

THE SPIRE

The Parish Magazine for St Paul, Wokingham
St Nicholas, Emmbrook and Woosehill Church



£1



AUGUST 2019

www.spauls.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Reader

What wonderful news we've had regarding the new Bishop of Reading! Turn to p.22 for more information from Bishop Steven.

You may have noticed some changes to our intercessions during mass. Fr Richard gives a little more information about the reasoning behind these changes on p.4. Our new Parish Pioneer, Paul Armitage, has written a report on the Mission Awayday in June (p.10). We have reports from the churchyard group regarding new equipment and an update on biodiversity (pp. 16 & 17). Are you a retired engineer with time on your hands? You may be interested to know more about Remap Berkshire (p.20). But this is by no means all, so read on to see what else has been going on and what is afoot in the parish this month and for the coming term.

There are a few changes to parish activities during the month:

- St Paul's Taverners – No meetings in August due to holiday. The group will meet again on Tuesday 3rd September (p.32).
 - No Mothers' Union Meeting in August – Instead, they are taking a trip to Mattingly Church. See p.30 for more information if you would like to join in.
 - Coffee & Chat has been taking place in St Paul's Church whilst the art exhibition has been on. However, it will resume in the Parish Rooms on Friday 9th August, usual time 2pm – 4pm.
 - September Spire - will be published on 1st September due to holiday and not the last Sunday in August as would be our normal practice. Any items ready for the September edition can be submitted now rather than waiting until the deadline (19 Aug). That way we can get ahead of the game and not have such a frantic rush at the end of the month.
- Thanks.

Bishop Steven's Day Pilgrimage to Sonning: Tuesday 3rd September: all day. You are invited to join our Bishop for all of the day or for part of it- he will be stopping to pray at Woosehill. Look out for more information in Pews News nearer the time.

Lastly, on Friday 26th July, we said goodbye to our beloved Fr Ivor. We hope to bring you some more information about his life in the next edition. Please do keep Margaret, and the family in your prayers at this time.

With blessings, *Ann Grice & Jane Clark*, The Editors

SEPTEMBER EDITION

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Front cover: *End of Year ‘Come & Sing’ 60+ Choir & Organist*. Image: Peter Wells

INTERCESSIONS

There is sometimes a misconception over what it means to be a Church in the Catholic tradition of the Church of England.

To be Catholic is not about always being the same, identical, in every place and age and context, completely set in stone.

To be Catholic is to be rooted in the inheritance we receive, to treasure the tradition, to take the best of what we have been entrusted with - and using all of that as a way of engaging with and speaking to the world we are placed in, and of meeting with God.

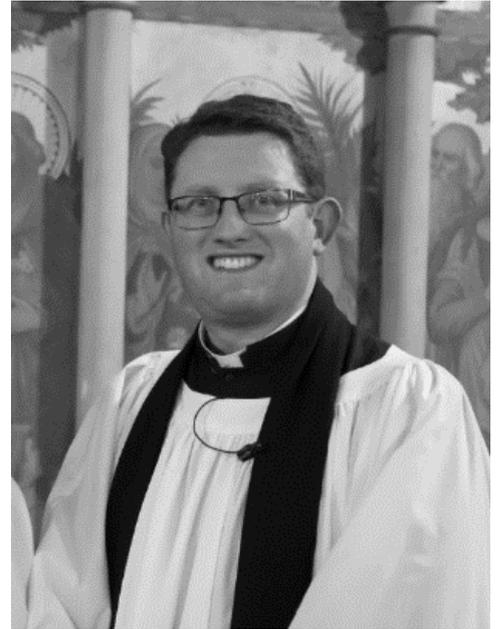
Being Catholic is not about curating a museum or being part of a fervent historical reconstruction society - it is about fullness of life, fullness of experience, about looking for God and encountering God in ways which are guaranteed by the experience of those who have gone before us as pilgrims and disciples.

First and foremost, we are called to a living relationship with God. We are Catholic because we have found, we know, that liturgy and sacrament and music and structured worship are sure ways in which we come face to face with God. But the means of that adventure into the heart of Love are far less important than the end, the destination. Worship is about a deepening and flourishing relationship with God.

All of which is an explanation for the recent minor changes in the way that the intercessions are conceived.

The intercessions are about attention to God. Praying in exactly the same way week by week can stop us attending to God. We are trying to find the balance between dulling sameness and too much originality and difference, which can be unsettling. Those leading the intercessions have been asked to continue to use the prayer list while trying to add in more silence, or a particular focus for prayer, or even the use of music. What we're trying to do is to make the intercessions what they are - a key section of the Mass in which we are each allowed and enabled to speak with God, heart to heart.

Most of the intercessions will still be in a usual, safe format. The changes we are making are not enormous. Not everything we try is going to work. We will learn from what does and doesn't connect or resonate with people. But if, by subtly changing how the intercessions are imagined, by keeping them fresh and living, we



Fr Richard Lamey, Rector

all come closer to God and our worship is enriched then the job will have been well done.

Being Catholic is not an end in itself. Our worship is a vessel which helps us come into the presence of God - and see his face and hear his voice and know his love and grace and mercy. The intercessions are a key way in which this happens. These recent encouragements to try something are only one way in which this becomes even more true for all of us. And, even if the precise way the intercessions are done on this occasion doesn't help us, then knowing that they helped the person next to you or behind you to pray builds up our common life, which is, in itself, part of prayer.

Fr Richard Lamey

CHURCH VOCATIONAL STATEMENTS

St Paul's "Shaped by God in the Eucharist, we are called to make the richness of his love known to everyone in the community."

St Nicholas' "Exploring through relationship and worship how God's love is creating and sustaining communities in Emmbrook."

Woosehill "Sharing God's love for the community."

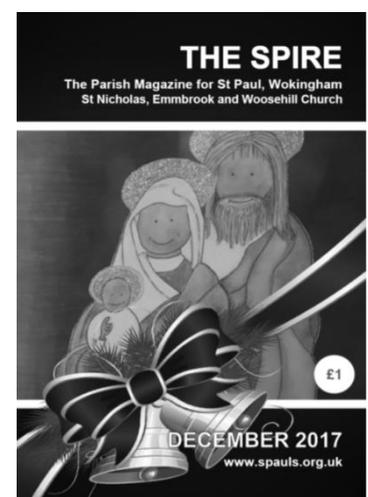
SPIRE ADVERTISING ROLE

After many years' service, John Griffin is stepping down as the person responsible for the Spire Magazine advertising. This is an important role in ensuring that the parish magazine, together with subscriptions, remains self-funding.

We are now looking for someone else to take on this role. Could that be you?

Outlined overleaf, is the current schedule John uses to manage this aspect of the Spire production process. Do please contact me or John if you wish to talk things through or know more.

Fr Richard



CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR SPIRE ADVERTISING

This is how I have carried out my role with responsibility for Spire advertising.

September

In September, I send letters to current advertisers asking them if they wish to advertise again in following year (2020). The letter should contain the cost of and size of an advertisement. There are currently three sizes and types:

- **full page colour @ £240 for 12 editions or black and white @ £120**
- **half-page colour @ £120 for 12 editions or black and white @ £65**
- **quarter-page colour @ £60 for 12 editions or black and white @ £32.50**

I include an invoice with the letter, asking the advertisers to return it to me with the appropriate payment if they wish to advertise. Payment may be by cheque or BACS payable to the PCC. As soon as I have received confirmation of intent and the payment, I inform the editors and treasurer.

October

From October onwards, responses come in slowly and a number of phone calls are made, and emails sent. After 6 years I found that I could anticipate the response of individual companies or persons, and you get to know your clientele well. Inevitably some regular clients stop advertising, and others join us. I am always on the lookout for new clients in case of withdrawals, and I aim to set a target of £1500 as revenue. Payments can be delayed, and it is necessary to make a judgement about a prospective advertiser in time for the advertisement to be included in the January edition (December deadline).

Requests for the inclusion of one-off or even several months' insertions are received throughout the year.

- **single one-off monthly advertisement pro rata**

Records must be kept of income and the names and addresses of advertisers need to be recorded in order to maintain contact, and to ensure they receive a copy of each edition. The magazine editors and PCC treasurer need to be kept informed throughout the process and a final account of income will need to be sent to the Treasurer before the AGM.

Finally, it would be helpful if the identity of the advertising manager was recorded in the magazine.

John Griffin

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MISSION AWAYDAY 2019



Paul Armitage, Parish Pioneer

In June, members of St Paul's and St Nicholas' congregations met at the Walter School to discuss all aspects of Mission within the two churches. The focus was on how we should move on the work done in the formal part of the PMC process in recent years. This consisted of discussing both what we should do and how we should go about it.

Following what is now common practice in Parish meetings we started with Dwelling in the Word to make sure our thinking and discussion were grounded in Scripture. The bulk of our time together was taken up with a facilitated idea generation and action planning session to consider the "what" and the "how" of Mission. Many, many good ideas were brought up and they have all been recorded in a Meeting Report, which I will make available to St Paul's and St Nicholas' congregations. We then spent some time consolidating and fleshing out the ideas. This was done in a fun and engaging way to use our God-given creativity and, perhaps, identify some of the more subtle features of our ideas. As we were working in three groups, this resulted in three hand-drawn pictures of the missional activity being considered. The three ideas are:

- Food-based practical mission with members of the community in need of support
- Environmentally based ministry with children and young people
- Building community in new and existing housing areas (specifically, Matthewsgreen)

Further work is needed to establish how these ideas are taken into action, ultimately, as half a day was not enough time to complete all the planning. The ideas form an important part of the discernment process and listening to where the Holy Spirit is guiding us. An advantage of a pictorial-based technique is that often details are included that would not be present in a written summary. Spending some time with the images can often reveal additional insights. In this case, I have noticed two common themes in all three images (there may be more):

- i) Children and young people are present and participating
- ii) Hospitality, in the form of food and drink.

The Awayday also touched on a number of other matters, such as how missional activities should be organized and overseen by PCC, and how we will be able to continue the excellent mission work already happening, and take up new things at the same time.

We finished with a short act of worship, as it is essential that everything begins and ends for us in scripture and worship.

Everybody present was committed to continuing the work started, so watch out for more information in the near future as to exactly what we will be doing, and how you can get involved.

Paul Armitage, Parish Pioneer (paul.armitage@uwclub.net)

THAT'S NOT MY JOB!



This is a story about four people named: **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody**.



There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it.



Somebody got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realised that **Everybody** wouldn't do it.



It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.

www.facebook.com

OUR FIRST PMC 'DWELLING' IN THE WORD TEXT

We know it inside & out.

Luke 10: 7th July 2019

All the 70 are sent out with one job to do - Go and prepare the way. Go as sheep into the midst of wolves. Go as workers into the harvest fields. Go and offer the peace of God. It is something they do together, a corporate call - and at the end of it they and Jesus rejoice together at everything they have seen and done.

Step back a bit and think about what it says about our call today, what Jesus wants of us. We know that we are loved, forgiven, restored. We are not about keeping impossible rules but all about relationship, about being in relationship with God, about being invited into friendship, love, support, wisdom, reliance, strength, grace. We are not truly a religion of the rule or of the Book - we are a people of the heart, of baptism, of the Eucharist, of Easter. And knowing all of this, standing on these truths, shapes our call, our specific, shared vocation as a Church.

Which is to ask: what is it that we are called to do, to be part of, so that we and Jesus can dance and rejoice together? If it's not going door to door in strange villages, how do we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus? What is our equivalent call today?

I'm going to answer that in a way which goes to the heart of what I am called to as a baptised member of the Church, as a priest and as the Rector of this parish and Church.

What are we called to do which will make Jesus rejoice with us? Within the Church we are called to be a community of inclusion, equality, acceptance, welcome: a community which feasts on the welcome of Jesus held out to everyone, a community which knows that it is called to be a sacrament of the Kingdom of God, a sign, a promise, a foreshadowing, a living, breathing criticism of a society which confuses wealth with worth. The Church is not like that. This Church is not like that.

There is no voting age here, no age at which your voice and needs start or stop being important or heard. In fact, inspired by the words of St Paul, this is a community in which those who think of themselves as strong have to make extra allowance for those who are fragile, or new to the faith, or new to the parish, or finding their way in the world.

Those who are ill or grieving, those who are very young or very old, those who don't look or act like the majority in this building, those who aren't sure... if anything, their voice and their needs matter more than the voice and needs of those who are

secure in their place in the family of the Church. The Church is defined by the way in which we treat those who have least. We cannot aspire to the name Church if we are not welcoming those who peer round the door and wonder whether they will belong here.

And it's not just about our welcome. It's about the way we share the peace and mean it and live it. It's about the way that our safeguarding makes sure that everybody is kept safe and everyone is able to flourish. It's about the way we help our children and young people grow in their experience of God. It's about the way we make decisions, and listen - truly attend - to each other, and pursue reconciliation, and offer forgiveness, and know that our flourishing happens through belonging to a community rather than when we get everything we think we want.

We believe firmly and fervently that the way we come close to God is through the sacraments, through liturgy which takes us as close to heaven as we can come in life. Part of that is because of the beauty of what we hear and smell and see and receive in our hands and on our tongue - but part of it is because we kneel next to people who share nothing at all with us apart from being loved by God. The servers very kindly laughed a couple of weeks ago (St Paul's in-joke warning sign) when I said that people who don't like incense are probably not going to enjoy heaven as much as they expect - it's equally true that those who don't like worshipping with people who are utterly different to them will not enjoy heaven very much either. Worship is about focus on God, absolutely - *and* it's about kneeling alongside all those who Jesus died for, which is to say, everyone.

Living like that, working on that, striving for that, aspiring to that, causes Jesus to rejoice. We're called to be a prefiguring of the radical, welcoming, joyful, Kingdom of Heaven breaking into this world. That doesn't happen by accident. It happens when we dedicate all of our efforts to deliberately, vigorously listening, to making room, to learning from the insights that those who are new to St Paul's bring.

It is not that we have all truth here in St Paul's and those who arrive and belong need to learn a new language. We hold in common the joyous gift of worship, (secure in the tradition we have been gifted, confident that this is a sure way of coming face to face with the living God) and we believe that everyone, every voice, every heart, every new member of this radical family, can add something precious and unique of who God is and what God is doing in them and in the world.

We are not ever complete. We are not ever the last word. We are pilgrims on the road together. We are called to build such a common life here that it poses existential questions to the world outside about value and worth, and support and inclusion, about welcome and hospitality and celebration, about community, about family, about home. And when we start to get that right, when we start to become the community, the family, the Church we are called to be and are truly becoming

then Jesus will rejoice with us, and his heart will speak to our heart, not only words of calm pleasure but excited whirls and bubbles of delight at what are becoming together.

My friend Matt Bullimore wrote a recent blog on his Northumberland pilgrimage. I want to use it as a place holder because building this kind of community has an absolute purpose - which is to be salt and light and yeast in the world, so that society around us can be transformed:

“The church offers judgement on the spirit of the age and the communities it produces. It encourages the good, offers critique of the ways society falls short, recommends paths to follow. And the church offers salt and acts as yeast, because the church is a thousand thousand people living amongst others. It is countless acts and spoken words – micropractices of charity – wherever people encounter one another. The church makes its distinctive contribution whilst it lives within other communities, alongside allies, when making common cause and seeking goods together with its neighbours.”

Exploring that in more detail is for another day - but it matters that we know that being a family here in Church, is only the start. We are building community for a reason. Remember it.

That’s a lot of ground covered. Let me ground what I’m saying in two simple actions, one inner and one outer. When we share the peace ... remember that it is not just a handshake but a physical sign of an inner truth, of God at work in us and between us. Find someone you don’t know, or someone you need to make peace with. When you share the peace slow down a little. Look each other in the eye. Mean the words.

And, in the week to come, before you return here next Sunday, do one thing which builds up community in the Church or outside. Visit a new neighbour and ask them for coffee. Call a relative you haven’t spoken to for so long that it is getting awkward. Fix a relationship which is clearly, after all of this time, not going to fix itself. Write a thank you note to someone who helped you months ago.

Share the peace with your heart held out and your eyes open.

Do something to live out who you are, God’s precious child, part of God’s precious Church, which must always seek to be the promise and the vision of the coming Kingdom of God.

Fr Richard Lamey

TUESDAY STUDY GROUP

Learning more of God's walk with us

Tuesday Evenings at **Woosehill Church**, Chestnut Avenue,
(off Northway), Woosehill RG41 3RS:

8pm - 9.30pm

These evenings are deliberately planned to be accessible by everybody. They are about open discussion, asking questions and learning and exploring together. Everyone's voice matters and every opinion is worth hearing. It's still worth coming along even if you can only come to one or two of the sessions.

And if you would like to use the resources we're using on your own, in a small group or in a House Group then please speak to a member of the clergy who would be only too happy to help!

David - God's True King

September 10 th	An Unexpected Choice - 1 Samuel 16 An Introduction to David. What he means to us.
September 17 th	An Impossible Victory - 1 Samuel 17
September 24 th	An Amazing Promise - 2 Samuel 7
October 1 st	An Abject Sinner - 2 Samuel 11- 12
October 8 th	An Undeserved Forgiveness - Psalm 51
October 15 th	An Awesome God - 2 Samuel 22

Advent Course 2019

A journey through Bishop Steven's latest study guide.

October 22nd, and 29th
November 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th
December 3rd and 10th

NEW CHURCHYARD EQUIPMENT

In the recent Wokingham Town Council grant wards, the Church was given a grant for the maintenance of the churchyard.

With this money we have purchased a new mower - John Deere R45 - which has proved a great success with all users. It is small and fits well between the graves and even though it does not have power drive, it is very easily manoeuvred, as users weave in and out round the graves, trees and fenced off areas.



We also bought a new battery powered Stihl pole hedger. Its purpose is to ensure the hedges round the churchyard and Parish Rooms can be kept in order and to also ensure that the trees overhanging the car parking bays can be pruned to a suitable height.

It has been purchased with two batteries and a fast charger. The battery can be used continually for 70 minutes and whilst using the second battery the first one can be charged in 50 minutes, ensuring a continuous hedging capability, without creating any local pollution. This is a step into the future, where electrical power will be the preferred power source.

Anyone who would like to come and try out our new purchases is always very welcome on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. Thanks to Wokingham Town Council for our grant. Images: Tallulah

Andy Clark

CHURCHYARD'S THRIVING BIODIVERSITY

As the wildflowers in the churchyard get better established, they are beginning to encourage in new inhabitants.

This month we have had a number of Cinnabar Moths larvae feeding on the plants. They are stripy black and yellow caterpillars, which will pupate and reappear later in the year as the striking red and grey, Cinnabar Moth.

The most popular plant in terms of the number of insects which depend upon it, is the birds-foot trefoil which is the bane of many gardeners, but you can console yourself with the fact that if you have it in the lawn it is encouraging more insects to come into your garden.

We are also expecting some newly planted cyclamen to appear around the base of the "Holy" Oak adjacent to the path in the churchyard extension. The area has been isolated using metal hoops but do come and enjoy them if and when they flower later in the year.

The new trees are doing well, but still require regular watering, as the weather warms up and the soil dries out. Even a day of rain, last Friday, only penetrated the top couple of centimetres, so watering regularly is in place. Jerry Selwyn Smith has also added to the trees, having propagated a Horse Chestnut tree (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) in his garden and lovingly cared for it. It has now been planted in the churchyard, to replace the similar tree which was recently cut down in the neighbouring garden near the beehives, in the south east corner of the yard.

There are snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis* probably) being planted alongside the path into church which should provide a great show as they grow and become established. If anyone has surplus snowdrops in their garden, we would be pleased to plant them in the churchyard to supplement our initial planting.



Cinnabar Moth Caterpillar.
Andy Clark



Cinnabar Moth.
adriancolston.files.wordpress.com/2016/06/cinnabar-1.jpg?w=660



Birds-foot trefoil. Andy Clark



Snowdrops. Andy Clark



Horse Chestnut Tree Sapling.
Andy Clark



Common Hawkweed.
Andy Clark



Convolvulus (Bindweed).
Andy Clark

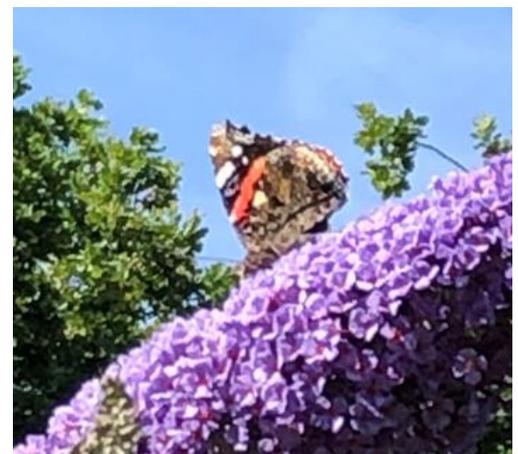
The final request is for suitable hedging plants to fill in the gaps in the hedges in front of the Parish Rooms. The dominant vegetation in the western hedge is ash, which does not give a good thick hedge and requires continuous cutting. Specifically, we would like to know if anyone has hawthorn or blackthorn saplings in the garden which they do not want. These will be planted to re-establish the hedge.

I do encourage you to come and view the wide range of wildflowers which are at their best at this time. Look carefully and see the wide range of insects visiting the flowers and finding shelter in the longer grasses. There will be a formal visit arranged for the Mothers' Union, sometime in September. They are always happy for non-members to join, so if you want to know more, keep an eye out for the date.

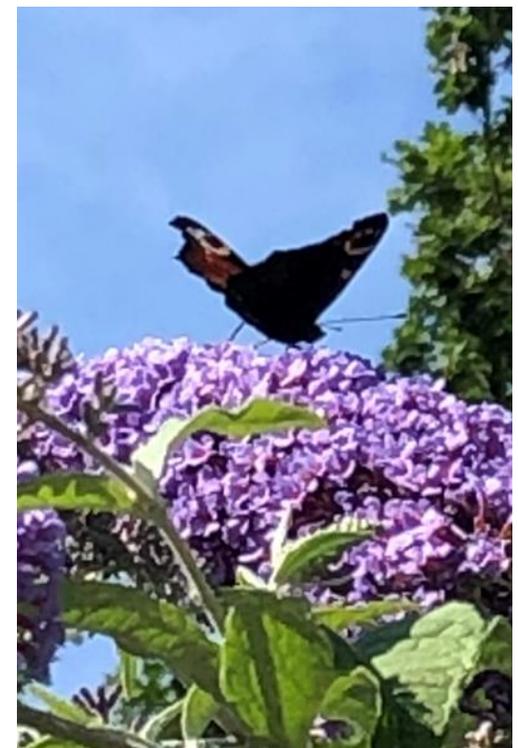
Have you seen anything of interest in the churchyard that you feel would enhance our knowledge of the flora and fauna living there?

If you'd like to know more about working in or supporting the work of the churchyard, please email, churchyard@spauls.org.uk.

Andy Clark



Red Admiral Butterfly on the Buddleia.
Andy Clark



Peacock Butterfly on the Buddleia.
Andy Clark

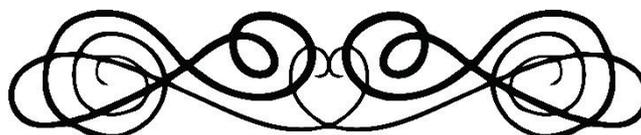
PCC DIGEST

The PCC meeting in July was a little shorter than usual, because the Agenda was lighter. As well as the usual financial scrutiny and the reception of reports, we spent time on:

- 1) Deciding to pay for a new boiler in the Parish Rooms, which will be done over the summer. Of the two quotes, we were massively impressed with the one by AK Boilers, and by the way they engaged with the Parish Rooms Committee. At £5,500 the quote was also considerably cheaper, which made for a very easy decision.
- 2) Letting out Brook Close (the Curate's House) in the gap between Curates. We are using Romans Estate Agents again since they did a very good job for us last time. The hope is that the house will be rented out soon and that the new Curate (if we are fortunate enough to get one) will move in in June 2020.
- 3) The way in which the PMC process and Mission Committee can work together - PCC agreed with a plan to build a strong Mission Committee which then commissions work and manages relationships across the community, while reporting back and being accountable to the PCC.
- 4) Fr Richard gave a full overview of the Deanery Plan, which was approved in June 2019 by Deanery Synod. It focuses on helping people to live as Christians in their daily life, building new communities in the new housing estates, offering more effective and more varied training locally and building deep and informed relationships of trust across the Deanery. Since Fr Richard was a key architect of the Plan, he admitted, it is no surprise that the parish is well positioned to contribute to and benefit from the Plan since it touches on the same areas we are working on in the parish.

Other matters which were discussed included having someone standing at the chancel step to help people on the way back from communion, redeveloping the parish website in the wake of the questionnaire in the Spring, finding more volunteers to help in the Churchyard and the need to find a new Treasurer for the Parish Rooms once Rhoda stands down at the end of the calendar year.

The PCC



REMAP BERKSHIRE

Wokingham's Niall McCarroll, a volunteer engineer with the MakeAbility service at charity Remap Berkshire, has won national recognition for his innovative work in assisting a young person make his voice heard.

Remap Berkshire designs and builds free gadgets and equipment for people with a disability or special need where no commercial solutions are available. Niall, a software engineer who lives in Havelock Street, was called in to create a solution for a local lad with weak vocal chords - not only was his voice very quiet, but the more he tried to talk, the weaker the sound became.



Volunteer Niall McCarroll. Image: Remap Berkshire

Said Niall: "The commercial voice amplifiers are all too big and bulky for a five-year-old child to use. I came up with the solution of a small microphone wired into an amplifier and mini-speaker fixed to his belt. The family put in a lot of work and provided their own innovative ideas as we experimented with various prototypes. The end result makes a real difference to the lad's communication abilities."

Remap Berkshire is one of over seventy county branches of the national Remap charity. Niall's work has now been recognised with the Remap Founders Award at a ceremony in London. His prize includes a free mini break at a hotel provided by charity partner Room to Reward.

Niall has been a Remap Berkshire volunteer for two years, having heard about the opportunity through a friend who is living with Multiple Sclerosis. "It has been very interesting working on a number of projects" he said. "It provides an opportunity for me and the other volunteers to put our practical problem-solving skills to good use, designing and making things which make a real difference to people's lives".

Remap Berkshire has assisted people in all age groups with a wide variety of issues. Among the recent assignments have been:

- Electric grabber for a ten-year-old with weak muscles

- Long-reach window opener for a lady with arthritis
- Cornered ramp for a wheelchair user
- Steps for a child with dwarfism
- Safety bottle opening gadget

Due to an increasing demand, there is a need for more volunteers throughout Berkshire. Many MakeAbility volunteers are from an engineering background, but some have electronics and computing expertise, others are skilled with wood, or have a passion for model engineering, in fact anyone with a talent for problem-solving through making things can make a contribution. Some volunteers have their own workshop, others use community facilities or have a workbench and tools in the garage. Access to transport is essential.

Many volunteers are retired; others, like Niall, fit their MakeAbility assignments around work commitments.

Volunteers say that they get huge satisfaction from helping people overcome the practical problems they face and seeing how lives can be transformed by sometimes simple solutions. Enabling a person to become more independent is wonderful for everyone concerned.

Out of pocket expenses such as the cost of materials and travel expenses are paid. There is no obligation for volunteers to take on jobs unless they feel they have the necessary skills and sufficient time spare. Other engineers on the panel are always prepared to help when problems come up outside any individual area of expertise.

Remap Berkshire appeared recently on BBC Television. The feature can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8tmxYSeHPE>

For further information about volunteering, or to discuss whether Remap could assist you or someone you know, please call Remap Berkshire's Case Officer Robert Monk on 07790 127123.

Kimble Earl, Remap Berkshire



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THE NEW BISHOP OF READING

The Venerable Olivia Graham, Archdeacon of Berkshire

The Bishop of Oxford announced the news during a visit to Ranelagh School in Bracknell, where students had an opportunity to ask Olivia questions. Their visit was followed by a reception at Reading Minster.

Responding to today's announcement, Olivia said; "I am delighted and energised to have been called to an episcopal role. It is a tremendous opportunity to bring together my passions for the Church and the wider world – for example to be able to encourage greater engagement between our church communities and secondary schools. The young people I

encounter in our schools are serious and engaged with the world. We need to see how we can offer the resources of faith at a crucial time in their lives."

Olivia's early career was spent in teaching and international development, including a period working for Oxfam in Somalia. Ordained in 1997, she has served all of her ministry in the Diocese of Oxford, becoming Archdeacon of Berkshire in 2013.

The Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft said; "One of the things that was apparent when we were listening and consulting about the new bishop was that people wanted somebody who really knew what it is like to be in ministry in this part of the world. Someone who knew what the pressures and challenges are. In this and many other areas, Olivia brings just what we need at this time. I am very excited about what Olivia's appointment means for the Diocese."

When Olivia is consecrated in November, she will become the 24th female bishop in the Church of England and the first female bishop in the Diocese of Oxford. The future is bright. Just over half (54%) of those entering training for ordination last year were women.

Olivia will succeed the Rt Revd Andrew Proud who retired from the role at the start of May this year. She will be consecrated in a service at St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday 19th November, 2019.



The Venerable Olivia Graham,

Image: Archdeacon of Berkshire.

Image: www.oxford.anglican.org/olivia-graham-named-bishop-of-reading/

About Olivia

Olivia is married to Keith and they have three adult children. She is passionate about social justice and the interface the church has with the wider world. In June this year she accompanied other faith leaders calling for government action on climate change and participated in the Mass Lobby of Parliament. Olivia has also led the work on Flourishing in Ministry, a set of resources and a leadership approach that supports clergy to develop a healthy rhythm of prayer, work and rest.

- 1974-1981 Volunteer teacher and schools worker, Kenya
- 1984-1993 Overseas relief and development worker
- 1997 Ordained Deacon
- 1997-1998 Non-stipendiary minister, GARSINGTON
- 1998-2001 Curate, PRINCES RISBOROUGH
- 2001-2007 Team Vicar, BURNHAM (St Peter)
- 2007-2013 Parish Development Adviser
- 2012- Hon Canon, Christ Church Cathedral
- 2013 – Archdeacon of Berkshire

About the Oxford Diocese

The Diocese of Oxford is one of the largest Dioceses in the Church of England and is divided into four 'Episcopal Areas', each overseen by their own Area Bishop.

The Reading Episcopal Area is larger than many dioceses in the Church of England. It extends from west Berkshire along the M4 corridor to Windsor encompassing very rural areas and large centres of population.

There are 170 churches in the Area, 70% of which are involved in social action. The Church is also the largest provider of out of school support for children and young people in Berkshire.

+ *Steven*, 15 July 2019

COFFEE & CHAT

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or Susanna on 0118 377 4133

ROCAMADOUR



Rocamadour village. Image: Dynamosquito
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1941>

Many of you may have visited Rocamadour, the home of the Black Madonna.

St Amadour is the celebrated hermit who founded the sanctuaries of Rocamadour.

He was said to have been the handyman of Mary and Joseph who married Veronica, the woman who wiped Christ's face as he carried his cross to Golgotha.



The Black Madonna of Rocamadour. Image: Roby.
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=16047295>

After the Ascension, Amadour and his wife escaped in a rather decrepit boat and eventually landed in France near Bordeaux.

Veronica died and Amadour became a hermit living on a barren rock. Whilst living on the rock he carved from wood a likeness of the Virginia Mary which is now called the *Black Madonna of Rocamadour*.

It became a great centre for pilgrimages and was visited by Henry II. Poulenc the French composer after experiencing a profound conversion whilst visiting Rocamadour composed a set of lovely litanies in her honour.

Ann Grice



THE CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

I don't think I'd properly explained the idea behind moving the Children's Chapel before Sunday morning (28 July).

The key point is that, talking to other people and the experience of other Churches, and looking at the research, children generally feel more engaged and involved when they are at the front and can see everything and be at the heart of it than when they are at the back in a corner. Also, in addition to that, having the children at the front of Church means that they feel to be at the heart of the church rather than some kind of extension which is something vital to the flourishing and happiness of the Church and the worship of everyone

We've left some things at the back that people like doing during the week so that people can still pop in and have fun in Church outside services. We have left some of the noisy toys there, but they're not intended for use during services. In the front two rows on the right-hand side as you look forward we are putting out children's guides to the service and some colouring and craft sheets with some colouring pencils. People will be on hand to sit with the children there (alongside you) to explain things and help them to pray and listen and join in and worship. The Children's Chapel has now moved to the front on the right-hand side and some of the toys, and cushions and reading books are there in an area for you to relax in and enjoy and feel part of it.

The clergy will work hard to invite the children to the front row and to engage.

We're clearly not expecting the children to be engaged in every moment of the service, and each child is different, but there are definitely bits they know and can join in with - think about the confession, sing the Gloria, listen to the Gospel, join in the Intercessions, share the Peace, say the Lord's Prayer and so on. Choose a few moments to explain and join in with. Do it together.

If you do have any questions or comments, please let me know. Please do send this email on to anyone else who you know who comes along. Thanks for your support in what is a very exciting new adventure.

Fr Richard Lamey



St Paul's Churchyard

Working Party

1st & 3rd Saturday
in the month

9.30am - 3.30pm

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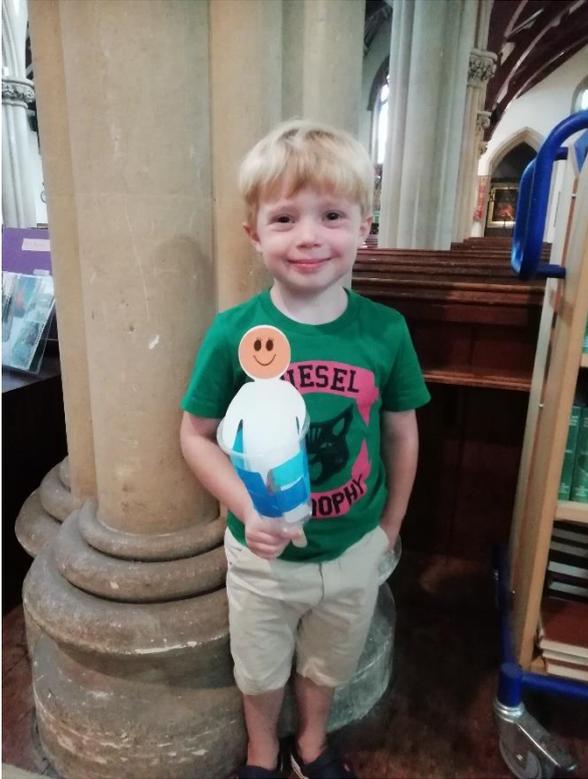
Saturday 14th September 2019
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9.30am - 3.30pm
£10 including a light lunch

Book online at www.activateyourlife.org.uk


activateyourlife
women actively sharing God's love

FIRST STEPS – JULY

Fr. Patrick told us the story of Naaman and the servant girl who helped him. She told him to go and see Elisha who could heal him of his leprosy. Although Naaman was not kind to her she helped him and Jesus tells us we should be helpful to everyone.



The children enjoyed singing and making their Naaman craft.

As it was the last session of this term, we then enjoyed a Teddy Bears Picnic in the garden of the Parish Rooms. We were blessed with lovely sunshine. It is a joy to be with this lovely group of children and adults.

Photos (clockwise beginning top left): Eliot with his Naaman craft; Teddy Bears enjoying the picnic; Some of the children enjoying the picnic; Hannah going back for more and finally, Fr. Patrick with Hannah and her Naaman craft.

Our next session: Thursday 12th September 9.15am, in the Children's Chapel, St Paul's Church. Do come if you can. You will be most welcome. First steps is for pre-school age children and their parents, grandparents, and carers.

Text & images: Liz Gallagher

HARVEST @ WOOSHILL CHURCH

**Woosehill Church Harvest Weekend
& Flower Festival**

Saturday 28th September 2pm – 5pm
Sunday 29th 12pm – 3pm

Come and Join Us and find out what we do
Find Out who Uses our Building

We will be serving Tea/Coffee and Cake on the Saturday
Soup with Bread on the Sunday.

Proceeds will go to Yeldall Manor, the Foodbank and Woosehill Defibrillator Fund.

For more information email lynnepalme@yahoo.co.uk

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Circuit & Parish
Sunday Club
Sing Something Simple
Fadpoles
Brownies, Guides & Rainbows
MOW & WOW
Table tennis
Banner Group
Energy Kidz
WVAM
Bible Study

STITCH

together

When & Where?

- On the 1st Wednesday of each month 16:30-19:30 in the Carpenter Room, upstairs in St Paul's Parish Rooms.

- We also meet on the 3rd Friday of each month during Coffee and Chat 14:00-16:00 in the main hall of St Paul's Parish Rooms.

Come along to sew by hand or machine, to knit, crochet and share skills!



Information: <https://stitchtogether.wordpress.com>

Email: stitch-together@outlook.com

Church.office@spauls.org.uk | 0118 979 2122



St Paul's
Church
Wokingham

ST PAUL'S MOTHERS' UNION MEETING REPORT

MU Meeting 24th June 2019

The topic at the June meeting of the Mothers' Union was 'Our Favourite Things'.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Each member brought along a favourite item and was given three minutes (timed by Jenny with her splendid 'hour glass') to tell us why it was so precious to them.

The articles varied: there were pieces of jewellery, awards, decorative plates and items and it was fascinating to hear why they held such a special place in the owner's heart. Most of the members have known each other for many years, but the stories told offered a new insight into one another's lives and emotions and served as a good introduction from the newer members. A good evening!

There will be no meeting at the end of August, but an outing to Mattingley Church followed by afternoon tea at Riseley Village Hall is planned for Thursday 15th August.

If you would like to join us for this trip, please contact Teri Austen: 0118 978 9123 or teri@theaustens.uk

Teri Austen

IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME

"There's a time each year
That we always hold dear,
Good old summertime;
With the birds and the trees'es
And sweet-scented breezes,
Good old summertime,
When you day's work is over
Then you are in clover,
And life is one beautiful rhyme,
No trouble annoying,
Each one is enjoying,
The good old summertime."



Lyrics: Ron Shields (www.gardendigest.com/monaug.htm#Quotes)

St Paul's Taverners



1st & 3rd Tuesday in the Month

12.30pm, Broad Street Tavern

Are you free on a Tuesday
lunchtime? Would you
come the chance
er like

No

**NO St Paul's Taverners in August.
BACK ON Tuesday 3rd September.**

wel-
to chat with oth-
minded men over a bite

Come as of-
ten or a rarely as
you are able, although it
will be very helpful to know how

More information, contact:

Chris Rutter

0118 961 9781 or

email, chris_k_rutter@hotmail.com



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FRENCH TART RECIPE

This is an easy recipe your children or grandchildren could have fun making as a supper dish.

Ingredients	Method
1 piece of frozen shortcrust pastry Liberal amount of tomato ketchup 2 Courgettes 3 Spring Onions 1 tin Anchovies A few Olives 8-12 oz grated Cheese	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out pastry thinly and place on a baking tray • Spread Tomato Ketchup over pastry • Thinly slice Courgette and lay over ketchup • Chop onions and spread out on tart • Arrange anchovies on pastry • Quarter the Olives and arrange on tart • Sprinkle grated cheese over the top • Bake in a hot oven (190°C)

The filling for the tart can be your choice eg. Bacon, chorizo, ham etc. As can the flavour of the cheese. Experiment and have fun. Serve with a mixed salad

GIN COCKTAIL - ENGLISH 75

Ingredients	Method
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45ml / 1½fl oz) Earl Grey Gin • 8ml (¼fl oz) elderflower cordial • 15ml (½fl oz) freshly squeezed lemon juice • 75ml (2½fl oz) English sparkling wine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill cocktail shaker with ice and pour in the gin, elderflower cordial and lemon juice. • Shake together vigorously, then strain into a flute. Carefully pour in half of the chilled sparkling wine and give it a little stir, then top up with the res of the sparkling wine and serve.

Ann Grice





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MUSIC FOR AUGUST 2019

4th – Trinity 7

9.30 am Parish Mass

Hymns: 499, 282, The Lord's my shepherd, 239

Setting: Mass of St Thomas, *Thorne*

11th– Trinity 8

9.30am Parish Mass

Hymns: 388, 464, 383, 413

Setting: Mass of St Thomas, *Thorne*

18th – Trinity 9

9.30am Parish Mass

Hymns: Lord for the years, 342, 296, 394

Setting: Mass of St Thomas, *Thorne*

25th – Trinity 10

9.30am Parish Mass

Hymns: 234, 379, 353, 466

Setting: Mass of St Thomas, *Thorne*

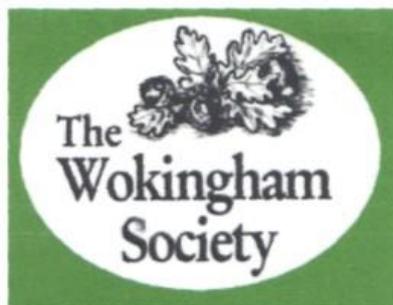


THY KINGDOM COME - THE 2019 SERMON SERIES

As part of Choral Evensong @ 6.15 pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

September 15th: the Rev'd Vusi Mabuza *@ Woosehill Church*

Vusi came on placement to St Paul's in 2017. He served, until recently, in the Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman in South Africa. He now lives in Warfield and works at Windsor Castle while trying to work out how the Church of England functions!



The Wokingham Society is a Civic Society committed to assisting with the conservation of Wokingham's character, history, traditions, architecture and environment.

Grants are offered to local organisations, societies and individuals planning projects which will benefit the community.

In recent years the Society has awarded Grants to St Paul's in support of major projects, most recently the Churchyard Tree Succession Project.

For more information please go to: www.wokinghamsociety.org.uk



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St Paul's Parish Harvest Lunch

Please come and enjoy the annual **St Paul's Parish Harvest Lunch** with a short presentation by the Choir at approx. 1.30 pm

**St Paul's Parish Rooms
Sunday 6th October 2019
From 12 noon to 2 pm**

For the lunch we are serving a selection of soups with bread and for pudding fruit crumble, ice cream or custard

Please bring your own drinks and glasses. There will be no set charge but donations to our three charities (The children's society, Soulscape and USPG) would be greatly appreciated. There will also be a Chinese raffle.



Any queries please contact Margaret on 9787788 or speak to any Social committee member



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LUCKY NUMBERS DRAW

The July Lucky Numbers draw took place over coffee after Communion at St Nicholas' on 14th July 2019. Many congratulations to the winners who were:

£50	No. 64	Tony Eggleston
£25	No. 32	Petra Johnstone
£15	No. 14	Rhoda Hart
£10	No 20	Vince & Lorraine Pearson

The Draw is an easy way of raising funds for repairs and renewals to the church building. A share costs £24 per year and the draw takes place monthly (either at St Nicholas's or St Paul's) for prizes of £50, £25, £15 and £10. All remaining funds go to the Restoration Fund.

If you would like to subscribe, or want further information, please contact Tony Roberts (979 5351), Liz Gallagher (989 1176) or Mary Cassidy (979 5096) – or in person at church (Mary at St Paul's, Tony or Liz at St Nicholas').



Tony Roberts


 Wokingham Choral Society 
Open Rehearsal- 
Haydn's "The Creation"
We are holding an open rehearsal for prospective new members to try the WCS experience on Thursday 12th September 2019, at 7.30pm
Venue- Emmbrook Senior School Hall Emmbrook Road, Wokingham RG41 1JP
Music will be provided for the evening. See our website for more details or contact our membership secretary via membership@wokingham-choral-society.org.uk
www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk Registered Charity No. 274853


MORNING PRAYER

Starting the day in prayer is an ancient Christian tradition which people have always found to be a firm foundation for the day. It roots us in God and strengthens us for all that lies ahead. In the parish, we share Morning Prayer at 8.30am (at St Paul's on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and at Woosehill, on a Wednesday). The service lasts about 20 minutes and includes readings, prayer, and canticles. If you'd like to find out more then please speak to a member of the clergy, or to one of the congregation who already come. Or why not just turn up and join in?

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Day	Time	Service
Monday	8.30am	Said Morning Prayer
Tuesday	8.30am	Said Morning Prayer
Wednesday	8.30am	Morning Prayer at Woosehill Church
	10.30am	House Mass (see weekly Pews News for details)
Thursday	8.30am	Said Morning Prayer, with Mass at 9.30am
Friday	8.30am	Said Morning Prayer
Saturday	8.30am	Said Morning Prayer
	9.00am	Rosary Prayers
	9.30am	Low Mass

READERS & INTERCESSORS

Date	Festival	Reader	Intercessor
4 Aug	Transfiguration	Christine Field	Rhoda Hart
11 Aug	Trinity 8	Pauline Wells	Alan Harrison
18 Aug	Trinity 9	Dawn Hardiman	Chris Merchant
25 Aug	Trinity 10	John Foster	Teri Austen

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 2 Aug	2pm – 4pm	Coffee & Chat, St Paul's Church
Sat 3 Aug	9.30am – 3.30pm	Churchyard Working Party
Wed 7 Aug	4.30pm – 7.30pm	Stitch Together, Parish Rooms
Fri 9 Aug	2pm – 4pm	Coffee & Chat, Parish Rooms
Thu 15 Aug	tbc	Mothers' Union Outing, Mattingly Church
Fri 16 Aug	2pm – 4pm	Coffee & Chat, Parish Rooms
	2pm – 4pm	Stitch Together, Parish Rooms
Sat 17 Aug	9.30am – 3.30pm	Churchyard Working Party
Fri 23 Aug	2pm – 4pm	Coffee & Chat, Parish Rooms
Fri 30 Aug	2pm – 4pm	Coffee & Chat, Parish Rooms
Sun 1 Sep	9.30am	Parish Mass
Tue 3 Sep	All day	Bishop Steven's Day Pilgrimage to Sonning – he will be stopping to pray at Woosehill
Wed 4 Sep	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Sun 8 Sep	9.30am	Parish Mass: Service of Blessing of Bags for the new school year
Tue 10 Sep	8pm – 9.30pm	Bible Study resumes, Woosehill Church
Thu 12 Sep	7.30pm	Wokingham Choral Society: Open Rehearsal
Sat 14 Sep	10am – 4pm	Ride + Stride
Mon 23 Sep	8pm	PCC Mtg, Woosehill Church
Sat 28 Sep	2pm – 5pm	Woosehill Harvest Weekend & Flower Festival
Sun 29 Sep	12 noon – 3pm	
Sun 6 Oct	12 noon – 2pm	St Paul's Parish Harvest Lunch

The Spire Magazine Subscription Form



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You will be able to collect your magazine each month from your home church. People who subscribe by post will need to make a special arrangement directly with the Parish Office and provide the appropriate stamps and envelopes to cover the cost of posting their magazines.

NB: *Your personal details will be held in a secure area for the purposes of parish magazine business only. No information will ever be shared with a third party.*

Please return your form and payment to:

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PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Clergy			
The Rector	Fr Richard Lamey**	rector@spauls.org.uk	0118 327 9116
Assistant Priest	Fr Patrick Mukholi***	patrick.mukholi@spauls.org.uk	0118 977 3397
Assistant Priest	Rev Judi Hattaway*	judihattaway@mac.com	0779 872 3232
Clergy rest days	*Friday, **Saturday, *** Monday		
<i>We shall be grateful if you would refrain from contacting the Clergy on their rest days. Thank you.</i>			
St Paul's Church, Wokingham			
Parish Administrator	Louise Cole	church.office@spauls.org.uk	0118 979 2122
Parish Rooms Bkgs	Vanessa Hemmi	parish.rooms@spauls.org.uk	0118 979 2122
PCC Secretary	Lesley Ruddock	pcc.secretary@spauls.org.uk	
Churchwarden	David Ruddock	david.ruddock@spauls.org.uk	0118 437 6104
Churchwarden	Peter Wells	peter.wells@spauls.org.uk	0118 377 6351
Treasurer	Lyn Austen	lyn.austen@spauls.org.uk	0118 978 9123
Stewardship	Stuart Fairhead	stewardship@spauls.org.uk	0118 979 4437
Senior Server	Peter Wells	1 Barkhart Drive	0118 377 6351
Parish Pioneer	Paul Armitage	paul.armitage@uwclub.net	
Music Director	Louise Turner	louise_turner71@hotmail.com	0118 988 2815
Choir Secretary	Lesley Ruddock	lesley_ruddock@hotmail.co.uk	0118 437 6104
Tower Captain	Ken Davenport	47 Brookside	0118 978 6554
Church Flowers	Sue Davenport	47 Brookside	0118 978 6554
Safeguarding Officer	Chris Barker	Church.office@spauls.org.uk	
Social Committee / Stitch Together	Margaret Davies	stitch-together@outlook.com www.stitchtogether.wordpress.com	
Coffee & Chat	Susanna Allen		0118 377 4133
St Paul's Taverners	Chris Rutter	chris_k_rutter@hotmail.com	0118 961 9781
Mothers' Union	Teri Austen		0118 978 9123
Welcome Club	Jackie Alexander	49 Cantley Crescent	0118 327 8739
Children's Advocate	Jason Searancke	childrens.advocate@spauls.org.uk	0790 067 8572
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The Beatitudes and social media

At the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends eight beautiful qualities. But what do the Beatitudes mean for social media and life online?

- > **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven**
I will remember that my identity comes from being made and loved by God, not from my online profile.
- > **Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted**
This world is full of grief and suffering. I will tread softly and post with gentleness and compassion.
- > **Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth**
I will not boast or brag online, nor will I pull others down.
- > **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled**
There are many wrongs to be righted. I will not be afraid to name them and look for justice in the world.
- > **Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy**
I will not judge others but be generous online. I will be conscious of my own failings.
- > **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God**
I will be truthful and honest, and I will not pretend to be what I am not.
- > **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God**
I will seek to reconcile those of different views with imagination and good humour.
- > **Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven**
I will not add to the store of hate in the world, but I will try to be courageous in standing up for what is right and true.