

# Woosehill Church Magazine



**Sharing God's love with the community**

**March - April 2023**



**Find us on our website  
[woosehillchurch.org](http://woosehillchurch.org)  
and on our Facebook page  
Or follow our livestreamed services on  
YouTube**



*Dear Church Family and all other readers,*

When I chose the cheery front cover for the magazine I really thought that Spring was on the way. With the return of winter however I think we need the promise of better things to come!

There is a great variety of content in this issue of the church magazine, do put your feet up and enjoy it over a cuppa and **please** continue to be aware of the need for support to keep our church here at Woosehill thriving.

We all have gifts to bring to our community and rest assured that if you offer to help in any way you will have support from others in the church and not left to go it alone. Perhaps you might even do a 'job share' with a friend?

There are always spare printed copies of the magazine at the back of the Sanctuary so instead of leaving them to be recycled why not pass one on to a friend or neighbour?

*With every blessing,  
Val*

**Next deadline: Sunday May 14th**  
**Articles and notices as usual**  
**preferably by e-mail to:**  
**[valerie.weedon@btinternet.com](mailto:valerie.weedon@btinternet.com)**

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## Elaine's Patch

### Music Evolution



Recently my husband and I enjoyed the “experience” he gave me for my Christmas present; we’ve given up trying to think of stuff to give each other, so we buy tickets for performances or events we can share. My present to him was a stand-up comedy show, which we giggled our way through last month, and his to me was a live reworking of the 1973’s prog-rock classic album Tubular Bells by one of the composer Mike Oldfield’s musical collaborators.

In my first year at university, I played Tubular Bells until the vinyl was practically transparent, and it became very special to me. However, my life and taste in music moved on, and I hadn’t heard it for many years. I was curious about how it would sound in today’s very different world, and a little apprehensive about being disappointed, but I needn’t have worried; the show exceeded my expectations in many ways. The piece had been rearranged for an 8-piece live band including two percussionists, and although the keyboard player and one of the guitarists were of the same vintage as the music, the rest were in their twenties, and impressively talented. They played with enthusiasm and joy, which communicated itself to the (mostly mature) audience and won them a standing ovation at the end of the show.

We all know how important good music is to the experience we get from our services of worship. If we hadn’t realised it before, it hit us rather forcefully when we all had to worship online during COVID! At Woollahill we were blessed to have a Music Group who for many years provided the foundation on which our services were based, and many of us will remember with great thankfulness how they provided us with wonderful experiences of worship at a time during an interregnum when few other spiritual resources were available to us. Even now their legacy continues in the songs we learnt to love, which reactivate our faith whenever we hear them.

I know that many big inner-city churches are fortunate enough to be bouncing along with 5-piece bands and impressive sound mixing equipment, but out in the sticks it can be a very different story. Traditional rural churches have



churches have lovely organs, but very few people to play them, and the ones who can are usually of the older generation. The style of hymns which sound best played on an organ is often a long way from the personal taste of many of the congregation, especially the younger members! Yet the alternative, to move towards the work of gifted contemporary hymn writers like Stuart Townend and Matt Redman, requires finding and recruiting musicians who are often incredibly busy people, so they have little time to arrange, rehearse or collaborate with others. Sometimes it all seems so challenging that we are tempted to give up, but then of course you are faced with the unpalatable alternative: recorded backing music!

However, with faith and perseverance, I do believe that we are finding ways of keeping the music in our churches fresh and (mostly) live. Woosehill has made connections with various generous folk who are willing to share their musical gifts, and I have been touched at their hard work and expertise. At St Leonards we have just welcomed a couple, newly moved to the area, who have a lot of experience leading modern worship music, and he is a very talented guitarist. Even if they only play and sing at our monthly Café Church, it will be a huge boost to the outreach we are hoping to provide in our community. It means we can enjoy “Bless the Lord O my soul” regularly, going back to “Great is thy faithfulness” in our more traditional services when we have an organist.

We all want our worship to engage our emotions, and music is such a huge part of that. I believe that God is revealing new ways for churches to creatively use the musical talents of the community, even if it means a lot of work for those who organise, arrange and communicate in order to make it happen. If that’s the case, I’m prepared to put up with the occasional week having to sing along with (or rather two bars behind) a recorded track!

***Elaine Steere***



## **Seen at Lanercost Priory Cumbria**

*If this is not a place where my spirit can take wing  
Where do I go to fly?*

*If this is not a place where tears are understood  
Where do I go to cry?*

*If this is not a place where my questions can be asked  
Where do I go to seek?*

*If this is not a place where my feelings can be heard  
Where do I go to speak?*

*If this is not a place where you'll accept me as I am  
Where do I go to be?*

*If this is not a place where I can try to learn and grow  
Where can I just be me?*

**May God bless all who visit this place**





### **The Parish Retreat 3-5 March 2023**

I was a bit apprehensive about the idea of going on the parish retreat, something I had never done before – Colin was definitely keener than me! We drove down to Woking late on the Friday afternoon and found St Columba's House Retreat Centre where we would spend the weekend.

Some of the group had already arrived and we were warmly welcomed into the bright and warm foyer by them and the reception staff as we signed in. We were given keys to our rooms and were pleasantly surprised by the modern accommodation with ensuite facilities – so we weren't going to spend the weekend in a cell!

We had been told to expect a light supper so most of us had eaten a more substantial lunch than usual and were surprised to be served salmon with green vegetables, potato wedges – and pavlova to follow. Already this weekend is full of surprises. The catering throughout the weekend was a constant surprise and delight with fresh home-made food as well as sweet treats at coffee breaks.

At 7.15 pm we adjourned to the beautiful modern chapel where Rev'd Roy Burgess and Mary Cassidy gave us some background information after which we had a short service adapted from Wild Goose material sitting in a semi-circle facing the altar.

After the service we went to the room where we were to spend most of our discussion time over the next two days – St Francis – and after a few technical issues watched the second part of 'Jesus of Nazareth' (yes, the blue-eyed Robert Powell version). It remains a powerful film with much of the script taken directly from scripture and was to be a basis for our discussion sessions over the weekend.

Our day finished with Night Prayer (Compline) following the Northumbrian Community Liturgy and from there in silence to our rooms for an early night.

We were all back in the chapel at 7.45am for Morning Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer after which we broke our silence in the refectory for breakfast.

An hour's discussion on The Betrayal ranged on Matthew's Gospel and widened to personal experience within a safe space. At this point one of our group with hearing loss was really struggling and in a real answer to prayer a deaf awareness seminar was taking place in the next room so he was able to join it and get much needed advice and pastoral support. It was not only he who was uplifted by this, we were all thrilled at this 'God-incidence'.

After lunch the afternoon was spent in silence to spend as we chose— in the chapel, oratory, our rooms or the grounds (but it was cold!), before a final discussion session, evening prayer and another delicious dinner.

We had a free evening when some took themselves to a quiet space while others knitted, played a game or did a jigsaw in quiet, but not silent companionship in St Francis. Again we ended the day with Compline, this time in the stunning circular Oratory before leaving in silence until Sunday morning. Morning prayer from the Northumbrian Community was followed by time to discuss the weekend – had it met expectations; how would we move forward? There had been a real sense of growing fellowship and sharing over the weekend which contributed to making it a very special time.

We ended with Roy leading us in a Eucharist Service after which he played 'One more step along the world we go' and Mary led us around the church in a procession which eventually took us up past the altar.

It was a truly memorable weekend and we are so grateful to Roy and Mary for leading and organising.

Would I go again? Yes! St Columba's is a special place of peace and renewal. I was the only one from Woosehill Church but that didn't matter at all.

I am happy to talk to anyone who might think about going on any future retreats.

**Val**





### The Chapel at St Columba's House



The Font in the chapel

The Oratory from the outside





### **A Prayer**

*Today, Lord, a new day – laid open.  
And here am I, waiting to step into it.  
And yet there is a feeling of uncertainty,  
Even fear, of what it holds.  
Fear of what it will demand of me.  
Have I the resources, Lord, to meet this day?  
Can I enter it with joy and certainty and contentment ?*

*My child, this is the day I have made for you.  
Accept it gladly, dance into it,  
And carry with you the Joy of resurrection,  
The Peace of self-giving,  
The Love that forgives and gives.  
Delight yourself in this day,  
As a child delights in all that is new.  
Revel in it.  
Absorb it,  
For it is TODAY, new,  
This day that I have made.*

**By Myrtle Hall**

Myrtle Hall who died, aged 89, at the College of St Barnabas, Lingfield, in Surrey, in 2017 was a CMS missionary who pioneered education for physically disabled children in Nigeria.

**Colin read this prayer at the end of the Intercessions at St Paul's on March 12th**



## IMPORTANT NOTICE



HELP

Staff and Stewards have been politely asking for help for some time. Unfortunately, we are still struggling on with just 2 Stewards, as well as an urgent need for support for the technical team. Not putting too fine a point on it, we are at breaking point.

We love our Church, and we want to look after it and keep it a growing and vibrant place, but we are tired and we all have other issues calling on our time and emotions. We **NEED** a larger team to share the load.

Please consider joining us - we are a friendly bunch and we do have fun. Maybe you have an idea of another way to help - we would love to hear from you.

We urge you to think prayerfully about joining the team.

Please pray for us.

The Parish of St Paul's, Wokingham with  
St Nicholas, Emmbrook and Woosehill Church  
Invite you to



## Coffee Morning

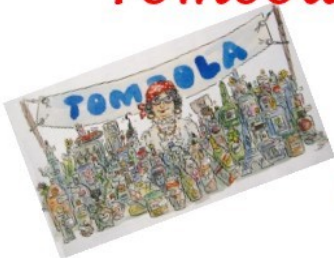
St Paul's Parish Rooms, Reading Road,  
RG41 1EH

10.45am – 12.45am

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May

*Tombola*

*Plant Stall*



*Books*



*Raffle*

*Tea, Coffee and Cakes*

*Everyone Welcome*



## 5,6,7,8

6s and 7s started off in September 2021 as a group for people who were just about to change Schools or had just done so. We realised that there were a number of people in that situation and they made a really nice sized- group to meet online every other Monday, to get to know each other, to play games, to pray together and to talk about faith. In September 2022 this Monday group was joined by a new group meeting in person every Wednesday evening- led and organised primarily by one of the young people at Church, Esther Lamey - for games, prayer and talk about Jesus. The group started by talking about Matthew's Gospel. The groups also needed to be renamed 5, 6, 7, 8 as we broadened out the membership. We have about 12 young people who come along on either a Monday or a Wednesday and it has been brilliant to watch them getting to know each other while also talking with increasing confidence about what they think and what they know of God.

We are very fortunate in the leaders we have, who are happy to share their own thoughts and to come regularly while also being very happy to take a back seat if the conversation is flowing. We are also fortunate in the way that biscuits keep magically appearing on a Wednesday and equally magically disappearing during the evening.

Since the Pandemic it has become more and more important to seize opportunities as they come past us rather than planning too far ahead and 5, 6, 7, 8 is an example of that. It is also an example of how well a mixed-economy Church can flourish, since online suits some people (and means that they can fit the group in during busy evenings) while some people still prefer to meet in person.

**the Rev'd Canon Richard Lamey**

**Rector of St Paul's, Wokingham and Area Dean of Sonning**



Online meetings for school years 5, 6, 7, 8, (ish) to chat, play games and think about God.

Mondays (fortnightly) 12/9, 26/9, 10/10, 7/11, 21/11, 5/12 4.30pm—5.15pm

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82296159100?pwd=QnhSNWlycWtGRjMvQzAwOUNmRm9MZz09

Meeting ID: 822 9615 9100 Passcode: 337378

Contact Richard Lamey for more info: rector@spauls.co.uk

Youth club for school years 5, 6, 7, 8 (ish) to explore their faith, including discussions about the Bible and prayer.

Starting with Luke, please bring a Bible if you can!

Wednesdays (starting 21st Sept)

6.30pm—7.15pm (we will take choir members to church afterwards)

Carpenter Room, St Paul's Parish Rooms (upstairs)

Talk to Esther for more details: estherlamey99@gmail.com

5 6 7 8 Online

5 6 7 8 In Person



News from Quench At Holme Grange Craft Village



Out of the 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, The Real Easter Egg is the only Fairtrade one with the Easter story in the box.

Easter Story Included A 24 page Easter story-activity book is included in the Original and Dark eggs.



## News from Tadpoles



Another busy term is underway as you can see from the activities displayed on the noticeboard by the kitchen - do have a look for 'This week's craft activity'.

We have had a few changes in the group as some mums have returned to work and new families moved in so we have a couple of free spaces at present. We are lucky to have Sue and Ruth bringing great ideas to the craft sessions as well as sharing in Circle Time.

We are also really blessed in our kitchen team who provide a hub for quieter sharing and hugs as needed.



**Joseph's Coat of Many Colours**

**Val on behalf of the Tadpoles team**

## Tithing Gifts

Part 5 in the series exploring the charities who benefit this year from the allocation of our tithing gifts. This time it is probably a charity with which most of you are familiar, it being local and featuring regularly in our prayers.



We believe that no one is too old to make friends.

We're an **award-winning charity** dedicated to reducing loneliness through one-to-one and group befriending, activities and community projects.

### **Befriending**

Loneliness is a normal emotion - it's our brain's way of letting us know we're in need of meaningful connection. Many of us feel loneliness more intensely as we get older, and we face more loss - the loss of a loved one, the loss of good health or close family and friends to connect with. We can end up spending much more time on our own than we'd like to.

The Link Visiting Scheme can match you with a volunteer for company and a friendly chat, which can make all the difference! We always consider your interests and personality to make sure we get your new friendship off to a flying start. This person will visit you on days which suit you – we don't just arrive at your door. We also keep in touch with you regularly to make sure everyone is happy.

### **Your support makes it happen**

Our vision is a community where no one is ever too old to make friends and feel they belong. Your support will help us bring friendship and fun to those struggling with the serious impacts of loneliness and isolation.

*If you wish to donate personally, all details are on the website: [www.linkvisiting.org](http://www.linkvisiting.org)*



## WOW - Women of Woosehill Church

Our thriving Church Ladies' group has had a busy start to the year. Following the January planning meeting, in February Lyn Brown organised a meal out at The Pheasant, Winnersh - highly recommended!



Shortly after at the beginning of March, Amy planned an evening out at the Wokingham Film Theatre when a group enjoyed the film 'Emily', a very imaginative re-telling of the story of Emily Bronte!



The next meeting of WOW will be on Saturday 22nd April when there will be a Games afternoon (Beetle Drive and Board Games) at the church in the afternoon - watch out for details.

***If you would like to be on the WOW circulation list please talk to Lynn Smith.***



**Save the Date!**  
**Saturday 20th May from 10.45am to 12.45pm**

The Parish will be hosting a Christian Aid coffee morning and Woosehill will again be having a Book and Jigsaw stall. Start collecting now - please only donate books and puzzles in a condition that you would be happy to buy.

There will be a plant stall too so, if when you are doing your spring planting you can pot a few extra they will be gladly received.

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### **Soulscape**

**PAUSE** is Soulscape's interactive prayer space for young people at school.

#### **Running in Emmbrook 24th – 28th April 2023.**

Carving out space during the busy school day for personal reflection and prayer, it invites young people of all faiths and none to think about what and who is important in their lives. There are opportunities to remember people loved and lost, opportunities to explore hopes and dreams and opportunities to recognise and let go of regrets. **PAUSE** is a time to 'be', an opportunity to stop looking at the clock.

We have many volunteering opportunities – be part of the set up or/and take down team; be present in the space for 1 hour or a couple.

If you'd like to join the team or find out more please contact Andrea :

[andrea.caplin@soulscape.org.uk](mailto:andrea.caplin@soulscape.org.uk)

It is a privilege to be in school and a much valued space. We'd appreciate any time you could give to support us and our young people. We look forward to hearing from you!





## A Lent Reflection

### Pay attention

God is omnipresent. *Always present, at every moment.*

We don't need to wait for God to 'show up'. What we need to do is open our awareness. Faith, in a way, is therefore merely the practice of paying attention.

That's easier said than done in the age of distraction, when we're encouraged to focus anywhere but the present moment. We can't be distant from God, but we can be distracted from God.

So here is a challenge for you this Lent: pay attention.

Pay attention to yourself. Your depths. Your aches. Your desires. Your tiredness. Your anger. God is in those things.

Pay attention to the world. It really is astonishing. Pay attention to other people. They're all going through something.

Pay attention to hope. It's real. While the news tends to focus our attention only on what's going wrong in the world, there is plenty going right. God is not in a state of dismay; God is moving, working, feeding the great work of restoration.

***Always-present God, help us to pay attention. To the world. To other people. To ourselves. And ultimately, to you. Amen***

***Pay Attention by Gideon Heugh/Tearfund - reproduced by permission.***

(from Tearfund's 2023 Lent Devotional).

*Tearfund is a Christian charity that partners with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. They tackle poverty through sustainable development, responding to disasters, and challenging injustice. They believe an end to extreme poverty is possible.*



## Traidcraft

### *A message from the Fairtrade Foundation:*

By now you may have heard that Traidcraft plc, one of the pioneers of the fair trade movement, has ceased trading.

Our thoughts are with all affected producers, suppliers, Traidcraft staff and passionate supporters at this difficult time.

### **The Fairtrade Foundation's vital work to make global trade work for the most exploited farmers will continue.**

And we will continue to work in partnership with other organisations that Traidcraft helped set up, including Transform Trade, Cafédirect and Shared Interest\*\*.

Traidcraft was a founding member of the Fairtrade Foundation. The success of Fairtrade, with over 4,500 products now available across all major UK retailers, is a part of their incredible legacy.

All fair traders and Traidcraft staff should be proud that their work has helped drive positive change in communities across the world.

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\*\* Shared Interest is an ethical investment organisation which aims to alleviate poverty by helping people in remote and disadvantaged communities, to trade and earn a living.

We act co-operatively with over 11,500 investors coming together to achieve a common goal, pooling their £52 million of investment. We then use these funds to provide loans and credit facilities to primarily fair trade businesses, to ensure that farmers are paid on time for their crops.

***Your ethical investment will not make you rich but it will enrich the lives of others.***

Our work is not just about providing finance on fair terms. The fair trade producers we help say that we have helped transform their communities. Last year, our members helped make a **positive impact on the lives almost 400,000 individuals.**



### Send Three and Fourpence we're going to a Dance

Having started with perhaps the oldest joke about communicating that I know, I need to talk about how we communicate what we are doing within church and to do that I need to describe what the channels available for communicating within the church are and also mention their publishing lead times. Generally we use these channels to publicise the events and groups we care about as a congregation and the main channels are:

- **The web site**, which is considered to be the church reference source and is the medium that is often the first port of call to those outside of the church. By its very nature such information does not have a publishing deadline, other than that desired by the author or that which the author deems to be necessary to get the support from the church community for the event or activity they are seeking to publicise. In general, straight forward requests to update the website can be handled within a day, but if substantial work is needed this could take longer
- **Facebook** is used to publicise recent and future events and if the website is the reference source, Facebook can be thought of as a series of post cards. Again there is a short lead time to publication but time scales again rely on the level of work to be done.
- **The notice sheet** provides current information about what is happening when, and ideally the information provided should be succinct and delivered in a timely fashion to allow for publication by the middle of the week, it is however possible to put out late amendments and additions to the notice sheet.
- **The magazine** is for more contemplative reading and also externally facing material as well as publicity for events coming at a later date. This has a deadline for publication date, which is available on the web site and is shown in RED inside the front cover of the magazine. It is also announced in the weekly newsletter around two weeks ahead.
- Finally, we have **poster communication** and periodic publicity delivery, which tends to be managed corporately within the church according to a strict timetable.

From this description it is clear that information needs to be more substantial than just the time and place of the event; it needs to be well formatted and written in a way that engages the reader. In order to achieve this, providers need to think through what the appropriate channel is. The information should be delivered in time for the publishers (that is the people who look after the bulleted avenues) to process it and so it is available to readers when they need to see it. Sadly there have been some occasions when this has not been done, hence the need for this reminder to be written. As with all communications, the starting point is that the author needs to think through what they want to achieve and who they are trying to get their message to.

The division of labour is that publishers will publish material received in good time provided they see no issues with it and if appropriate they will advise information providers and authors on how to adapt their submission to a usable format. When extensive reformatting of information and the provision of supporting images is required this is the responsibility of the information provider. If they do not have the necessary skills, then they should negotiate with the publisher to identify a workable approach. Ultimately, publishers are not as closely involved with the event being advertised or reported on and therefore authors need to put across their message in a way that meets their objectives and engages their intended audience.

We all have a common goal, which is to ensure that the church engages as effectively and efficiently with the congregation and the community as it can. Understanding that we can only do that if our standards of communication are of the highest order and delivered in a timely fashion is crucial. If we do as suggested in this article we will not need reinforcements to advance as a community and you will avoid the risk of any helpful provider dropping a very bad pun into your communication.

**Ed Smith**





## A prayer for our church

*Lord, thank you for all you do in our lives. I am truly grateful for all you have provided me. From my friends to my family, you are always blessing me in ways I can't imagine or completely understand. But I feel blessed.*

*Lord, today I lift up to you my church. It is the place I go to worship you. It is where I learn about you. It is where you are present to the group, and so I ask for your blessings over it.*

*My church is more than a building to me, Lord. We are a group that lifts one another up, and I ask that you give us the heart to continue in that way. Lord, I ask you to bless us with the desire to do more for the world around us and for one another.*

*I ask that those in need are identified by the church and are given a helping hand. I ask that we reach out to the community where you see fit to help.*

*Most of all, though, I ask that you bless us with the resources to fulfil your mission for our church. I ask that you give us the ability to be great stewards over those resources and that you guide our hand in using them.*

*Lord, my church is one of the most important things in my life, because it brings me closer to you. I ask for your blessings on it, and I lift it up to you. Thank you, Lord, for allowing me to be a part of this congregation — and a part of you.*

*In your holy name, Amen.*

*(<https://www.learnreligions.com/prayer-for-your-church>)*





## Woosehill meetings

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](http://woosehillchurch.org)

**Parish Bible study** on Tuesday evenings 7.15 - 8.30pm via Zoom

**Together in Prayer** on the *Third* Thursday of the month from 8-9pm via Zoom. Contact Lyn Brown for details

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## What's on at Woosehill Church

**Sunday Services** – 10am at the Church or online

**Thursday Mornings at 10am - just turn up**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday - Sing Something Simple

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday – WoolWAM? – a Knitting & Crochet group

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday - Needlework/Craft Group

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday – Colour & Chat

### **Saturday Group**

**Sip & Share** – Have you lost someone or are you just wanting company? Then this group is for you. Chat over a cuppa. Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 11am

No need to book.

**Table Tennis**  
On Friday Evenings  
at 7:30pm



### **Tadpoles**

On Wednesday mornings from 9am. Playtime and coffee for under-fives and their carers. You must register for this group, please see website.

Planning a Wedding, Christening or need to organise a Funeral. Then please do talk to us.

For more information about any of the above, please email [stewards@woosehillchurch.com](mailto:stewards@woosehillchurch.com)

Or visit our website [www.woosehillchurch.org](http://www.woosehillchurch.org)



## **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

## **Church Contacts**

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



*Sharing God's Love with the Community*