

THE SPIRE

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



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Wokingham

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The Parish of St Paul, Wokingham

OCTOBER 2019

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EDITORS' MESSAGE

Harvest Festival @ St Paul's is on Sunday 6th October. Our harvest gifts will be auctioned off during coffee following the 9.30am service. All proceeds will go to our chosen charities – The Children's Society, Soulscape, the Link Visiting Scheme and USPG. Lunch will follow at the slightly later start time of 1pm.

The 'best job in the world' is how Fr Richard describes his life as a parish priest and the many and varied encounters he has each day (p.4). His sermon, *Brexit & Evil*, given at Woosehill last month is a salve for the anxious and weary in this present political climate (p.12). There is also an introduction for Cara Smart who is to become our new curate next June – hurrah! See Cara's message on p.6.

October is the feast month of our diocesan patron saint, St Frideswide, and to celebrate this year, the diocese has organised an inaugural pilgrimage to the saint's shrine in Christ Church Cathedral on her feast day, Saturday 19th October. A few members from St Paul's are making the journey and we are hopeful of an account or two making their way to our inbox for next month's magazine. We would be particularly pleased to hear the points of view of any children or young people walking the pilgrim way. You can even use Bishop Steven's Berkshire Pilgrimage report on p.10 by way of a template! And whilst we're here, what does St Frideswide, Alice in Wonderland, and a treacle well have in common? Turn to p.16 to find out more.

Our Parish Pioneer, Paul Armitage, has a report on p.21. The Michaelmas term is always an exciting one with opportunities galore for you to get involved - as the saying goes, 'many hands make light work' - so drop him a line to find out more about the planning work of the mission and outreach groups. There may just be a role there waiting for you to fill.

There are lots of other activities taking place over the coming month. Read on, and if you've particularly enjoyed an activity, do share it with us - word of mouth is the best recommendation. Lastly, we think it's worth a mention that British Summer Time ends on 27th October (☹️) so don't forget to set your clocks back by an hour before you go to bed!

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

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Front cover: St Frideswide (stained glass detail), Christ Church, Oxford.

Image: www.chch.ox.ac.uk

THE BEST JOB IN THE WORLD

I absolutely love being a parish priest in the Church of England. I know that many teachers, engineers, medics, police officers and others would argue the point, but I absolutely have the best job in the world.

One day earlier this week, I took an Infant School assembly on trying new things starring Willow the (toy) Barn Owl, then went to the Crematorium to take the funeral of a lady who used to come to the Communion Service we do at Alexandra Grange and then chaired a focused and positive PCC meeting in the evening. The range and variety of the job is amazing. I take quiet pride in being a competent all-rounder, able and willing to turn my hand to every bit of the role.



Fr Richard Lamey, Rector

Part of the job which I am thinking more and more about as I get more experienced as a priest is how we discern and develop a vision of what we are called to be as a church. What we do and what we offer in the community flows out of how we see ourselves and who we understand ourselves to be in Christ. A clear vision of the church (these precise and specific churches) comes first: out of that understanding come our acts of love and service. Our common vision of what the church could and can be dictates our decisions and decides our actions - and part of my role as the Rector of the parish is to help to explore and develop that understanding and commitment.

And, we are doing well. I recently appealed for more volunteers to help lead our work with children at St Paul's. I said things that I really believe - that a church has to be made up of people of all ages learning from each other as we walk together, that churches only flourish when those who have power and voice use it for those who do not. As a result, 9 people have come forward. Some of them have the skills to do the job already, others are willing to give their time to be there because it matters to them and the church community. Our vision of what the Church must be led to a response.

Secondly, the early reports from tithings groups are that they are going well. We have eight groups meeting and most of them have already met successfully. People are enjoying getting to know each other and talking about things which matter to them. People have agreed to take a risk and give up some time because they think that the prize - a congregation which knows each other better and can support each other - is worth it.

Both of these examples show the selflessness, generosity and vision which lie at the heart of this parish. If ever you doubt that, remember the volunteers who offered to help with J-Club, and the more than 70 people who have signed up for a tithings group, and the countless ways in which we put others first and reach out and understand and make allowances and make room and serve.

There is a very strong theory in sport that if you control everything, you can control with absolute conviction and skill - and then trust that that will be enough to win. "Let the score take care of itself." It seems to me that that is precisely what we are about here - working out with joy and excitement what it is to be the Church of Christ in Wokingham and Emmbrook, what that might look like, and then leaving the score to take care of itself - which is to say, leaving the rest to grace. It is a pleasure to be part of that adventure. I really do have the best job in the world.

Fr Richard Lamey

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

BETHAN'S BAPTISM

Bethan's baptism was gorgeous during our parish mass on Sunday 1st September. She is 8 years old.

There might not be any photos but she chose the reading of *Daniel in the Lions' Den* and when I asked her why, she said because it showed her that, "God is always there to help you when you're in a worry or a situation that you think can't be fixed."



Fr Richard

CARA SMART

I am delighted to announce that Cara Smart has agreed to come to the parish as Assistant Curate from June 2020. I've really enjoyed meeting her over the summer and look forward to working with her in the years to come. She currently worships at Aldermaston and spent a day here visiting the parish in late August, where she met a number of people. Please pray for her and her family as they begin to think about moving house and schools, and settling into a new community here. And please pray that her time here will be a solid and encouraging foundation for her lifelong priesthood.



Fr Richard

A Message from Cara

I'm Cara, married to Richard, with two school-aged children, Oscar and Bethan, and a rather energetic wheaten terrier called Toby. For the past 4 years I've worked as a Children's Worker for my current church benefice whilst training for ordination at Ripon College Cuddesdon; prior to that I've worked as a toy tester and also for Macmillan Publishers before having children. I love music and enjoy playing the flute, as well as being passionate about social justice and the environment. As a family, we are excited to explore Wokingham and find all the good parks and places to walk the dog.

I'm really looking forward to getting to know everybody in the 3 communities, hearing all your stories and growing deeper in faith together. I can't wait to live and serve in the parish and to share the sustaining and life-giving joy of the Eucharist with you. That we are all loved by God is, for me, at the heart of the Gospel, and I'm looking forward to being part of a Church that is living out our shared calling to be and see Christ in everyone we meet.

Cara Smart



The Smart Family (L-R: Oscar, Cara, Bethan and Richard).
Image: The Smart Family



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**



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.



Please note new start time - 1pm

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

A . B .

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MY BERKSHIRE PILGRIMAGE

Warm thanks to everyone who shared in my Berkshire Pilgrimage in some way. It was a very good six days.

Together we visited 38 churches and the chaplaincy of Reading University. I travelled 17 miles by boat on 1 September across Maidenhead and Windsor Deaneries. We walked around 50 miles from Monday to Thursday across the Deaneries of Bracknell, Sonning, Reading and Bradfield. On Sunday 8th, the team cycled 16 miles or so across the Newbury Deanery from Hungerford to Thatcham and completed the final couple of visits by car.



Rt Revd Steven Croft
Bishop of Reading.

Image: www.oxford.anglican.org

We prayed in every place for our government and parliament, for the communities and churches and for Olivia as she prepares for her consecration as Bishop of Reading. I took a picture of the font in every church, and we prayed for the renewal of all the ministry which flows into and out of the font:

- Our welcome to the youngest members of the community whose parents have just enough faith to bring them to baptism
- Our nurture and care for children and young people in parishes and schools
- Walking with adult enquirers as they come to faith as disciples of Jesus and come to baptism and confirmation
- The ongoing formation of every Christian as we live out our baptism every day of our lives and seek to be a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world.

I was moved by the welcome and those who came to pray in every place. Sometimes there were a handful of people, often a group of 20 or more. I met hundreds of people across the week and heard some wonderful stories of hope and grace in the life of the local church as well as stories of difficulty. It was very good to spend time in our churches: these beautiful places of prayer and stillness often hallowed by hundreds of years of prayer.

The journey transformed my view of Berkshire. I normally travel across Berkshire in the car keeping to the motorway and the major roads. Often my journey is to the large, urban centres and back again. I was able to see the beauty of the county in

new ways by boat and on foot and cycling and to build a clearer picture of ordinary church life.

It was so good to meet so many people: thanks to all who came and prayed and served tea (and cake!). Thanks especially to Captain Ainsley Swift for the boat ride, to the walk leaders each day and particular to Paul Cowan, my chaplain who organised the whole thing.

I ended the week with sore feet, aching legs, hardly able to sit down from the bike ride but with a very full and glad heart.

Thanks be to God.

+ *Steven*

Diocese of Oxford, Bishop Steven's Blog

<https://blogs.oxford.anglican.org/my-berkshire-pilgrimage/>



FIRST STEPS

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

10 Oct, 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

BREXIT & EVIL

Thy Kingdom Come: 2019 Choral Evensong Sermon, 9 September 2019

“The way we disagree now will decide the future we inherit”

What I want to do is to use the line in the Lord’s Prayer about temptation and evil to draw back the focus on our current political crisis and name the biggest threat to the future health of our nation which lies in becoming two divided groups who have nothing to do with each other and who do not relate at all.

During Dwelling in the Word this week my attention was drawn to the line: *“Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good”* in the reading from Romans 12:21. I had just been listening to Nick Robinson interviewing Alistair Burt, one of the 21 Conservative MPs who lost the party whip because he voted with the Opposition against a no-deal Brexit.

This is not the place to speak on the rights or wrongs of Brexit - that is a matter for conversation not preaching - but Burt’s attitude made a strong impression on me. He had been a member of the party since he was 15 and an MP for over 30 years. He was clearly in shock; in a place he had never imagined he would be. He had every reason to be vindictive, complaining, angry - and he was angry over a cabinet minister describing what happened as a purge, but what came over most clearly was his continuing love for the party.

We will each have our own thoughts on the unprecedented events in Westminster over the last month, our own sense of what is going on and what is at stake. Whether you agree with Alistair Burt and the other 20 MPs is not the point I’m making. The point I’m making is that, wherever you stand, our political life and our national life need more magnanimity, more forgiveness, more empathy, more grace. When we see those things, we need to stop and value them and celebrate them. And when we see people standing up for what they believe to be in the national interest even when it means resigning from office, whether that is Michael Gove in 2016 or Amber Rudd in 2019, we need to honour that as well.

I generally see, at the moment, two sides who are genuinely motivated by what they believe to be best for the country. There are very few rogues here - and more integrity than the headlines admit. The Government is trying to pull every lever it has to get the best possible arrangement for the country while being determined to honour the Referendum. Those on the other side of the argument are genuinely

fearful of what a no-deal Brexit might mean for the future of the nation and so are pulling every lever they have to prevent it. There is honour in either position.

I am going to talk about the current political crisis because it matters hugely and because, as far as I can tell, I am not going to be partisan. If you think that I have been, or am, then I don't doubt you'll tell me later: but please, I beg you, listen to the whole of what I am saying rather than taking offence at a single isolated phrase or sentence. Good listening is the very skill which will allow us to rediscover our unity.

Perhaps by now you're preparing a chant of "We want the Lord's Prayer." Let me come to that by saying that the national context, and the Dwelling in the Word passage, really matter in explaining the sentence I want to focus on. So far all of our sermons have looked at the whole prayer. I want to focus on a line Matthew has in full: "*Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil.*" It seems to me that the current national crisis opens a window into what temptation is and what evil is, with profound implications for the way we each of us live every day. Politicians do not, as a class, have specific weaknesses or temptations - they show our own human weaknesses played out on a bigger stage. And the temptation to give in to evil is no stronger for them, but the stakes are higher because their power is greater.

I want to suggest that the greatest current risk, the greatest evil we are called to resist, is the temptation to demonise those who disagree with us. Quality debate happens when minds meet. Quality conversation happens when we genuinely listen to each other. Love of nation is not to be found on only one side of the debate, nor is commitment to the international community, nor is concern for the poor. We cannot dismiss those on the other side of this great divide as being stupid or unworthy of our attention and time. At some point in the future we will be living in a world beyond all of these discussions, and we will still be a nation. However, the task of building afresh and relating to each other will be that much harder if we set fire to every relationship we have with people on the other side of the discussion. To demonise 'them' is an evil 'we' need to be delivered from. Across America there is already a pattern of Republican voting communities and Democrat voting communities, Red states and Blue States. No-one benefits from a world like that.

The temptation to demonise the other in order to tune them out is an evil we need to be delivered from. When we make people, who didn't vote like us, or don't shop like us, or don't look like us, or don't have a lifestyle like ours, different and other, we dismiss them as less than us.

Their opinion matters less than ours, their future matters less than ours and their rights matter less than ours. We end up living in a world where those who are like

us matter and those we can separate off are less than us. If you don't believe me then let me ask you this: when was the last time you had a proper, honest, reasonable conversation with someone who voted the other way at the Referendum? And when was the last time you avoided a conversation because you know it wouldn't end well even though you can normally talk about anything with them? Only a few weeks ago I stopped in the middle of a sentence when I was talking to a friend I have known for 23 years because, even though we voted the same way, I am not sufficiently outraged by some of the things happening at the moment. On the other hand, one of my best friends and a very close family member voted the other way to me in the Referendum and our conversations over the last three years have helped me to see things with a broader and better perspective.

While it might be a basic human instinct to define as 'other' and dismiss, we must be better. We must make the effort to talk to people who are not like us and finding in that discussion and that journey everything which unites. Because, otherwise, once we have succeeded in separating and defining people, we can tune them out, stop talking to them, stop noticing them, stop caring. It's what happens when a system sees numbers and not lives. It's what happens when we stop listening. It's how we end up with the Windrush scandal. It's how refugees fleeing for their lives across the Mediterranean find ports closed to them and boats refusing to rescue them as their inflatables sink beneath them. It's how racism and sexism and homophobia take root: they are not like us. We are the norm. We matter most - only us. It is a failure of humanity, a failure of the heart, a failure of the imagination. It is an evil we need to be delivered from, a temptation we must be led from.

Which is to say that evil in this day and age is not usually a conscious decision but a failure of empathy and a slippery slope made up of lots of small events and decisions. It would be so much easier if evil wore a scary mask and advertised itself. It doesn't. Evil is seductive and daily and normal.

And the way our prayer to deliver us can be answered is for us as individual and as a community and as a nation to be honest in knowing where this temptation draws us and how it contrasts with the Kingdom and the community we are called by Christ to build and to inhabit.

He did not divide and define and ignore. He spoke with those who disagreed with him, he came to those who were on the edge of society, he refused to accept the casual divisions of the day. He came to heal and rescue everyone - from the woman with a haemorrhage who stretches to touch his cloak and the man possessed by a legion of demons through to the Samaritan woman who asks for the crumbs from the table and the Roman Centurion who petitioned for his slave. Jesus does not do in and out, those who belong and those who do not, those who are worthy and those

who are less. He comes to heal and restore and bless and save: his love and compassion have no boundary, no limit, no end. Infinite love. Boundless compassion. And we are his.

This temptation to divide is something we can learn from and become stronger through and rediscover who we are - because that is what temptation in the Bible is all about. *“Out of this nettle, danger, we pluck this flower, safety.”* (Henry 4, part 2). Through the temptation to curse God and die Job discovers who God is. Through obedience, Jacob learns who God is as he prepares to sacrifice Isaac. Through temptation in the wilderness Jesus discovers his mission and purpose, what is his to employ and what he must lay aside. Through his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus accepts the cup which must be his if we are to be saved. Temptation is a place of learning and reflection and clarity. It must be so for us now, nationally. In asking to be delivered from temptation and evil we are asking to be reminded who we are. Help us, we pray, to see the wrong path, to resist and overcome it - replace it with the vision of the kingdom.

We might want to pray deliver us from the evil of Brexit or the evil of the EU. But a better prayer might be to ask God to deliver us from our worst, most divisive instincts by reminding us who we are. Deliver us by calling us back to the example of the life of Christ. Deliver us by reminding us that we must continue to live in the world we create by the way we disagree. Deliver us by renewing in us a love of unity, understanding, empathy and the sense that we are enriched by what is different and other.

In praying that we be delivered from evil we are praying that God will give us the wisdom and insight to spot what is evil in and around us and the courage to choose a better path. Dehumanising the other so we do not need to attend to them, allowing ourselves to enter an echo chamber in which the only people we meet are those who look like us and the only voices we hear are ones which agree with ours, accepting division - this is one of the greatest evils we need to guard against, socially as well as politically, personally as well as corporately, in the Church as well as in the community. And facing up to that temptation, that seductive option, allows us to choose a better path, to know where truth and flourishing lie and to pursue them.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, Jesus teaches us to say. May we make these words ours, and in doing so may we come through the temptation of this current age and achieve a more perfect union, plucking the flower of safety from a most alluring and satisfying nettle. Amen.

Fr Richard

ST FRIDESWIDE, ALICE & THE TREACLE WELL



St Frideswide; stained glass window detail, Christ Church Oxford. Image: www.chch.ox.ac.uk



'The Treacle Well' (Saint Margaret's Well), Binsey, Oxfordshire, England. Image: Steve Roberts. www.commonswiki.org/wiki/File:St_Margarets_well_Binsey.jpg



St Margaret's parish church, Binsey, Oxfordshire. Image: Steve Roberts. www.commonswiki.org/wiki/File:Binsey_church_oxford_uk.jpg

St Frideswide is the patron saint of the City of Oxford (Feast day: 19th October). She lived from about 650 to 727 and was the daughter of a Mercian king; she founded an abbey in Oxford which later became the priory whose church was adopted as Christ Church Cathedral; and she is credited with calling into existence something which, ever since its publication in 1865, has perplexed readers of the greatest work of literature to come out of the college of Christ Church.

In Alice's Adventures in Wonderland at the (mad) Hatter's tea-party, the Dormouse tells a story of three little sisters who live in a treacle well. This bizarre idea contains an in-joke and a scholarly fact. The joke was that the whole book was originally written for the three daughters of Dean Liddell of Christ Church, Lorina, Alice and Edith – the three Liddell sisters.

As for the treacle well, there is one in the churchyard at Binsey, near Oxford. But to understand why, you have to know that long ago the word 'treacle' meant medicine or cure. Only when sugar molasses became well-known as a sort of medicine did the word become more specific.

The old meaning would have been unknown to most readers when the Alice books were written, although it can be found in Henry VIII's Great Bible of 1539 where the prophet Jeremiah say (with modern spelling): *"Is there not treacle at Gilead, is there no physician there?"* (8:22). However, the writers of the Authorised Version of 1611 replaced treacle with balm.

St Margaret's Well in Binsey is named after the patron of the church, but it is said to have appeared when St Frideswide prayed for a better source of water for the nuns who lived in the village. Its water came to be thought specially efficacious for the treatment of difficulties with conception and childbirth – which is rather strange, considering that it was originally provided for nuns. Its fame was considerable, and Henry VIII even brought his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, to the treacle well to pray for a son, unfortunately to no avail.



The Perch, Binsey, Oxfordshire.

Image: www.over40andamumtoone.com/2016/09/15/belated-anniversary-lunch-perch-oxford/

You can visit the well today, although you will probably have difficulty getting at the water. But fortunately there is treacle of a different sort available nearby, at The Perch.

This 17th century pub is owned by Christ Church and is by the Thames. There has been an inn there for at least 800 years and The Perch has several literary connections: CS Lewis, Colin Dexter, who wrote the Inspector Morse books, and, nearby, Gerard Manley

Hopkins.

But most importantly, Lewis Carroll would have rowed past The Perch when he and a friend took the three Liddell sisters to a picnic at Godstow, just a little further up the river. As he rowed he improvised the story of a little girl called Alice who followed a white rabbit down a hole and entered Wonderland. The Perch claims that Carroll was a regular and that he gave public readings of his Alice books there.

Be that as it may, a visit to the church, the pub and the path by the river where 'Hopkins's poplars' once stood is strongly recommended.

Richard Lambourn

Our thanks to Mike Dyer for sharing this article with us. It has been reproduced with kind permission from St Andrew's Sonning PCC.

[www.sonningparish.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Magazines/2019/ParishMagMar19.pdf]



The White Rabbit (Bronze), in the garden of The Perch.

Image: www.the-perch.co.uk

THE ANNIVERSARY SCULPTURE

In 2017, we celebrated 200 years of the Methodist church in Wokingham; also at that time, Wokingham Borough Council began the process of regenerating the town.

We are fortunate to have a town centre church with a busy community centre, and as we began to organise our celebrations, we knew that the area around the church would change completely – it was about to become a noisy building site with all the challenges that might involve.



After much discussion we began to see this as an opportunity to do something to make ourselves visible in the new Peach Place. We wanted to celebrate the people of the church who had gone before us and create something for the people who would come after us, while remembering the church community who worship here now.

The Town Council were planning to commission a series of mosaic roundels reflecting the town's history, to be set into the town's new paved areas. They invited us to be included in their meetings and discussions and to be part of the plan for the wider community in Wokingham.

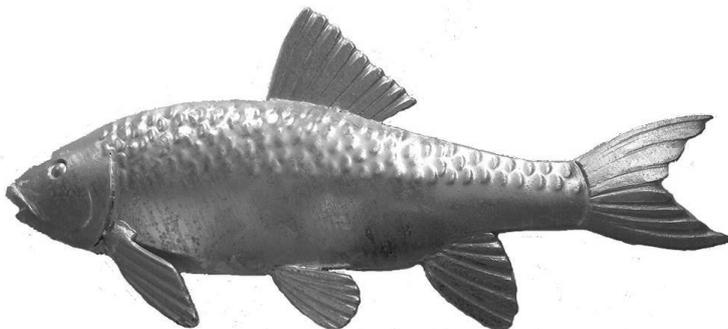
Eventually, we decided to commission a sculpture for the corner of the church that would face into the new Peach Place and we wanted the sculpture to be based on the Christian symbol of fish. The mosaic artist, Rosalind Wates, was very enthusiastic about the idea and designed a shoal of fish that would sweep across the side of our building. She researched the fish living in the Sea of Galilee and found the colourful St. Peter fish that could be inspiration for the mosaic fish, and a carp for the contrasting metal fish.

Rosalind had worked with Thrussells, a company of metal artists in Cornwall, so they were engaged to make the metal fish.

We had sample fish made and began fund raising; our aim was to have as many fish as we could afford with the ideal being twelve mosaic fish to represent the apostles and 28



metal fish to make a biblical number of forty. Most of the fish were sponsored by families in memory of a loved one, some were sponsored by church groups and groups associated with the church. Donations were also made by church members and the wider church community at fund-raising events.



Amazingly, it wasn't too long before we had the money needed to pay for all the fish.

The contractors who were building Peach Place very kindly agreed to install the fish on the outside wall of the church; they also wanted to make sure that we could have a grand unveiling and planned to make a curtain to cover the fish when they were in place.

On the 8th July 2019 we began the planned installation of all the fish; it took three days of preparing the wall, expert drilling and precise measuring to get each fish in place.

As the artists worked away to produce the sculpture and the contractors installed it, we began to plan a service of celebration on 14th July.

On that Sunday afternoon, at 3pm, there was a large gathering of church members, past ministers, the town mayor, members of the town and borough councils, artists and contractors all in the square, eagerly awaiting the unveiling of the sculpture. The Revd Catherine Bowstead led the service, welcoming the guests and giving a brief history of the Sculpture. After singing a hymn, the Anniversary Sculpture was unveiled by Jane Bonney (do I mention that after all the careful planning and two rehearsals, the curtain got stuck on a fish tail – our hero Wayne came to the rescue with a large piece of wood and earned the biggest round of applause).

After a prayer blessing the sculpture and thanking everyone involved, tea was served in the Bradbury Centre.

This is not the end of the story of the fish. We see it as the beginning of another chapter in our Church's history; there are many stories about fish in the bible and many stories of fish as a symbol. We hope that the church community and the people of Wokingham will find their own meaning in the Anniversary Sculpture. Images:

Jane Bonney, Wokingham Methodist Church

Our thanks to Fr Richard for bringing this to our attention. It has been reproduced with kind permission from Wokingham Methodist Church.

[www.wokinghammethodist.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=199&Itemid=233]

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

- 1st October - ***An Abject Sinner*** - 2 Samuel 11-12
- 8th October - ***An Undeserved Forgiveness*** - Psalm 51
- 15th October - ***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

MISSION UPDATE

St Paul said, *“In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”* (Acts 20:35)

September 30th is (or was, if you’ve picked up Spire in the middle of October) an important day in our work of Mission in the Parish. As St Paul did in his mission to “support the weak”, we’ll meet together once more to discern God’s will and put in place plans to advance His Kingdom in our Parish and in the communities of which we are part. If the 30th hasn’t passed, there’s still time to come and participate – 8pm in the Parish Rooms. If you have time, just let me know to expect you!

It is likely that the main focus will be around the Parish’s already planned Advent and Christmas events and activities. This will provide an opportunity for as many people as possible to get involved in the work of Mission. Don’t worry, there shouldn’t be any additional work to do or events to plan – just a few things to think about and maybe the odd tweak to make to what we’re already doing. And it will all be over by Epiphany.

Next year, everyone will have the chance to be involved in an event concentrated around the Parish Church Building itself. The themes are yet to be worked out, but creativity, the environment and community are likely to be part of it. Of course, all the other work with our Charities - USPG, Soulscape and The Children’s Society, New Estates and so on needs to continue and not be forgotten. So, there’s lots going on.

If you can’t make the meeting, or want to know more, please contact me at paul.armitage@uwclub.net.

Paul Armitage, Parish Pioneer

A PRAYER FOR OUR TITHINGS GROUPS

Lord God, bless our tithings groups as they begin to meet and continue to get to know each other. May they be a source of care, strength and vision in the life of the Church.

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:
Becca at the Parish Office on 0118 979 2122
or Susanna on 0118 377 4133**



Shared Lunch at Woosehill Community Church



Sunday 3rd November 2019
12.45 for 1pm



There will be a shared buffet lunch, suggestions
for the lunch are

Savoury: sausages, sausage rolls, quiches, scotch
eggs, pork pies, drum sticks, cheese etc

Salads: rice salad, green salad, tomatoes,
couscous, coleslaw etc

Sweets: pavlova, fresh fruit salad, trifle, fresh
fruit etc.

Miscellaneous: bread, butter/spread, and savoury
biscuits

Please bring food to share and your own glasses
and drinks.

Please ensure all drinks are non-alcoholic due to
the building being Methodist owned.



THE WELCOME CLUB

Tuesday 10th September 2019

Ann Grice gave us a talk about her holiday in Mali and Timbuktu.

Mali is a largish country in northwest Africa, reaching well into the Sahara in the north, and with the river Niger flowing through the south. It was a French colony until 1960. Currently the UK government advises against travelling here.



Ann flew with a friend to Casablanca, and thence on to Bamako, the capital of Mali. This flight was delayed waiting for some rich arabs with their luggage - which had apparently necessitated the removal of the other passengers' luggage from the flight. This meant that she and the group had no luggage (change of clothes, toothbrush, sleeping bag etc) for several days with daytime temperatures over 100°F.

They were a group of five, including a woman from Yorkshire, an American man, and Danny an international lawyer from London with whom Ann is still in contact.

They travelled in a 4x4 with a driver and guide, making it very crowded, especially once the luggage had arrived. The food included river fish, goat meat and onions.

Bamako was very smelly from petrol fumes and open sewers. From here they travelled in the 4x4 to Ségou, a fishing village on the Niger which had large French houses, now in disrepair.

From here they moved on to Djenne with an impressive mosque, and on into Dogon country where there are interesting cave paintings. There were villages at the foot of an escarpment, and the group went up and down the escarpment, the path down being very narrow with a steep drop to one side, and they needed to hold onto the rock-side.

They slept in one of the villages, on the roof of a house accessed by a ladder which was a single pole with steps/holds radiating from it. They were given just one moth-eaten blanket each.

The next day they were due to walk up and down the escarpment again, but Ann and her friend negotiated walking with (and later riding on) the donkey cart which was carrying the stores round the base.

Another night on the roof of a house, but this time with a strong cold wind. The following day their luggage caught up with them. They continued into the desert and came to a junction with four tracks, and they didn't know which one to take - fortunately another traveller arrived and was able to direct them. They followed the banks of the Niger past Fatima's Fingers (interesting rocks) to Timbuktu, once the richest town in north Africa, but now declining. Here they got their passports stamped, were able to buy and send postcards, and they found a hotel where they could, at last, wash with warm water.

They visited a nomadic group by camel, where they were made very welcome and plied with mint tea - which was very sweet and far too syrupy.

The return journey started with two 4x4s - but soon reverted to a single packed one. They drove to the river and then went on a boat and returned via Ségou to Bamako and thence home.

Jackie thanked Ann and presented her with a bottle of wine. Then we had tea and home-made cakes, before the raffle was drawn.

Next month: Tuesday 8th October – we will be learning about Dogs for Hearing. For further information concerning the Welcome Club please call Jackie on 0118 327 8739.

Steve Kallenborn

ST PAUL'S PCC MEETING DATES

Standing Committee	PCC
4 November (<i>At Woosehill Church – Joint Meeting</i>)	18 November
6 January 2020	20 January 2020
2 March	16 March
4 May (<i>Not a Bank Holiday - moved to Friday 8 May</i>)	18 May
29 June	13 July
7 September	21 September
2 November	16 November
4 January 2021	18 January 2021

20 April, 2020 - Annual Parochial Church Meeting

St Paul's Churchyard

Working Party

1st & 3rd Saturday
in the month

9.30am - 3.30pm

- New volunteers always welcome!
- Come for all or part of the day
- Morning coffee break and lunchtime refreshments

Powered by volunteers!



Parish Office | 0118 979 2122

churchyard@spauls.org.uk | www.spauls.org.uk

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

On Saturday, 7th September, we were fortunate enough to have two Payback teams visiting St Paul's. Working together with the churchyard working party, they achieved a great deal. At the end of the day, the churchyard looked magnificent. It certainly proved the saying that, 'many hands make light work'. Perhaps this piece of ground could in future be referred to as '*St Paul's Churchyard and Park*'?



The churchyard working party meets every first and third Saturday in the month. If you would like to know more about the work of this group, please email, churchyard@spauls.org.uk or take a look at our advert (opposite). Alternatively, just come along on one of the working party Saturdays. We would be pleased to see you. We begin work at 9.30am.



Images: Jim Bell

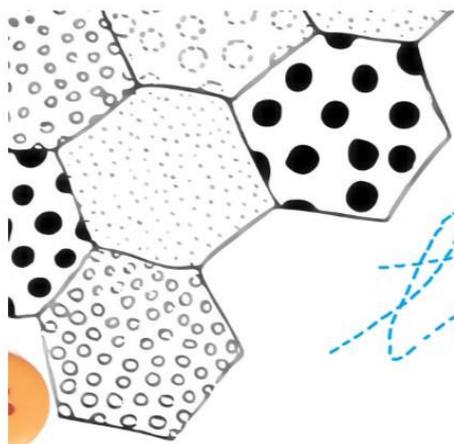
Jim Bell

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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

WHAT IS MESSY CHURCH?



Messy Church is an all-age fresh expression of church that offers counter-cultural transformation of family life through families coming together to be, to make, to eat and to celebrate God.

Claire Dalpra, The Sheffield Centre

- It's primarily for people who don't already belong to another form of church.
- It meets at a time that suits people who may find difficulty in the usual service times.
- It typically includes a welcome, a long creative time to explore the biblical theme through crafts, a short celebration time involving story, prayer, song, games and similar; and a sit-down meal together at tables. All elements are for, and should include, people of all ages, adults and children.
- It's fun.
- It's a church for people at all stages of their faith journey and of any age - a congregation that is as valuable and worthy of investment as any of the other congregations.
- It models and promotes good ways of growing as a family: a nuclear family, an extended family, and a global and local church family.

Please join us at **Woosehill every 4th Sunday of the Month @ 4pm until 5.45pm.** This is for the whole parish.

Fr Patrick

LIGHT IN ABSTRACTION – A REVIEW



**GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL**

I have just been to a beautiful and uplifting exhibition by artist Nicola Rose, entitled “Light in Abstraction”. She has painted a series of oil paintings, inspired by Guildford Cathedral.

The paintings are architectural, representing the arches and spaces, in blues, greens, oranges, rust. They have an ethereal quality and are on display in the nave of Guildford Cathedral. The nave is incredibly light and airy, setting off the paintings wonderfully.

I had never visited the Cathedral before. It has a fascinating history, with work stopping during WW2, followed, in 1954, by local people fundraising through the “buy a brick” initiative. 1500 kneelers were handmade by local people.

The exhibition is free and finishes at the end of October. It can be seen during Cathedral opening times <https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/>. There is suggested £5 voluntary donation to visit the Cathedral.

I have never met the artist, but first came across her paintings of Iona at St Columba’s House, Woking. You can also view images of her work on exhibition in the cathedral here <http://nicolaroseartist.com/category/light-in-abstraction/> .

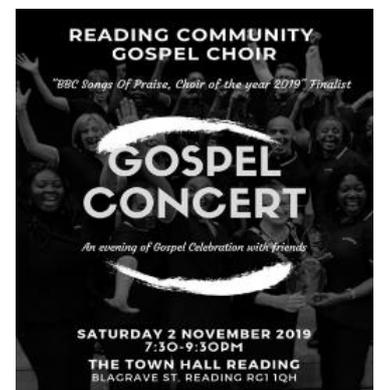
Susannah Riley

READING GOSPEL COMMUNITY CHOIR

Reading Gospel Community Choir’s annual concert is on Saturday 2 November at 7.30pm – 9.30pm in the Town Hall, Blagrove Street, Reading RG1 1QH

Tickets are available from <https://www.readingarts.com/concert-hall/whats-on/reading-community-gospel-choir-2019>

Caroline Saynor



www.rcmgos.co.uk



OXFORD DIOCESE MOTHERS' UNION

News from the Congo - the Diocese of Oxford Mothers' Union is linked to Kinshasa Diocese in the Congo and we sometimes hear about what has been going on in that area.



Diocese of Oxford

In this new article published by the Congo Church Association, Bishop Achille writes that they give God thanks for his protection and support during the period before and after the election. Thanks to prayers everything went off calmly without much damage. During that time various activities have been carried out.

A four-day evangelism campaign was organised and bibles and chairs were handed over to a parish in the Archdeaconry of Central Congo. Prayer books in the Kikongo language are being prepared for printing and distribution.

30 students are continuing their studies.

St Mark's Primary School has had extra support to renew the roofing.

The women of Mothers' Union and Sunday School had a joyful celebration on Mary Sumner Day, 27th March. Clothing and food were distributed to widows and orphans. The children also celebrated Christmas, having been unable to organise anything in December because of the uncertain political climate.

It's always good to hear of work done by The Mothers' Union around the world – though our members will find it odd that the Mary Sumner day in Congo isn't the same date as ours, which is 9th August. She was born in December and died in August, so the celebration date in the Congo probably relates to the climate conditions rather than anything else.

Jean Vaughan

FUNDRAISING WALK IN AID OF SAVE THE CHILDREN

Sunday 13th October, starting from 12.30pm at Howard Palmer Park, Wokingham. £4 per adult (children free). Nature trail activity for children and refreshments available.

Joanna Wastell



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BAKED APPLES

Serves 4

Ingredients	Method
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 large bramley apples• 25g softened butter• 2tblsps of brown sugar• ½ tsp cinnamon• 40g walnuts chopped• 60g raisins (or chopped dates)• 1tsp thyme chopped (optional) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core each apple• Cream butter and sugar• Add cinnamon, walnuts, raisins (or chopped dates) and thyme (optional) to creamed mixture• Fill centre of each apple with creamed butter mixture• Place on oven-proof dish• Bake until soft 180 (gas mark 6)• Serve with ice-cream or mascarpone cheese

Ann Grice

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

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

01.09.19 Bethan Searancke
01.09.19 Blake & Harper Robinson
08.09.19 Joseph Clements
15.09.19 Alana Jaycock



Weddings

21.09.19 Sophie Patterson & Stuart Laws



Funerals

29.08.19 Ted Weaver
29.08.19 Ron Bacon
12.09.19 June Malam
12.09.19 Mary Huckell
23.09.19 June Farrey
23.09.19 Elizabeth Charlton
24.09.19 Henry Gilbert




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MUSIC FOR OCTOBER 2019

6th – Harvest

9.30 am Parish Mass

Hymns: 262, 264, 276, 413
Setting: Mass of St Thomas, *Thorne*
Gradual: Celtic Alleluia
Anthem: For the beauty of the earth, *J Rutter*

6.15pm Solemn Evensong

Responses: Plainsong
Psalm: 141
Hymn: 150
Canticles: Fauxbourdons, *I Ord-Hume*
Anthem: Holy, holy, holy, *F Schubert*

13th – Trinity 17

9.30am Parish Mass

Hymns: 388, 453, 367, 477
Gradual: Celtic Alleluia
Setting: Mass of St Thomas, *Thorne*
Anthem: Ave verum corpus, *W A Mozart*

20th – Trinity 18

9.30am Parish Mass

Hymns: 439, 216, 347, 487
Gradual: Celtic Alleluia
Setting: Mass of St Thomas, *Thorne*
Anthem: A Gaelic Blessing, *J Rutter*

6.15pm Choral Evensong

Responses: Sanders
Psalm: 147
Hymns: 337, 369
Canticles: Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B minor, *T T Noble*
Anthem: Abendlied, *J Rheinberger*

27th – Trinity 19

9.30am Parish Mass

Hymns: 359, 374, 307, 398
Gradual: Celtic Alleluia
Setting: Mass of St Thomas, *Thorne*
Anthem: St Patrick's Prayer, *I Ord Hume*

Window Problems?



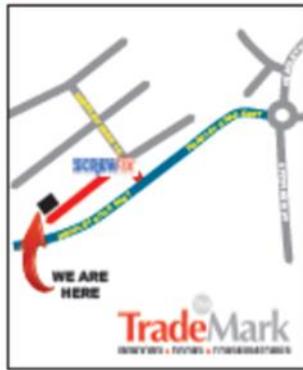
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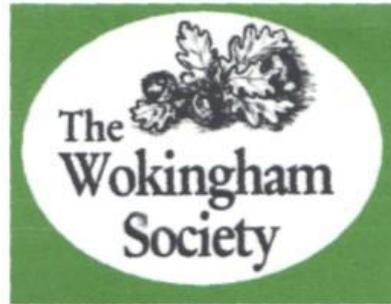
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The Wokingham Society is a Civic Society committed to assisting with the conservation of Wokingham's character, history, traditions, architecture and environment.

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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or visit www.promedica24.co.uk/wokingham

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LUCKY NUMBERS DRAW

The September Lucky Numbers draw took place over coffee after the 11am community eucharistic service at St Nicholas' on Sunday 8th September 2019. The lucky winners were:

£50	No. 6	Jackie Alexander
£25	No. 50	Yvonne Pett-Ridge
£15	No. 73	Gordon Lupton
£10	No. 100	David & Janet Charlton



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

Tony Roberts

wcs

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



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
6 Oct	Trinity 16 Harvest	Alan Harrison	Peter Wells
13 Oct	Trinity 17	John Sutton	Mary Cassidy
20 Oct	Trinity 18/St Luke	Tom Lewis	Una Standen
27 Oct	Last Sunday after Trinity	Rhoda Hart	Christine Field

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tue 1 Oct	12.30pm	St Paul's Taverners, Broad Street Tavern
	8pm – 9.30pm	Study Group: David – God's True King: Woosehill Church
Wed 2 Oct	4.30pm – 7.30pm	Stitch Together, Parish Rooms
	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Fri 4 Oct	2pm – 4pm	Coffee & Chat, Parish Rooms
Sat 5 Oct	9.30am – 3.30pm	Churchyard Working Party
Sun 6 Oct	All Day	Harvest Festival, St Paul's
	9.30am	Harvest Festival Service, St Paul's Church
	11am	Harvest Gift Auction @ Coffee, Parish Rooms
	1pm	Harvest Festival Lunch, Parish Rooms
	6.15pm	Solemn Evensong, St Paul's Church
Tue 8 Oct	8pm – 9.30pm	Study Group: David – God's True King: Woosehill Church
Wed 9 Oct	7.30pm	NO CHOIR
Thu 10 Oct	9.15am	First Steps, Children's Chapel, St Paul's Church
Fri 11 Oct	2pm – 4pm	Coffee & Chat, Parish Rooms
Mon 14 Oct	7.30pm	Mothers' Union Meeting, Parish Rooms
Tue 15 Oct	12.30pm	St Paul's Taverners, Broad Street Tavern
	8pm – 9.30pm	Study Group: David – God's True King: Woosehill Church
Wed 16 Oct	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Thu 12 Sep	9.15am	First Steps, Children's Chapel, St Paul's
	7.30pm	Wokingham Choral Society – Open Rehearsal, The Emmbrook School Hall
Fri 18 Oct	2pm – 4pm	Coffee & Chat, Parish Rooms
	2pm – 4pm	Stitch Together, Parish Rooms
Sat 19 Oct	9.30am – 3.30pm	Churchyard Working Party
	All day	St Frideswide Pilgrimage, Oxford
Sun 20 Oct	6.15pm	Choral Evensong, St Paul's Church
21 – 25 Oct		HALF TERM SCHOOL HOLIDAY
Tue 22 Oct	8pm – 9.30pm	Study Group: Advent Course, Woosehill Church
Wed 23 Oct	7.30pm	NO CHOIR
Fri 25 Oct	2pm – 4pm	Coffee & Chat, Parish Rooms
Sun 27 Oct	BST Ends	CLOCKS GO BACK!
Mon 23 Sep	8pm	PCC Mtg, Woosehill Church
Tue 29 Oct	8pm – 9.30pm	Study Group: Advent Course, Woosehill Church
Sun 3 Nov	12.45pm for 1pm	Shared Lunch @ Woosehill Church
Sat 9 Nov	12 noon – 3.30pm	Parish Bazaar
Sat 16 Nov	7.30pm	Concert: Haydn's The Creation - Wokingham Choral Society, The Great Hall, London Road Campus, University of Reading RG1 5AQ

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			
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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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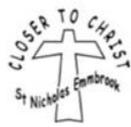
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The Parish of St Paul, Wokingham



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!



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