion Rev'd Richard Lamey	Evening service 6.15 Rev'd Patrick King
October			
4	Holy Communion Rev'd Patrick King	Harvest festival Paddy and Home Team	
11		Holy Communion Rev'd Patrick King	Thursday 15th Together in Prayer 8-9pm
18	Rev'd Patrick King Service of the Word	Rev'd Catherine Bowstead Holy Communion and Desert Island Discs	
25		Holy Communion Rev'd Richard Lamey	Service of healing 6.15 Patrick King
November			
1	Holy Communion Rev'd Patrick King	All Saints Day Patrick/Steve	
8		Remembrance Sunday Holy Communion Rev'd Patrick King	
15	Morning prayer Rev'd Patrick King	Holy Communion Rev'd Jackie Case	Thursday 19th Together in Prayer 8-9pm
22		Holy Communion Rev'd Richard Lamey	Evening service 6.15 Patrick King
29		Café Church / Advent Elaine and Home team	7.30pm Advent Carol Service Rev'd Patrick King