

THE SPIRE

NOVEMBER 2019

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REMEMBRANCE

EDITORS' MESSAGE

November is Remembrance month and the poem on p.10 reminds us why we wear a poppy to show our support for service men and women.

It is clearly going to be a big month of political activity leading up to the newly announced election on 12th December. Whilst this may occupy most of your 'head' time, if you have done anything interesting, or have

something to comment on, please keep on sending in your articles and pictures to make sure the magazine is relevant and engaging. There are regular contributors – and we are indebted to those people - but there must be lots going on which we can report on.

There's a letter from Fr Patrick on p.4 – preparations for Advent. Can you be a Baptism Visitor (p.5)? Fr Richard talks about talents by volunteering (p.7). Children's voices are heard in the USPG update (p.11). There's also news of major vegetation management on the railway. Don't be alarmed by this; it's been in full consultation with the church and other local neighbours (p.12). John Henry Newman's canonisation is reported on p.18. Are you a Carer and in need of support? See p.28 for more information. There are just a few of the delights that follow. And, don't forget the Parish Bazaar on Saturday 9th November. Come and enjoy the fun of it all.

We're coming to the end of the year now and we would like to remind you about your Spire subs. If you're not already a subscriber but would like to be one, please complete the form on p.43 and return it to the office as soon as possible.

You will have no doubt been aware that we have had to change a number of Spire publishing dates to accommodate annual leave and public holidays. This will continue into the New Year so please do check copy and publishing deadlines on this page to avoid disappointment.

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

DECEMBER EDITION

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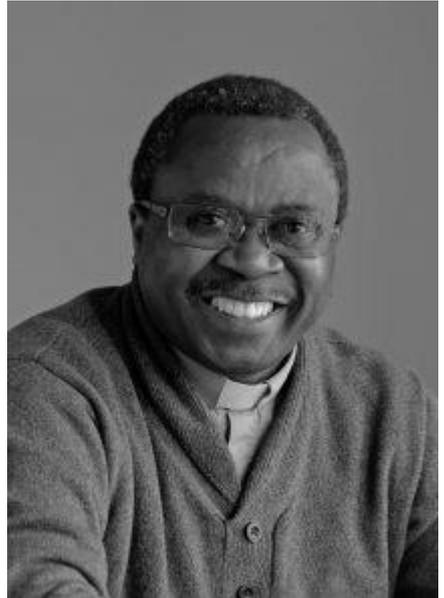
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Front cover: ***The cairn built by pilgrims at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.*** Image: Fr Richard Lamey

DEAR FRIENDS

It may be that we do not want to hear Christmas 2019 knocking at the door. Like it or not it's here.

As a church before coming to celebrate this momentous event that changed heaven and earth, a time is set apart for preparation. This time that we call Advent is a time for preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas, and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming.



Revd Patrick Mukholi
Associate Priest

 Like it or not, as we remind ourselves together every week, “He will come again to judge the living and the dead”, that Child that we swoon over and sometimes take for granted, is the Creator, King and judge of the universe. I find that completely astonishing. He came as a child and when He was grown, He upended the world in three short years. Two thousand years later we live in the wake of His birth, life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension.

 He commanded his disciples to then wait actively for His coming back again in glory. So here we are, waiting not knowing when He shall appear for every eye to see. In the meantime, as we wait, just like parents waiting for the birth of their child, we prepare for that coming. When waiting for a Child to be born, we learn about the birth process, we find a doctor for the baby, we prepare rooms and clothes. We talk to veteran parents and prepare older siblings, if any, and we find out what to do when labour starts. We do not want to be caught unawares.

 Similarly, as we wait for Christ, we learn about his coming (again) and his birth and what will be required of us to be as ready as Simeon and prophetess Anna were. What are the signs of His coming? We tell others of His coming, His significance to our lives and what we need to be as we wait for His coming. “The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night”, the Apostle Peter tells us. He goes on say, “So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him”. Waiting is hard work and, will even test our faith. It's especially difficult when there are no guarantees that our waiting will ever end in this lifetime.



Advent reminds us that our time on earth is one of watching and waiting for the coming King. We pray and strive for the grace to live like the star that points and leads others to the Christ in us and in our midst. Following PMC habits, words of welcome, encouragement and prayer have drawn some to our congregations. These habits meant for all of our lives will always better place us in watching and waiting.



Simeon and Anna spent a considerable amount of prayer and scripture time in the Temple. It's not surprising that they were in a position to discern the coming of the Christ child to the Temple. Theirs is a great example to begin and keep following. Perhaps this Advent will also be the beginning of you and I spending a little bit more time at our prayer times, Bible Study, home group and/or Tithing fellowship. Perhaps also the beginning of putting ourselves forward as volunteers for the many vacant situations in the Parish.



Such use of our time, gifts and treasures will help us focus on what is truly important in this life and not get side-tracked by "things" that won't go with us into eternity. Let's invest our days wisely, pouring our lives into others, sharing Christ and putting our faith into action.

Revd Patrick Mukholi, November 2019

BAPTISM VISITORS

We have a great system at St Paul's that a group of us visit the families of the babies or children to be baptised and we then attend on the day to support them.



I am pleased to say we are having more baptisms, so we are getting a bit stretched. We would love to have a few more volunteers to help.

The visitors are having a get together on Sunday 17th November in the Parish Rooms at 3pm for scones and tea and you would be more than welcome to join us then for more information or you can contact me. Thank you.

Margaret Davies, Baptism Visitors Co-ordinator
Margaretanddavies@hotmail.co.uk / 0118 9787788

TALENTS AND VOLUNTEERING

One part of the Harvest season is our recommitment to using the gifts we have for the good of others - of creation, of the community, of the Church. Please pray about the things you are already committed to - that they will continue to flourish - and ask whether God is calling you to do different things or new things. We become more the Church, the more we are able to do and sustain in the town and on site.

If you would like to find out any more information about anything that follows, or if you would like to offer to help in any of these areas, then please speak to a member of the clergy, or a Warden, or to Louise in the Parish Office - 0118 979 2122.

1. If there is anything you have always thought you would like to be part of but have never done anything about it then please just go for it! Offer, volunteer, express an interest, find out more. Do it today!
2. There are Teams who would really welcome having some new members:
 - For example, on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, a Team work in the Churchyard alongside the Payback Team and another Team puts on refreshments to thank the Payback Team for their hard work.
 - Another Team of people visit people who are having a baptism to explain something of the service and to be the welcoming face of the Church.
 - The Church Cleaning Team are always on the lookout for more people.
 - We would still be keen to hear from anyone who would like to get involved in our work with Children and Young People. And most other Groups in the life of the Church would also love to hear from you.
3. Why not offer to help run something you're part of- make coffee, write letters, go on the rota, step up.
4. There are also specific roles in the life of the Church which we have not been able to fill for some time. The main ones are:
 - a) a Health and Safety Officer
 - b) someone to liaise with Orchestras and Choirs using the Church building for concerts and to encourage more concerts to take place in Church
 - c) a Treasurer for the Parish Rooms Trust, which would not an onerous job for someone with the requisite skills
 - d) someone to manage the Advertising for the Spire Magazine

Thank you for your prayers, thoughtfulness, engagement and time!

Fr Richard

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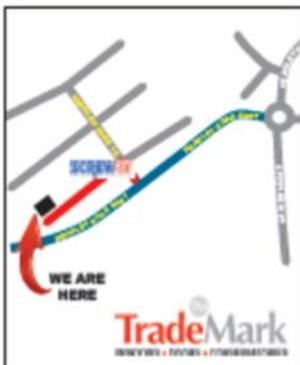


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WHY WEAR A POPPY?

"Please wear a poppy", the lady said,
and held one forth, but I shook my head.
Then I stopped and watched as she offered them there,
her face was old and lined with care;
but beneath the scars the years had made
there remained a smile that refused to fade.

A boy came whistling down the street,
bouncing along on carefree feet.
His smile was full of joy and fun,
"Lady" said he "may I have one?"
When she pinned it on, he turned to say:
"Why do we wear a poppy to-day?"

The lady smiled in her wistful way
and answered: "This is Remembrance Day,
and the poppy there is a symbol
for the gallant men who died in the war,
and because they did, you and I are free.
That's why we wear a poppy you see.

I had a boy about your size,
with golden hair and big blue eyes.
He loved to play and jump and shout;
free as a bird, he would race about.
As the years went by, he learned and grew
and became a man - as you will too.

He was fine and strong, with a boyish smile,
but he'd seemed with us such a little while.
When war broke out and he went away.
I still remember his face that day
when he smiled at me and said good-bye.
'I'll be back soon, Mum, so please don't cry.'

But the war went on and he had to stay,
and all I could do was wait and pray.
His letters told us of the awful fight
(I can see it in my dreams at night),
with the tanks and guns and cruel barbed wire,

and the mines and the bullets, the bombs and the fire.”

"That sure does sound like an awful fight,
but your son - did he come back alright?"

A tear rolled down each faded cheek;
she shook her head but didn't speak.

I slunk away in a sort of shame,
and if you were with me, you'd have done the same;
for our thanks, in giving is oft delayed,
though our freedom was bought - and thousands paid!

And so, when we see a poppy worn,
let us reflect on the burden borne
by those who gave their very all
when asked to answer their country's call
that we at home in peace might live.
Then wear a poppy - and give!

Donald J. Crawford

USPG - CHILDREN'S SYNOD INSPIRES SOUTH INDIA CHURCHES

Children have challenged the Church of South India (CSI) to transform the way they think about younger people and to rethink church.

Eight hundred children from across five states attended a two-day Children's Synod – Child Champs – at Bangalore in the diocese of Karnataka organised by CSI. The Synod grew from CSI's Child Protection Policy and a desire to listen to children and develop a more child-friendly church.

The children had opportunities to express concerns and make suggestions. Among their concerns were discrimination, particularly based on economic status and caste. The Synod called for greater unity and inclusivity; more child-friendly teaching and child participation and worship. They also pressed for children to have a voice in decision-making.

CSI said the children's values of love and equality had challenged the adult-centric church and it was proud and humbled by their leadership.

USPG, Transmission Magazine, p.9, Autumn 2019

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON THE RAILWAY

This is the view train drivers see as they run through the cutting alongside St Paul's Churchyard. It has been untouched for many years and is now encroaching towards the tracks. Network Rail see this as a potential hazard for the safe and timely running of trains along the route between Wokingham and Reading. They need to ensure the track side is maintained properly and significantly reduce the vegetation either side of the cutting. This will mean coppicing, pruning and clearing of a lot of the trees and shrubs adjacent to St Paul's Churchyard.



Railway cutting looking west prior to cutting.
Image: Barbara Stagles

Though the late summer, a consultation has been running with all interested parties led by Claire Day, the Network Rail manager for this project. A lot of work has gone into this including national level representation from The Tree Council¹ in the person of Jon Stokes, Director of Programmes. Following the recent Varley report, there is an increased awareness in Network Rail that the management of trackside vegetation for safety can be combined with the creation of valuable green corridors for wildlife.

People whose property back on to the railway have been consulted including Fr Richard Lamey on behalf of St Paul's church. Martin Haslam, Alison Griffin and Barbara Stagles have been involved for the Wokingham Veteran Tree Association as well as members of the Reading Tree Wardens Association. (Barbara was involved in the now completed St Paul's Tree Succession project). It is clear that the vegetation management will have a significant impact on the look of the churchyard, though this will change as the trackside regreens.

Below we illustrate the ways in which the consultation and the work on the trackside have affected St Pauls churchyard.

Initial notification in letter to Railway neighbours - 22 August 2019: Vegetation management on the railway between Wokingham and Reading Station

We are writing to let you know that Network Rail will be carrying out work to manage the vegetation growing on the side of the railway between Wokingham and Reading.

¹ The Tree Council is one of the UK's leading charities for trees, promoting their importance in a changing environment. They work in partnership with communities, organisations and government to make trees matter to everyone. As the coalition body for a diverse range of organisations, the Council focuses on getting more trees, of the right kind, in the right places; better care for all trees of all ages and inspiring effective action for trees. For more information go to www.treecouncil.org.uk/.

The work will start in October 2019 and will be completed by 31 March 2020. Most of the work will take place during daylight hours on weekdays, Monday to Friday.

Why are we doing this work?

Large trees growing near the railway can cause issues with the stability of embankments and cuttings. Some trees, particularly Ash, are prone to fungal disease causing them to fail. This poses a risk to our passengers, staff and lineside neighbours. The appropriate management of the lineside means we can also address safety concerns such as ensuring our drivers can see pedestrian crossing users, and safer access for staff carrying out maintenance work.

What have we done so far?

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) has been carried out to identify any existing protected or valuable habitats and protected species. Findings show that the area provides value for badgers, birds, amphibians and reptiles and has potential for some bat activity. Recommendations have been provided and will be implemented. Following the appraisal, our ecologist has concluded that our planned vegetation management work will have no significant impact on protected species.

Drop-in Meeting - 16th September 2019

There was an open drop-in meeting on Monday 16th September at which a number of points were raised which were documented by Barbara Stagles:

In a short introduction John Stokes, Director of The Tree Council, said how pleased he was to be invited to consultation about the vegetation management on this line before work was started. He and colleagues had visited the line where he could get access and had already been in discussions with Claire Day and team about a number of adjustments to the proposals. Others were being followed up.

Claire gave a brief description of the reasons for the work, mainly for reasons of safety and efficient line maintenance. She took the point from the floor that that this did not necessarily conflict with concerns to preserve the land along railway margins as a valuable green corridor for biodiversity including some trees in safe places where possible.

Claire and team then made themselves available to discuss individual concerns. She responded individually to all the points. Her responses are summarised below.

Clearance areas

The width of clearance areas varies and the team will be making adjustments in response to comments made by John and others. Claire will follow up the particular example cited.

Clearance will not be total everywhere although it may look like this in the early stages. Many shrubs will be coppiced or cut and will grow up again. The vegetation left will be easy to manage.

Good idea to leave stacked piles of logs in suitable places to benefit biodiversity. There is some difference of opinion within the Network Rail team about leaving the site clear, but Claire will try to get habitat piles left in places where there is no risk to safety on the line.

Trees/Other trees

We didn't discuss the detailed examples in the meeting, but details were in follow-up emails.

Bats

The team are very conscious of the need to protect bat habitats as far as possible and will follow the guidance of the ecology report. They will call in bat specialists if they have any bat-related concerns in the course of the work.

Contractors

The team have worked with Coombs Forestry on other projects and have every confidence in the quality of their work. Coombs have an ecologist who will be consulted should any concerns arise. Two members of the team will supervise workers on site.

Soft felling² will be practised for the mature trees highlighted in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report and for ivy covered trees.

Network Rail have a register of sites where there is Japanese knotweed and will deal with it wherever necessary. So far, they hadn't noted it but someone at the meeting had identified an area where it was present. Claire will follow this up. No Himalayan Balsam had been noted as yet, but it would be dealt with if found.

General Points

They had no plans to plant any compensation vegetation, but Claire was open to the idea that this might be possible in certain areas where there is safe and appropriate space. She thought hawthorn could be a very useful species to plant. We said there could be a possibility of raising or applying for funds by relevant voluntary organisations if some such planting would be valuable. She will think about this and let us know. They would be very happy for bat and bird boxes to be installed in appropriate places. This would need further discussion.

A further site visit was planned for the Wokingham Station/St Pauls area on 27th September.

² Soft felling is a means of felling trees whilst protecting wildlife. Trees identified as bat roosts will not be felled until the appropriate consents have been obtained from Natural England and will be felled in a bat sympathetic manner. If a tree has features such as woodpeckers' holes, cracks, splits, cavities and rot holes, then the tree will be 'soft-felled'. This procedure is always carried out in suitable weather conditions at an appropriate time of year and involves removing the top branches first and working down the tree removing it in sections. Any sections of the tree identified as having bat roost potential will be lowered carefully using ropes to ground level. Each section will be laid on the ground with holes and cracks facing upward for as long as possible (at least 24 hours under suitable weather conditions is preferable); this gives any bats a chance to vacate the tree. Cutting through cavities will be avoided.
www.arbeco.co.uk/Habitat-Services/Soft-Felling

On-site meeting at St Paul's/ Wokingham station - 27th September

Father Richard and Barbara Stagles attended this meeting together with other interested parties. Again, we are indebted to Barbara for her notes here:

It is very encouraging that there is a common agreement that the forthcoming track-side management will be as environmentally friendly as possible within the constraints of ensuring maximum safety on the railway lines.

The point was made that we should keep people posted about the proposed plans so they will understand why this work is necessary. This could help forestall concerned complaints about the work. Network Rail is planning to write a letter to the local press along these lines. It is presumed that the church congregation will also be informed, or perhaps have informed, about the plans to start work, which will be quite soon.



On-site meeting at St Paul's.

Image: Barbara Stagles

One point that arose as we stood by the log pile just inside the churchyard was that Network Rail would be very willing to let the churchyard have stacks of cut timber (in neat bundles) if this might help improve biodiversity along or just inside the fence. Obviously, this is something which you or Andy would need to discuss with Claire once the work is underway.

It is also planned that once the work is done Claire and her team would look at the cutting from the churchyard to see if there are any bare patches where hawthorn or holly could be usefully planted. (These are the species she would be happy to approve). Obviously, members of the churchyard team would not be authorised to do this, but she and colleagues would be willing to plant any small saplings that could be obtained. The cost of these sort of small shrubs is likely to be very small and I am sure it would be possible to raise funds from organisations like the Wokingham Society to obtain them, if necessary.

There is a proposal that monthly photos of the cutting will be taken over the next few years to show the changes in the track side land. It is likely to look very bare in the early stages but, according to Network Rail experience in other areas, should green up within a year or so.

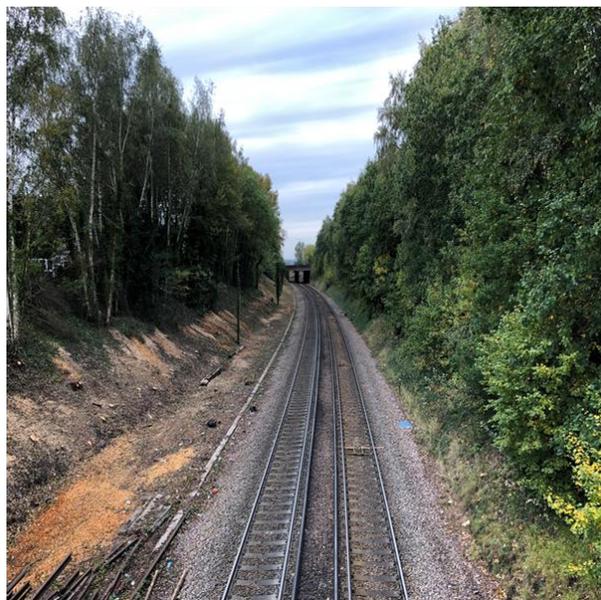
Fr Richard reported that he had a very good half hour chat with the project manager (Claire Day) from Network Rail. She explained things very clearly and is keen to work round our services as much as she is able, within the limitations of timing around such a big project. If anyone wants any timber from the work, then she is happy for it to be collected as well. Fr Richard said that (although there is clear

sadness around the work) she could not herself have been more helpful or sympathetic or keen to help.

The work so far

The work started on this section of the line in October and has progressed along the opposite side of the cutting up until the 28th October 2019.

It appears that the vegetation management requires the clearance of vegetation to a distance from the railway but is leaving a significant level of undergrowth and trees at the top of the cutting. Hopefully this will mean that the visual impact on the churchyard will be less than originally feared, but we still await the work to commence on our side of the railway.



Railway cutting looking west after the first phase of cutting. Image: Andy Clark

It is hoped that the impact on our local bats, birds and other wildlife will be limited. We will be monitoring the effects as best we can. We have been working with our local scout group to provide additional bird boxes for any displaced birds. We will be reviewing the impact once the work has completed and decide if there are actions we need to take.

It is certainly disturbing for such significant change to be enforced on our churchyard, but the work is clearly necessary and all efforts have been made on all sides for the work to be carried out with care and concern for the ecological impact as well as the impact on our services. Let's hope it all goes well and we can look positively on the results.

Andy Clark, St Paul's Churchyard Manager, October 2019

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FIRST STEPS - SEPTEMBER



We heard the story of the 'Very Helpful Hedgehog' who, at first, had no friends and had never helped anyone until he met the donkey. He soon learnt that helping people and having friends was important and that being helped was good too. We

talked about how God would want us to be helpful to others and we talked about the seasons and how they change but God never changes. He is the same today as He was yesterday and will be in the future. He will always be there with us.

The children enjoyed putting together their craft hedgehogs to remind them of the story and as it is autumn we had a leaf hunt round the church. It was lovely to be back with the First Steps children after the summer break.

Photos left to right: Hannah and Sylvie with their hedgehogs. Hannah enjoying the Leaf Hunt. Text & Images: Liz Gallagher.

FIRST STEPS - OCTOBER



L-R: Hannah and Benjamin with their Harvest crafts; Chloe, Cora & Freddie with their Harvest crafts; Harvest donations. Image: Liz Gallagher

Fr Patrick talked about Harvest and sharing what we have with those who don't have enough. The children very kindly brought food items for the local foodbank and then they went on a sweet hunt and shared the sweets they found.

Liz Gallagher

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

John Henry Newman becomes first English saint for 40 years



Bishop Anne Hollinghurst, Bishop Steven Croft and His Royal Highness Prince Charles at the Canonisation of John Henry Newman. Image: ACNS

The canonisation of John Henry Newman, who was an Anglican priest before converting to the Roman Catholic Church, has been described as a cause for celebration for all. Following the Pope's decree on Sunday 13 October, John Henry Newman became the first canonised English saint in more than 40 years and the first non-martyr for more than 600 years, since St John of Bridlington was canonised by Pope Boniface IX in 1401.

The mass in St Peter's Square was attended by a large delegation of Anglicans including the Prince of Wales, Prince Charles, who described it as a cause of celebration for all who cherish the values by which he was inspired.

In an article published by the Vatican, Prince Charles wrote: "at a time when faith was being questioned as never before, Newman, one of the greatest theologians of the nineteenth century, applied his intellect to one of the most pressing questions of our era: what should be the relationship of faith to a sceptical, secular age? His engagement first with Anglican theology, and then, after his conversion, Catholic

theology, impressed even his opponents with its fearless honesty, its unsparing rigour and its originality of thought.”

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, also welcomed the move and said it was a gift to the entire Christian Church. Speaking in a short video, he said: “his legacy is far broader than one Church or two Churches. It is a global legacy, a legacy of hope and truth, of the search for God, of devotion to being part of the People of God.” He described Newman as a popular preacher who people came to hear in vast numbers, as well as a poet and devotional writer of international acclaim. He concluded: “for the Church of England, Newman, along with others started the Oxford Movement, which has had a fundamental, lasting, beneficial, and important influence on Anglicanism.”

Henry Newman was born in London in 1801, and attended Trinity College, Oxford, going on to become an Anglican priest and a leading theologian.

In the 1830s, he and a number of associates, sought to renew the Church of England by helping it to return to its origins. These efforts became known as the Oxford Movement.

He converted from Anglicanism to Catholicism in 1845. Although at the time of his conversion most Anglicans didn't understand the move, he is today being revered as a bridge-builder.

His theology and teachings, particularly on conscience, continue to excite debate and he has been described as a “Doctor of Conscience”. Others admire Newman for his “ecumenical friendship”, embodied by his continuing love for the Church of England and its members long after he had departed.

Newman went on to establish the Birmingham Oratory, and was made a cardinal by Pope Leo XIII. He died at the age of 89.

He has been credited with two miracles by the Vatican, curing a man's crippling spinal disease and healing a woman's unstoppable bleeding.

The cardinal was beatified in 2010³ by Pope Benedict in an open-air Mass in his home city of Birmingham after the first miracle was recognised. His remains lie in a closed sarcophagus at Birmingham Oratory.

www.anglicannews.org/news/2019/10/john-henry-newman-becomes-first-english-saint-for-40-years.aspx

Anglican Communion News Service, October 17, 2019

³ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-11362997/pope-benedict-declares-cardinal-newman-blessed> [28-10-19]

USPG AT UN CONFERENCE ON STATUS OF WOMEN



USPG sent three representatives to the United Nations this year for its latest *Commission on the Status of Women* (UNCSW63).

The trio were Emma Bridger, USPG Research and Learning Manager, the Revd Fedis Nyagah from the Council of the Anglican Provinces of Africa, and the Revd Chintha Polgampola from the Diocese of Colombo in Sri Lanka.



Their aim was to lobby their respective governments to maintain and strengthen commitments on the rights of women and girls, and acknowledge the importance of faith communities in achieving these goals.

They also worked with other faith-based representatives from the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development to hold two events, one which focused on *Unlocking the Power of Faith-based Partnerships*, and the second, a roundtable discussion on *Faith, Feminism and Human Rights Frameworks*, where Revd Fedis was one of the panellists. Both events were co-sponsored by the UK, Danish and Canadian governments.

USPG's document *Keeping Faith in Faith Leaders*, which Emma co-wrote, was presented at the UN to encourage discussion on the intersections and interactions between gender, faith and development.



L-R: Revd Fedis Nyagah and Revd Chintha Polgampola.
Image: www.uspglive.org.uk

USPG, Transmission Magazine, p.8, Autumn 2019

A PRAYER FOR OUR TIMES

God of redemption, your challenge is peace. Given not as the world gives it – with limits, conditions and reversibility, but unconditionally – with infinite love.

We pray today for those of us who find ourselves in places we do not want to inhabit – a home or community where we no longer feel welcome; an identity that feels cut off at its roots.

We pray for those of us with feelings we do not know what to do with – loss and grief, fear and anxiety, aggression and vengeance, exclusion and banishment, uncertainty about our future. Bless us now, whatever we feel and whoever we are. Dwell in our souls deeply. Give us the courage to tell our stories honestly and openly; the compassion to hear the stories of others with an open heart; the discipline to share what we have; the discernment to advocate for those more vulnerable than we are, and the means to be agents of care and connection, justice and hope to seek out and celebrate the life and joy in our communities, setting a tone in harmony with you.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus and those who came after him, who lived in times of bitter conflict, who were perplexed but not driven to despair, afflicted in every way, but not crushed, persecuted, but not forsaken. All the time, proclaiming you.

Amen

www.oxford.anglican.org/brexit/#toggle-id-3





**Autumn Bible Study
Woosehill Church
Tuesdays, 8.00-9.30pm**



1 john

How to be sure

October 22nd - The Heart of the Matter

October 29th - Staying the Course

November 5th - Family Ties and Likeness

November 12th - True Love

November 19th - True Confidence

Everyone very welcome
church.office@spauls.org.uk 0118 979 2122



Join us for **A Day at the Races** themed

St Paul's Parish Bazaar

Saturday 9th November

St Paul's Parish Rooms

12 noon - 3.30pm

FREE Car parking

Entrance 30p

Grand Draw, Refreshments, Cakes and Preserves, Second-hand Books, Pot Plants, Tombola, Crafts, Bottle Tombola, Children's Tombola, Lunches, Games, Bric-a-brac, and more!



The Parish of St Paul, Wokingham

Parish Office: 0118 979 2122
St Paul's Parish Rooms
Reading Road, Wokingham, RG41 1EH
www.spauls.org.uk

ST PAUL'S MOTHERS' UNION

Monday 14 October



The members met for a most interesting and amusing talk by David Dunham about the Royal British Legion.

David himself has been involved in the work of the RBL for many years and comes from a family of staunch supporters and organisers. At a tender age, he and his sisters were set to assembling poppies and were greatly relieved when the industry eventually became mechanised.

He informed us that the first Poppy Day was held in Britain on 11th November 1921 in Shipston-on-Stour, inspired by John McCrae's poem *In Flanders Field*.

The British Legion was a merger between three organisations: The Comrades of the Great War, The National Association of Discharged Soldiers and Sailors and the National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers.

It only received its title of Royal in May 1971 on the Golden Anniversary and its membership was only extended to serving members as recently as 1981.

Wokingham has a long history of involvement with the RBL and, although the local branch unfortunately closed in 2008, David and another member, John Blaney have managed to keep the Poppy Appeal going strongly in the town. So strongly that they managed to raise the magnificent sum of around £57,000 last year!

The next meeting will be on 11th November, when the group will be making Christmas decorations followed by a quiet time of prayer led by Ann Grice. Please come and join us in what should be a fun, but reflective, evening of fellowship.

Teri Austen



WOKINGHAM DENTAL CLINIC

New patients welcome

**56 EASTHAMPSTEAD ROAD, WOKINGHAM
TEL: 0118 979 1551**

MINISTRONE SOUP

This could be a good substantial soup for Bonfire Night.

Ingredients	Method
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 tsp oil• 1 large chopped onion• 2 cloves garlic chopped• 4 rashers of chopped bacon or pancetta (optional)• 2 sticks chopped celery• 2 vegetable stock cubes• 2 tbsp mixed dried herbs• 100g shredded cabbage• 2 chopped carrots• 55g peas and chopped green beans• 2 tins chopped tomato• 100g small thin pasta (vermicelli)• 1 tsp. tomato puree• salt, pepper to taste• 1 tin cannellini beans <p>Serve with grated parmesan or cheese of your choice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heat oil in a saucepan• Add bacon(optional), onion, celery and garlic to soften.• Add cabbage and carrot.• Add 3 pints vegetable stock and mixed herbs.• Cook gently until tender.• Add peas, chopped beans, tinned tomatoes and tomato puree.• Add pasta to soup and cook gently.• Add salt and pepper to suit your taste.• Stir cannellini beans into soup to warm up just before serving, 

Ann Grice

CROWTHORNE CHORAL SOCIETY

Friday 15th November 2019, 8pm
GW Annenberg Hall at Wellington College Crowthorne.

The Choral Society will be joined by students, staff and parents to form a large choir and orchestra to perform the wonderful *Mozart Requiem* and *The Heavens are Telling* from Haydn's Creation, with soloists Kristy Swift, Katie Johnston, Richard Robbins and Thomas Humphreys. Nik Lebedenka, a highly talented student at the College, will perform movements from the popular Hummel Trumpet Concerto.

Tickets: Adults £12, Students £2 available on the door or in advance:
wellingtoncollege.org.uk/forthcoming-events



Wokingham Choral Society presents



Autumn Concert:

Haydn: The Creation

Saturday 16th November 2019, 7.30pm
(free pre-concert talk at 6.30pm, cashless bar from 6.15pm)
At The Great Hall, University of Reading,
London Rd Campus RG1 5AQ

Tickets: £16, £5 for students & under 18s.
Visit our website for details www.wokingham-choral-society.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 274853



FIRST STEPS

2nd Thursday of each month (Term-time only)

14 Nov, 12 Dec

9.15am - 10.15am

Children's Chapel, St Paul's Church, Wokingham

Introducing pre-school children to church in a relaxed, fun and friendly way.

Songs, stories, craft activities & refreshments.

More information:

Fr Richard

0118 327 9116

Liz Gallagher

0118 989 1176



STITCH

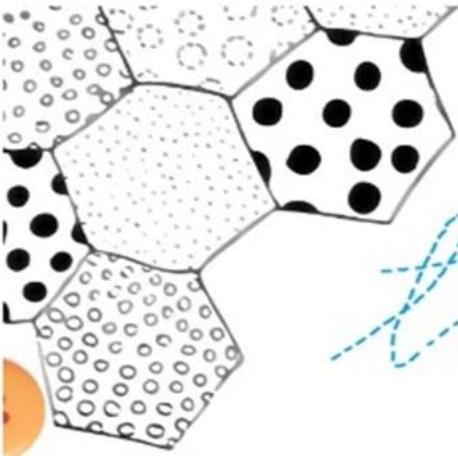
together

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!



St Paul's
Church
Wokingham

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

Email: stitch-together@outlook.com

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



**Wokingham Outreach Service
presents**

**CARERS
RIGHTS DAY**

Thursday 21st November 2019

At

The Bradbury Centre

Rose Street

Wokingham

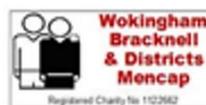
RG40 1XS

10:00 - 14:30

Full programme details overleaf

**To book a place,
please call the hub 0118 324 7333.**

**Alternately email
ask@berkshirecarershub.org**



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

10:00-12:00

Introductions from stallholders on the services they provide.

Stallholders
available throughout the day

12:00- 12:30

Lunch
(please book in advance)

12:30 - 13:30

Presentation:
on Respite by
David Lacey from Optalis

13:30 - 14:30

Hayley Maunder
TEC Service Support Officer.
Information on Assisted Technology

Appointments by booking only:
Kate Haynes
Specialist assessments.
Housing income and assessments.
Wokingham Borough Council

**Parking: Easthampstead Road WEST RG40 2EH
Easthamstead Road EAST RG40 2EG**

A photographer will be present at the event, if you do not wish to be photographed, please make yourself known to us.





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THE WELCOME CLUB

On Tuesday 8th October 2019 we had a talk from volunteers at the charity, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

The talk was given by Malcolm, a volunteer, supported by his wife Anne and her hearing dog, brown poodle Tegan.



Anne became deaf when she had an operation to remove a brain tumour, and Tegan has restored her independence and her confidence.

The charity trains dogs to assist people with hearing loss. The dogs are bred and trained, mainly by volunteers, before being matched to the recipient.

The dogs are trained to react to sounds, mainly around the home, such as an alarm clock, oven timer, doorbell and smoke or fire alarms, but are also useful out of the home giving confidence to the deaf person.

Deafness is an invisible handicap, and other people will often think they are being ignored if they get no response. But the dog (with its jacket and insignia) shows that the person has hearing problems and often attracts conversation, reducing the isolation.

The charity was founded in 1982 and is based in Princes Risborough, with a second training centre in York. It is run mainly by volunteers and relies entirely on donations - it costs about £25000 to train a dog.

After the talk, a donation tin was passed around and then we had tea and home-made cakes, before the raffle was drawn.

Next month (Tue 12 Nov): entertainment yet to be confirmed but it may be a choir!

If you are coming to the Christmas meal (10th December), please pay for this at the November meeting.

For further information concerning the Welcome Club please call Jackie on 0118 327 8739.

Steve Kallenborn



The Revd Dr Barbara Glasson

President of the Methodist Conference 2019/2020

Professor Clive Marsh

Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2019/2020

Methodist Church House

25 Marylebone Road

London NW1 5JR

+44 (0) 20 7486 5502 (enquiries)

pandvp@methodistchurch.org.uk

www.methodist.org.uk

registered charity no 1132208

2 October 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Probably like us, you are wondering how best to lead church congregations and communities through the uncertainty of Brexit. We know that there are many diverse views held even within a single family, and this diversity is reflected across the people we represent and serve. As a result there are high levels of confusion, frustration and anger.

The indications are that the coming months may be difficult to navigate. No option for the Brexit process is without pitfalls. Hurt, disappointment and anger will affect supporters of at least one side of the debate. The impact on our public life and that of the nations will take months and years to work through.

We cannot give you answers as to a best way forward, but know that you hold much wisdom from your own experience.

Alongside other Church leaders we have asked the government about the consequences of leaving the EU without a deal. While the government has yet to respond, our view from the evidence we have seen is that families on low income, those needing personal care and people with long term health conditions will face particular difficulties.

In response to the current situation, we simply want to encourage you to be active in peace-building and reconciliation. To that end, some practical things you could consider might be:

- Writing a letter to your local MP, assuring them of your prayers even if you disagree with their politics.
- Supporting your local food bank and offering positive action in practical ways.
- Offering support to EU citizens whose sense of home and belonging may be shaken.
- Being attentive to the spiritual and physical needs of children and young people for whom these are confusing times.
- Providing and enabling safe space for difficult conversations on your church premises.
- Whether or not we leave the EU on 31 October, planning to join together, with ecumenical and interfaith partners, for an day or evening of prayer, and/or issue an invitation to fast at around that time.

The Joint Public Issues Team is bringing together some resources and information for you to use at this time. You can find them here www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/brexit

As Methodists we are called to love prophetically, live graciously, even with contradictory convictions, and to be agents for justice and reconciliation. It is not easy, but we all know that it is the way of Jesus,

In the words of the Corrymeela community prayerbook: 'We pray for the torn and the burdened that they may be held together by guts and goodness, because we are held together by guts and goodness'!

As ever, we offer you our prayers and support,

Yours sincerely,



The Revd Dr Barbara Glasson
President of the Methodist Conference
2019/2020



Professor Clive Marsh
Vice-President of the Methodist Conference
2019/2020

RIDE & STRIDE 2019

I'm happy to announce that the grand total raised this year by the sponsored walk/ride was £570, a significant increase on last year's sum. Well done to everyone and thank you.

Chris Townsend

OXFORD DIOCESE ON BREXIT

As a nation we may be about to exit the European Union and begin a new relationship with our European neighbours and with the world. Our bishops have written to every church, school and chaplaincy in the Diocese of Oxford at this critical moment in our national life.

You can read the letter at www.oxford.anglican.org/Brexit

Fr Richard

St Paul's Taverners



1st & 3rd Tuesday in the Month

12.30pm, Broad Street Tavern

Are you free on a Tuesday lunchtime? Would you welcome the chance to chat with other like minded men over a bite to eat in a relaxed and friendly setting? It's not a club or a group but a gathering over food and a highlight in the week.

Normal Menu - usually under £11

Come as often or a rarely as you are able, although it will be very helpful to know how many are planning on coming each time.

More information, contact:

Chris Rutter

0118 961 9781 or

email, chris_k_rutter@hotmail.com


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MUSIC FOR NOVEMBER 2019

3rd – All Saints

9.30am Parish Mass

Hymns: 231, 197, 396, 478
Setting: Mass of St Thomas, *Thorne*
Gradual: Celtic Alleluia
Anthem: O quam gloriosum, *T L de Victoria*

3rd – All Souls

6.15pm Requiem Mass

Introit: Eternal Rest (J Whitbourn)
Hymns: 459, 353, Be still my soul, 239
Setting: Merbeck
Gradual: Plainsong
Anthem: Kontakion of the Dead

10th – Remembrance Sunday

9.30am Parish Mass

Hymns: 417, I vow to thee my country, 466, 294, 488, 489
Gradual: Plainsong Alleluia
Setting: Mass of St Thomas, *Thorne*
Anthem: Eternal Rest, *J Whitbourn*

17th – 2nd Sunday before Advent

9.30am Parish Mass

Hymns: 452, Brother sister let me serve you, 414, 490
Gradual: Plainsong Alleluia
Setting: Mass of St Thomas, *Thorne*
Anthem: Justorum animae, *C V Stanford*

6.15pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Smith
Psalm: 130
Hymns: 499, 392
Canticles: Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B minor, *T T Noble*
Anthem: Justorum animae, *C V Stanford*

24th – Christ the King

9.30am Parish Mass

Hymns: 443, 352, 456, 476
Gradual: Plainsong Alleluia
Setting: Mass of St Thomas, *Thorne*
Anthem: Lift up your heads, *W Mathias*



COFFEE & CHAT

ST PAUL'S PARISH ROOMS

READING ROAD, WOKINGHAM

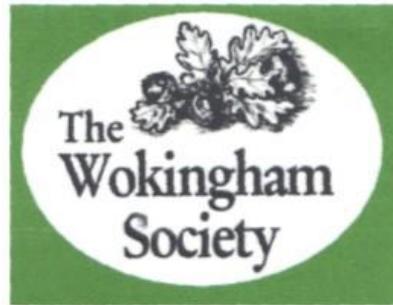
**EVERY
FRIDAY
2 - 4pm**

**At a loose end ?
Feeling lonely ?
Had a bad week ?**



Drop in for a drink and a friendly chat

For further information contact:
Louise Cole in the Parish Office on 0118 979 2122
or Susanna on 0118 377 4133



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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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

Sunday 20 October

Alex Hudson



Funerals

Monday 14 October

Frank Woolliams

Friday 18 October

Stanley Sims

Monday 21 October

Robert Batchelor

Tuesday 29 October

Pauline Bacon



LUCKY NUMBERS DRAW

The October Lucky Numbers draw took place over coffee after the 9.30am service at St Paul's on Sunday 13th October 2019.

The lucky winners were:

£50	No. 69	Tony & Pam Roberts
£25	No. 75	Trish Gatland
£15	No. 82	David & Janet Charlton
£10	No. 63	Rhona Nightingale



The draw is an easy way of raising funds for repairs and renewals to the church building.

One share (number) 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 (Tony or Liz at St Nicholas', Mary at St Paul's).

Mary Cassidy

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	9.00am	Rosary Prayers
	9.30am	Low Mass

READERS & INTERCESSORS

Date	Festival	Reader	Intercessor
3 Nov	All Saints Day	John Griffin	Vince Pearson
3 Nov	All Souls Day (Evening Service)	Alice Irvine	Penny Wallace
10 Nov	Remembrance Sunday	David Ruddock	Jenny Ellerbeck
17 Nov	2nd before Advent	Clare Coombe	David Ruddock
24 Nov	Christ the King	Justin Elliott	Dawn Hardiman

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 1 Nov	2pm – 4pm	Coffee & Chat, Parish Rooms
Sat 2 Nov	9.30am – 3.30pm	Churchyard Working Party
Sun 3 Nov	9.30am	All Saints Day - Parish Mass, St Paul's Church
	12.45pm for 1pm	Shared Lunch @ Woosehill Church
	6.15pm	A Mass for All Souls, St Paul's Church
Mon 4 Nov	8pm	Standing Committee Meeting
Tue 5 Nov	12.30pm	St Paul's Taverners, Broad Street Tavern
	8pm – 9.30pm	Study Group: 1 John – How to be Sure – Family Ties & Likeness, Woosehill Church
Wed 6 Nov	4.30pm – 7.30pm	Stitch Together, Parish Rooms
	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Fri 8 Nov	2pm – 4pm	Coffee & Chat, Parish Rooms
Sat 9 Nov	12 noon – 3.30pm	Parish Bazaar
Sun 10 Nov	9.30am	Remembrance Sunday Service
	6.15pm	Healing Service, St Paul's Church
Mon 11 Nov	7.30pm	Mothers' Union Meeting, Parish Rooms
Tue 12 Nov	2pm	The Welcome Club, Parish Rooms
	8pm – 9.30pm	Study Group: 1 John – How to be Sure – True Friend, Woosehill Church
Wed 13 Nov	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Thu 14 Nov	9.15am	First Steps, Children's Chapel, St Paul's
Fri 15 Nov	2pm – 4pm	Coffee & Chat, Parish Rooms
	2pm – 4pm	Stitch Together, Parish Rooms
Sat 16 Nov	9.30am – 3.30pm	Churchyard Working Party
	7.30pm	Concert: Haydn's The Creation - Wokingham Choral Society, The Great Hall, London Road Campus, University of Reading RG1 5AQ
Sun 17 Nov	6.15pm	Choral Evensong and Sermon, St Paul's Church
Mon 18 Nov	8pm	PCC Meeting, Parish Rooms
Tue 19 Nov	12.30pm	St Paul's Taverners, Broad Street Tavern
	8pm – 9.30pm	Study Group: 1 John – How to be Sure – True Confidence, Woosehill Church
Wed 20 Nov	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Thu 21 Nov	10am – 2.30pm	Carers Rights Day, Bradbury Centre, Wokingham
Fri 22 Nov	2pm – 4pm	Coffee & Chat, Parish Rooms
Sun 24 Nov	4pm – 5.45pm	Messy Church, Woosehill Church
Tue 26 Nov	8pm – 9.30pm	Study Group: Principles of Deep Water Fishing - God's Mission to Macedonia, Woosehill Church
Wed 27 Nov	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Fri 29 Nov	2pm – 4pm	Coffee & Chat, Parish Rooms
Sat 30 Nov	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Sun 1 Dec	6.15pm	Advent Carol Service, St Paul's Church
Sun 8 Dec	6.30pm	Alexander Devine Carol Concert, St Paul's Church

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Clergy			
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
Senior Squad	Pauline Wells	pwells@ntlworld.com	0118 377 6351
J Club	Becca Lamey	beccalamey@btinternet.com	0118 327 9116
First Steps	Liz Gallagher	lizgallagher1952@gmail.com	0118 989 1176
Head Teacher	Julianne Taylor	St Paul's C of E Controlled Jr School	0118 978 5219
Churchyard Working Party		churchyard@spauls.org.uk	
The Spire Magazine Editors		spire.editor@gmail.com	
The Community Church of St Nicholas, Emmbrook			
Pro-Warden	Liz Gallagher	lizgallagher1952@gmail.com	0118 989 1176
Pro-Warden	Fiona Albinson	Fiona@albinson.co.uk	0118 978 9181
Treasurer	Tony Roberts	22 Lowther Road	0118 979 5351
Secretary	Anne Armitage	anne.armitage@uwclub.net	0118 979 3533
Sunday School	Anne Armitage	anne.armitage@uwclub.net	0118 979 3533
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The Parish of St Paul, Wokingham

An underwater scene with a mountain peak in the background and several fish swimming in the foreground. The water is a deep blue color.

Advent Course 2019

PRINCIPLES OF DEEP WATER FISHING

November 26th God's Mission to Macedonia

December 3rd God's Mission to Greece

December 10th God's Mission to Ephesus

December 17th God's Mission to Miletus

Venue: Woosehill Church

Time: 8.00-9.30pm

Contact: church.office@spauls.org.uk 0118 979 2122

For any and everyone