

Woosehill Church Magazine

Sharing God's love with the community

January - February 2022



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woosehillchurch.org
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YouTube**



Dear Church Family and all other readers,

When I started to put this magazine together, I feared that I would not be able to fill it, but thanks to our valued contributors it is yet again a packed issue - in fact with a good deal of serious reading, so you may need to pick a dull day, perhaps turn away from that annoying jigsaw, and just put your feet up with a cuppa!

As I write, the sun is shining brightly, and I am told that the snowdrops are out at Wisley, so let's look forward to the coming Spring. A loyal band of supporters have kept our church going week by week during difficult times, some learning new and challenging skills and my prayer for this year is that we will reach a more settled period with more of our church members venturing back to church, and perhaps some new faces appearing, though of course online streaming will continue for the foreseeable future.

In the meantime, I wish you all a very happy new year and pray for a time of hope and renewal .
With every blessing,

Val

Next deadline: March 17th 2022
Articles and notices as usual
preferably by e-mail to:
valerie.weedon@btinternet.com

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A Message from our Minister



Dear Friends,

The first month of the new year is passing quickly and we are bracing to welcome the second month. But I am sure memories of last Christmas are still afresh in our minds. We are a thankful people who always cherish and enjoy and feel grateful for all the opportunities God provides to us in that we feel his abiding love and assurance.

February ushers in one of the oldest Christian feasts: Candlemas. Always celebrated on the 2nd day of February, this feast marks the dedication of baby Jesus to God in the Temple. It is observed 40 days from Christmas on this day, every year. It is hard to believe that 40 days have gone since last Christmas. Traditionally, Christmas season comes to an end on this day.

What completes the Christmas narrative is not only the presentation of our Lord Jesus in the Temple but also, the part played by two faithful people of God: Simeon the priest and Anna the prophetess, both of them were very advanced in their age [Luke 2: 22-32]. Simeon has been waiting all his life for this day and moment, simply to see the Messiah. When the parents presented the baby Jesus to Simeon, he held the infant in his arms. Filled with the Holy Spirit, he realised this was the Messiah. He came to understand that his lifelong waiting for this purpose has now come to fulfilment. He praised God for this blessing and burst into singing saying, now that he has seen the Messiah, he can die in peace.

Anna on the other hand, saw her faithfulness paying dividends. Spending most of her time fasting and praying in the Temple, she too was blessed by God to be there when the dedication was taking place. Sharing with Simeon in that fulfilling experience, she thanked God, and in response to this privilege, she spoke of Christ to all those who were waiting for the redemption he would bring.

Christmas story begins with the proclamation of angels and ends with those waiting on the Lord seeing their lifelong expectations fulfilled. Promise and fulfilment – this is what God offers to all who wait on him.

With prayers,

Soba-



Happy New Year

May the Lord make my New Year a happy one...

Not by shielding me from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening me to bear it if it comes.

Not by making my path easy, but by making me sturdy enough to tread any path.

Not by taking hardship from me, but by taking all cowardice and fear from my heart as I meet hardships.

Not by granting me unbroken sunshine, but by keeping my face bright even in the shadows.

Not by making my life always pleasant, but by showing me where men and His cause need me most and by making me zealous to be there and to help...

God, make my year a happy one



Renewing our Covenant

I gave up making New Year's resolutions many years ago. I never kept them for more than a week or so and if they were worth making, i.e. relevant & doable, then I could make them any time of the year. But the New Year has always been important for one sort of resolution: the reaffirming of the covenant relationship between God & his people in the annual Covenant Service. When I was at the beginning of my Local Preacher training, Libby Godden put together a dialogue to help explain the Covenant to me & to the congregation. I think it's still one of the clearest explanations I've come across:

Covenant Service

Dialogue between Libby & Doreen for a 2007 Covenant Service

D: Libby, what are we doing?

L: Well, we're holding our annual Covenant Service.

D: What's a Covenant Service?

L: It's something we Methodists do every year. At this service, we invite people to renew their covenant relationship with God. We've been holding this special service since the days of our founder, John Wesley – over 250 years.

D: Shouldn't we be moving on with the times? If it's history, what's it got to do with us today?

L: Good question! The Covenant Services leads us through praise of the Trinity to listening to God's word in scripture, read and preached, and then follows a penitential approach to the words of the solemn Covenant we make with God.

D: (interrupting) .. Excuse me, but what are you trying to say?

L: Ah! Well, I suppose I could have phrased it better. After all, this is the 21st century and those words were from the mid 1700s! The whole point of the Covenant Service is to celebrate God's readiness to enfold us in God's generous love, not dependent on our deserving. Our response, also in love, comes in penitent joy from thankful recognition of all that means. In a word, the promise by which we commit ourselves to God in the Covenant Service confirms the mutual relationship of love we share – God's love for us and our love for God.

D: So this is something between God and me, then? - very personal and very private.



L: In one sense, yes. But you see, Doreen, the Covenant is not just a one-to-one agreement between individuals and God, because we make it as a whole faith community.

D: I don't think I've got this straight yet! Do you think you could explain it from the beginning?

L: That's a very good idea! It all started a few thousand years ago, when God made a Covenant with one nation – the people of Israel. In the Book of Exodus, we read that, when Moses shared God's terms with the people, "they responded with one voice, 'Everything the Lord has said we will do.'" Unfortunately, they didn't do what they said they'd do. The people didn't keep to their side of the agreement. And the Covenant was broken. You have to realise that it's like a contract – it's a two-way agreement and it only works when both parties are doing what they said they would do.

D: I'm still struggling with all this ancient history. It all seems totally irrelevant! When are you going to get to the point for me today?

L: When the Covenant failed because the people didn't keep their side of the agreement, God had to think of some other way to develop the relationship he wanted to share with people.

So, moving on several hundred years, we find a new era in God's attempts to re-work the Covenant – the age of the prophets, through whom he gave advance notice of the new method he would use. The prophet Jeremiah told the people that God promised to make a new Covenant and to put his law in their minds and write it on their hearts.

If we move on even further, to the time when BC became AD, we can see how this became possible. Jesus of Nazareth looked like any ordinary man, but we believe him to be the Son of God, sent by God to seal God's Covenant with us.

D: Ah! Jesus. I wondered when you'd get round to him! But I still don't understand how this service differs from any other.

L: What makes this service so significant is that we are renewing our Covenant together. It's so easy to make this a personal renewal of commitment, but there is a vital corporate dimension to it – there has to be because Christianity is not something we do on our own in isolation – it only works when we do it together.

D: I hadn't appreciated that before, but I can see how important it is for us as the Church, the body of Christ by its other name. We're a bit like the people of Israel, then, and God wants us to be united in saying, "Everything the Lord has said we will do" And that's not easy, is it? It's a real challenge, because, having made our Covenant, we've then got to stick by it and live out our promise to do what God asks of us.

And, I suppose, I must take Jesus as my example to follow.

L: Spot on!

D: And is there still some significance to Jesus that goes beyond appearances?

L: Yes there is. Jesus death on the cross and subsequent resurrection are the central point of the Bible. And in the stories of the last supper, the gospel writers link the wine to Jesus' sacrificial blood of the covenant "poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:26). Luke reminds us that we eat bread and drink wine together "in remembrance" of Jesus. (Luke 22:19) And when we share the sacrament of holy communion it is an act of both obedience and thanksgiving. And I don't think Jesus had to die, I think he was willing to take the path he took because of God's love working through him. Through his self-sacrifice, the power of sin and death was broken for all time by the power of self-giving love.

D: I now realise that the renewal of the Covenant is a serious moment in terms of our intention and our desire to keep our promise. And I feel in my bones that the celebration of the Lord's Supper that will follow will be different and more significant in future.

L: Well, Praise the Lord! Amen.





A Celebration of Joy

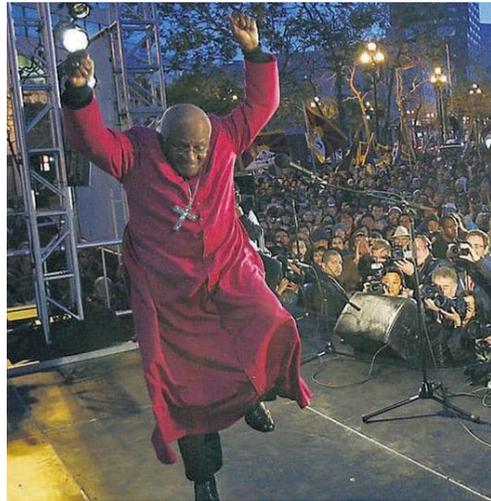
This poem by the Persian 14th century poet Hafiz, was mentioned by Cara in her sermon on 16th January and has been in social media alongside a glorious photo of Desmond Tutu dancing in pure delight and happiness. And the poem is this:

***I sometimes forget
that I was created for Joy.***

***My mind is too busy.
My Heart is too heavy
for me to remember
that I have been
called to dance
the Sacred dance of life.***

***I was created to smile
To Love
To be lifted up
And to lift others up.***

***O' Sacred One
Untangle my feet
from all that ensnares.
Free my soul.
That we might
Dance
and that our dancing
might be contagious.***



'Joy and delight and knowing we are loved is a human need too, just as much as food and shelter and health and safety. That grace in abundance is ours and is given to us because it is fundamental to who we are in relationship with God. That in the incarnation and in all our epiphany moments, our souls need to feel and know their worth, we need to never forget that joy that overflows like wine is a gift of the spirit too. That in everything we come to recognise as good, there God is. And when we recognise ourselves as deserving of abundant blessings, it is then that we too experience a miracle like the wedding at Cana, because it is then that we overflow with the grace of God.'

Cara

----- and here is a special reason for joy in the Smart's household with the arrival of adorable puppy Jasper!





An extract from Richard's St Stephen's Day sermon

Christmas is God's constant and passionate love song to us, to you. God is with you, whatever you face, whatever you carry, whatever shadows imprison you, whatever ghosts linger at the edge of your vision. God is for life, not just for Christmas. And God knew what he was doing, what he was coming to - or else he wouldn't have needed to come.

And after the last 22 months especially, and in the hard months to come, it matters immensely that we know that Jesus chose our real world to be born into to share our flesh and our life. There is nothing we can face, nowhere we can be, where he will not find us because of Christmas.

If you have just managed to stumble through your first Christmas without a loved one, then know that Jesus is born for you. If you are coming to terms with an illness which will not go away, then know that Jesus is born for you. If you are lonely or frustrated or frightened or in despair, then know that Jesus is born for you. If you are racked with sorrow that you can't be with those you love this Christmas, again, then know that Jesus is born for you. And know as well, Jesus is born for you who this day are relieved, and joyous, and content, and satisfied, and warm, and recovered because all of that is part of our world too, the world Jesus comes to be part of.

All of which is to say, real world, real baby, real love. Pain and fear and danger are woven into the Christmas story from the very beginning. None of it is new to Jesus, or strange, or frightening. This world, our world, with all of its radiant beauty and empty shadows, is the world Jesus is born into because he loves us.

Believing this changes everything. Knowing that we are not alone ever but held in the love of God which comes to find us in Jesus Christ at Christmas and always means that we can live courageously, generously, warmly and kindly, loving God with everything we have and are and our neighbours as ourselves. Knowing God's love is what took Stephen to his death. We're not likely to have to follow the same road as him but knowing that we are loved must have an impact on our lives, must make a visible difference to what we do and how we live, must bring light and hope to the communities we are part of.

Exactly what that looks like is a conversation for another day. Today is the 2nd day of Christmas and the feast of St Stephen. For today, relish the heart of Christmas, which is the heart of God, full of love, coming to find you, to be with you, today and always.

Amen.

Rev'd Richard Lamey

There is room in my heart for....

When I retired, I felt I needed a bit of structure in my week, and I was keen to contribute to my new community here in North Hampshire, so I offered my services as a volunteer at one of the local charity shops. The charity is St Michael's Hospice and having visited the hospice for an induction and information session, I am really impressed that it is a worthy cause. The shop, however, is a bit of an oddity; it is tiny, rammed with so much stock it often feels as if it will burst, and managed by a sweet but eccentric lady called Linda who is older than I am and takes constant, inconsequential chatter to a level I have rarely experienced before!



Soon after I started my Friday afternoon stints at the shop, Linda trained me to use the till. I have no experience in retail work at all, but I can find my way around the software thanks to all the equipment ordering I had done as a technician. However, using the electronic till is only part of the challenge of being “front of house” in a charity shop; the most demanding part of it (and the reason why many volunteers refuse to do it) is dealing with the customers! The place is constantly busy-we usually take £600-£800 each Friday-and the people who come in can be, to say the least, unusual. Some will try to haggle the prices down or give you less than the price on the label, some are obviously buying to resell on eBay and continually ask you what the product would have cost when it was new, some have no English and can't understand how much they need to pay. Whereas I have really enjoyed the delight of a young Polish mother who bought a beautiful but very old-fashioned dinner service at an absolute knockdown price, I certainly didn't enjoy having clothing thrown at me by a woman who demanded I came and tidied up the section she was looking at, refusing to accept that I was occupied and would do it as soon as I could!

Last Friday was an extra stressful session, because the weather was so awful that people were cramming themselves into the shop to keep out of the freezing cold and slushy snow. A customer came to the till with a huge pile of clothing, and I realised with dismay that it was mostly from the “pound rail”, as we call it, where everything has been reduced to £1. This means that I have to scan the labels (to inform the system of the Gift Aid code, since most of our stock is Gift Aided), then do another four touchscreen actions each time to reduce the price to £1. I started working my way through the ten items, and a sizeable queue started building up, and to add to the pressure the woman made a huge fuss because one skirt had come up at £3. When I explained that this one hadn't been reduced, she made me remove the sale, which is another four actions. By the time I had finished and she had paid her £9,



I was anxious just to bundle the clothes up and pass them to her so that I could get on with serving someone else to reduce the queue, but then she asked for a bag, for which she is supposed to pay 10p during the transaction. So, I am ashamed to say, I grabbed an old bag and literally stuffed her clothes into it willy-nilly without folding them, and when she said it wasn't big enough, I mendaciously said it was all I had. I was so relieved when she finally took her bag and left that I felt as if I had run a marathon!

After I had got home that evening and was flopping on the sofa with a glass of wine, I began to relive this incident in my mind and feel guilty about it. I really hadn't shown this woman much respect, and I had allowed my embarrassment about the other customers who were waiting make me treat her with a lack of courtesy. It was still weighing heavily on my mind when I went to St James', the largest church in our Benefice, on Sunday for the Covenant service. I was taking a small part in the service, reading some passages with a little linking commentary, and leading the intercessions, and as always, those amazing words of the Covenant promise arrowed straight to my heart.

The service was led by the retired minister who has taken a leading role in the Benefice during the six-month interregnum following the retirement of the previous Rector due to ill health. Sammie is a softly-spoken Scot who is 82 years old and looks extremely frail, but he is an absolute powerhouse for the Lord, and one of the best preachers I have ever heard. The reading he preached on last Sunday was John 15: 9-12, Jesus' commandment to love one another. It was a familiar passage, yet every point Sammie made was a revelation, and you could see and hear the response from the congregation as each of them struck home to us. He told us that when we made our Covenant commitment to let Jesus into our lives, he didn't just come alone, but he brought his friends; not just the nice, familiar friends like Peter and John, but also the poor, the vulnerable, and the unlikeable. Sammie reminded us that we were just about to sing that famous old hymn "Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown", with its beautiful refrain "O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for thee". In fact, Jesus wants us to give heart-room, not just to him, but also to those for whom he cares so much; so, if we really do mean our Covenant promise that "I am no longer my own, but yours", then for us that refrain should be:

"O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for these."

I am sure that many of us have gone to church on a Sunday and heard something which has spoken directly to us about something going on in our life that week. Sometimes the message is a welcome reassurance or consolation, but this time, for me, it was a challenge. I am determined that next time I serve a grumpy customer who is in the unenviable situation of only having £9 to spend on some worn clothing, they will get as much courtesy from me as anybody else I serve, and I will do my best to make them feel valued and respected so that they can better face the hardships of their life. In future there will always, I hope, be room in my heart for these.

Elaine Steere

From Yeldall Manor prayer diary October:

The Lord is my pacemaker – I shall not rush. He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals: He provides me with images of stillness, Which restore my serenity.
He leads me in ways of efficiency
Through calmness of mind, and His guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things
To accomplish each day, I will not fret –
for His Presence is here:
His timelessness, His importance will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal
In the midst of my activity,
By anointing my mind with his oils of tranquility. My cup of joyous energy overflows.
Surely harmony and effectiveness Shall be the fruits of my hours;
For I shall walk in His house forever.
A version of the 23rd Psalm by Toki Miyashina.

Lynn circulates the monthly prayer diary for Yeldall together with the Prayer Chain update. If you would like to receive it, just have a word with Lynn.



Bless this House

Either on Twelfth Night (5 January) or on Epiphany Day (6 January) itself, many Christians chalk their doors with a pattern such as

20+C+M+B+22

The numbers refer to the calendar year, the crosses stand for Christ and the letters have a two-fold significance: C, M and B are the initials for the traditional names of the three wise men, also known as the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar), they are also an abbreviation of the Latin blessing *Christus mansionem benedicat* (May Christ bless this house).

This Christian custom of marking the door has a biblical precedent as the Israelites in the Old Testament marked their doors in order to be saved from death:

Exodus 12 (21-23)

Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb.

Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning.

When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

The Epiphanytide practice serves to protect Christian homes from evil spirits until the next Epiphany Day, at which time the custom is repeated. This custom seems especially appropriate this year in the presence of the ever-rising number of coronavirus patients and sadly, deaths.

For 2022 this is what you will write on your door in chalk:

20 + C + M + B + 22

Prayers at Woosehill

We are a church that likes to pray and there are ways in which you can join in with those prayers; as Jesus said “Where 2 or 3 are gathered in His name He is there also.” We pray for family and friends who are sick, or have worries - when they have agreed to us praying for them.

The Prayer Chain via Email

There are over 40 people who pray regularly for people who have requested our prayers. These prayers are kept confidential and on the list until the end of the month after they were requested, that is, unless there have been any updates or the problem has already been resolved.

The prayer chain list is updated at the beginning of each month and a regular update on how we can best direct and guide our prayers is always welcome.

Intercessions

These prayers are for people who are happy to be prayed for during our morning services for the duration of their need.

All prayer requests should be made to Lynn Smith

woosehillprayer@gmail.com - this is checked several times a day.

Everyone is welcome to join the prayer chain and to pray regularly for our church family, please speak to Lynn Smith if you are interested and want to know more.

Lynn

Together in Prayer

Once a month we hold an hour-long prayer meeting at which we pray for all aspects of our Church on Woosehill and its community. I love the quote by Corrie ten Boom “Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tyre?” To me it sums up our need to get together and underpin our concerns, our vision, our wellbeing.... indeed anything and everything that we have on our hearts both for ourselves as a Church family, its wider family, and our precious Church and the community surrounding it. So, if you can spare an hour between 8-9pm on the third Thursday of each month to join us on Zoom, we’d love to see you. We are a relaxed group with no rules about praying aloud or praying in a certain way, your presence is enough. Contact me, Lyn Brown on lyn@lynbrown.me for the log in details.

Lyn



A Story from Yeldall Manor

Immediately before Yeldall became a rehab, it was home to the Community of Celebration, a pioneering American Anglican community and their music group, the Fisherfolk. Betty Pulkingham, wife of founder, Graham, wrote about a very special visitor they received one day around 1975-6:
(This Is My Story This Is My Song: A Life Journey, Betty Pulkingham)

The most memorable of all was an unexpected Sunday afternoon visitor. Community members were off hither and yon enjoying unscheduled time in a variety of ways. I happened to be the only person downstairs, so I answered the front door to see a beaming face and hear,

“Hello. I am **Desmond Tutu**, and this is my family. We are visiting Lord Remnant.” Lord Remnant was the adjacent landowner. “We wanted to come over to greet you.”

I invited them inside. In the cozy nook, beside burning embers in the small fireplace, we sat while he told of their approaching departure for South Africa, where he was to become the Anglican Dean of St. Mary’s Cathedral in Johannesburg—the first black person to hold that position. Well aware of the seething unrest in his homeland and the challenges ahead, he asked for our prayers. I told him a bit about our odyssey and how we had come to be here. His wife and children were lovely. The whole experience is etched in gold in my memory, because—who could have known? Who could have dreamt that he would become one of the key figures in the bloodless revolution which overcame apartheid in his beloved country? To have met such a man at such a time I count as one of the choicest blessings of my life.

Christmas at Tadpoles



For our last session before Christmas, we had a mini Crib Service. Val told the Christmas story with the Nativity figures, and as the children had heard the story over the previous two sessions they were able to enthusiastically join in! We finished with our usual blessing read by Soba who we welcomed to our group for the first time.

After that, we enjoyed festive snacks together.

We have taken an extended break over Christmas but started again on 19th January and look forward to more fun this term.



Fairtrade Fortnight

21 February to 6 March 2022



For two weeks each year at the end of February and start of March, thousands of individuals, companies, and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks, mine our gold and who grow the cotton in our clothes, people who are often exploited and underpaid.

In 2022, our online Choose the World you Want Festival will return from 21 February to 6 March. Last year's festival saw campaigners, shoppers, students, and businesses come together in a show of support for the farmers behind our food on the front line of the climate crisis. From online panels to bake-offs and coffee mornings over 50 virtual events took place as part of our virtual festival, with supporters sharing the power of Fairtrade and what needs to happen next to ensure farmers and workers are put front and centre of conversations on how to tackle the climate crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us more than ever how interconnected we are globally. This interconnection is at the very heart of the Fairtrade message and is where your role begins. You are part of the Fairtrade movement, and you have the power to drive long-term change, not only with your shopping choices but with your support in spreading the message.

Since last Fairtrade Fortnight we have seen the G7 and COP26 take place. Over 33,000 campaigners joined 1.8m Fairtrade farmers and workers in backing the Be Fair With Your Climate Promise challenge to world leaders at the UN COP26 summit. But frustration came as the wealthiest nations failed to recognise the urgent need to invest in farmer expertise by delaying their promised \$100bn annual funding to the most climate vulnerable countries until 2023. That isn't good enough.

What is Soulscape? - one of our local church charities

Soulscape is a charity working in partnership with Berkshire schools to give young people the space they need.

The pressure

Being a teenager has always been tough. But for today's young people, peer pressure happens around the clock, bullying invades their own homes, and exam pressures at school have ratcheted up.

With pressure to keep up appearances online, be available 24/7, perfect (and share) their bodies, get the best grades, think and say the 'right' thing, and support their families too, teenagers live with a huge amount of stress – even without the pandemic.

The consequences

We are seeing a mental health epidemic in our young people. The number of teenagers with mental health problems has doubled in the last 20 years. In 2018, more than a fifth of 14-year-old girls said they had self-harmed. And for those who don't become ill, there is little time and space at school or home to switch off, breathe, reflect, and form their own opinions and ideas – something that is a crucial part of adolescence.

Our aim is to create space

Young people don't need yet another voice telling them what to think and do. Rather than pile more pressure onto them (“do these ten things to feel better”), we believe in creating space away from it all. Space to reflect, to ask big questions, to explore what's going on inside, and to creatively express their own ideas.

We do this by...

- Listening to young people's ideas and requests about what they want to discuss, whether that be self-harm, pornography, or how to make good decisions.
- Running workshops on these topics in their schools, where they can explore, debate, reflect and express themselves through the creative arts.
- Helping schools in Wokingham and Bracknell to run an effective PSHE and RE curriculum

Churches can offer a unique space to reflect on life and consider big questions, but it's unlikely that the majority of our local young people will step inside them. Instead, Soulscape brings this 'bigger picture' perspective to Berkshire's teenagers where they need it most – at school.



Marion Bolton - A big heart

It was with great sadness that I learnt of the passing away last week of Marion Bolton, a former member of our church for many years before she moved away to Lincolnshire with her family. In the days when we had a big Sunday Club and our annual Holiday Club attracted 100 kids, Marion (who had huge experience in Early Years education) was central to our work with children and families. She was practical and down-to-earth, which provided the essential solid foundations for what was a really inspiring time of growth and outreach. Although she had many work and personal commitments, Marion was one of those people who took on responsibility cheerfully and uncomplainingly, and you could always rely on her, which is such a wonderful thing in children's ministry.

Yet Marion was a private person, and few of us knew her very well. Because she had quite a brusque way of speaking and very little personal vanity, I think we often took her for granted, and didn't give her the credit for all she accomplished. I am sure that the Lord saw and valued her service, however, and that now she is in his eternal presence she is hearing the beautiful words of Matthew 25:23: "Well done, good and faithful servant". With her big heart and willingness to commit herself to God's work amongst our precious "little ones", Marion was a great blessing to this church.

Elaine

Parish News

Bishop Olivia is coming to confirm people from St Paul's and All Saints on Sunday the 20th of March at 3.30pm- do please put the date in your diary, especially since we will need welcomers and a Choir (tbc) and there might even be refreshments by then. If you haven't been baptised or confirmed, and would like to think about it, then do please speak to Richard or Cara.



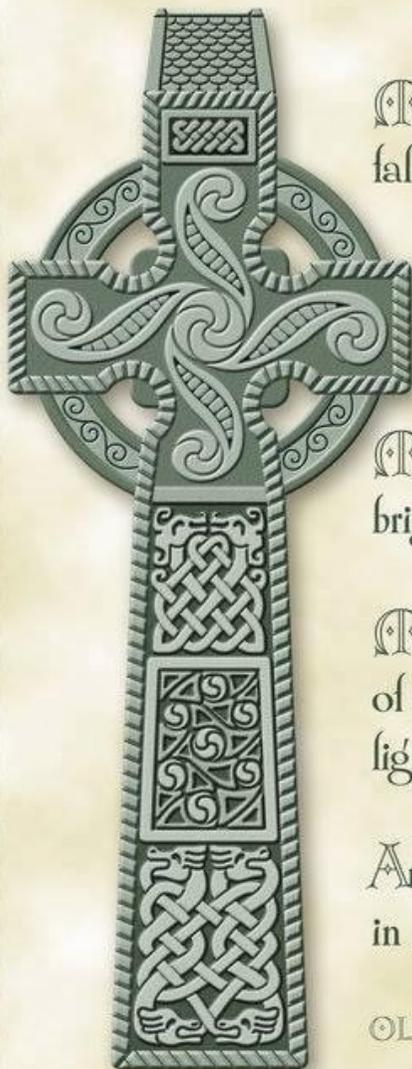
We are still learning about our new overseas charity:

During the global COVID-19 pandemic people with disabilities have faced greater hardship, far higher rates of unemployment, food insecurity and less access to vaccines and health information than people without disabilities. This impact has been compounded in low and middle-income countries where people often live in a cycle of poverty and disability that's hard to escape.

People with disabilities are still overwhelmingly overlooked in crises, which is why CBM UK and our CBM Global partners around the world are highlighting the need to build a #BetterWorldForAll. We call on governments and communities to address injustices experienced by people with disabilities and recover in a way that emphasises inclusive public health and safety.



A Gaelic Blessing



May the raindrops
fall lightly on your brow.

May the soft winds
freshen your spirit.

May the sunshine
brighten your heart

May the burdens
of the day rest
lightly upon you.

And may God enfold you
in the mantle of His love.

OLD GAELIC BLESSING

Woosehill Church Services and meetings

As more of us return to church, we continue to livestream our 10am service on our Woosehill Church YouTube channel, the link also advertised weekly on our Facebook page, newsletter and website woosehillchurch.org

Also at the moment on Zoom:

Parish Bible study on Tuesday evenings 7.15 - 8.30pm

Together in Prayer on the third Thursday of the month from 8-9pm
Contact Lyn Brown for details

Church Contacts

Rev'd Soba Sinnathamby, 23 Sheridan Way RG41 3AP,
01189894374 soba.sinnathamby@hotmail.co.uk

Rev'd Richard Lamey, The Rectory, Holt Lane 0118 3279116
richard.lamey@spauls.org.uk

St Paul's Parish Office, Reading Road, Wokingham RG41 1EH
0118 979 2122 (Parish administrator Louise Cole)
church.office@spauls.org.uk

Rev'd Catherine Bowstead, Methodist Superintendent Minister
5 Chetwode Close, Wokingham RG40 2LL 0118 9781756
minister@wokinghammethodist.org.uk



Our Current Pattern of Services at Woosehill Church

1st Sunday - Holy Communion

2nd Sunday - Morning Worship

3rd Sunday Holy Communion

4th Sunday - Morning Worship

5th Sunday - Morning Worship / Café Church

We also now have a reflective evening service on the first Sunday of each month.

6.15-7pm, Woosehill Church

A chance to be still in the presence of God and one another, with some taize chants, Bible reading, candles and time for quiet reflection. All are very welcome.

For more information please contact Revd Cara Smart,
cara.smart@spauls.co.uk or look on our website, www.woosehillchurch.org

