

Woosehill Church Magazine

January - February 2019

Sharing God's love with the community



*We are on Chestnut Ave, just around the corner
from The Hawthorns School.
'All are welcome here'*

**Find us on our website
woosehillchurch.org
and Woosehill Church Facebook page**



Dear Church Family and all other readers,

As the excitement of our Anniversary celebrations is left behind, we look forward to a new year at Woosehill with all that it may bring.

On page 5 learn about our plans to site a defibrillator outside the church entrance - fundraising ideas needed!

Read on page 6 how we intend to renew our energies with our Missional Church and a reminder to look out for 'God at Work'; on page 12, find out more about the special service to inform us about our church charity Embrace - let's hope for a good turnout.

There is a reminder that we signed up to be a Fairtrade Church, bringing an obligation to promote awareness of the power of fair trade to change the world, in this instance for farmers who source the cocoa for our chocolate.

All the usual information too - and don't forget the Quiz Night on Feb 10!

Happy New Year to you all,

Val

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
9 March 2019**

Articles as usual preferably by
e-mail to:
valerie.weedon@btinternet.com

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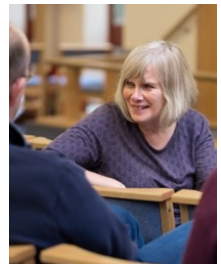
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Clergy Letter

Woosehill has had a cracking 25th anniversary celebration of worship in the current building and service to the community. For 25 years we've walked these hallowed halls and ushered many through the sanctuary doors. We've welcomed each and every one.

On 30th September Bishop Andrew led us through a colourful commemorative Harvest service.

On 28th of October Elaine Steere, reminding us that church is a verb, took us down through memory lane with lots of stories of the happenings in and from this building.



Then remembering the first service held on 4th December 1993, Rev'd John Hellyer, Chair of the Methodist South East District, led us through a communion service and thereafter a lunch was served. After which an Advent Carols service was held from 2.30 to 3.30 pm. The rich history of Woosehill is a true testimony to the faith that those who started had in God when they embarked on this faith journey in 1993.

God has worked through them and others over the years to bring us to where we are now.





It was great to see a spectrum of dignitaries past and present join in these celebrations including the Wokingham Borough Mayor Cllr John Kaiser and the Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Malcolm Richards.

The Revd. Robert McBain was among some of the former ministers who attended. Our new “hand printed” altar cloth on display has been made by our own fair hands to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Church building. Adapted from Teresa of Avila’s “**God’s work – Our hands**”, reminds us of our privilege to serve.

We remember and rejoice in God’s faithfulness and trust Him for the next 25+ years of journeying with him.

Patrick

Rev’d Patrick Mukholi



Defibrillator for Woosehill Church

At a church council meeting on 11th September 2017, it was agreed in principle to purchase a defibrillator for installation outside the church for use by anyone in the vicinity who might need it.

A defibrillator is a device that gives a high energy electric shock to the heart through the chest wall to someone who is in cardiac arrest. They are fairly easy to use and training is readily available.

The defibrillators are available through a local charity, Millie's Dream, and the last costing we had was around £1,700 to include the defibrillator itself, the external cabinet and electrical installation.

It was agreed that the church should fundraise for this and also ask groups using the church if they would be willing to contribute. One of the groups was quick off the mark with a donation and a healthy start to our own fundraising was made at the very enjoyable afternoon tea organised at the end of May last year by Amanda Parker and Sally Maloy; it seemed fitting, with both having NHS links in their respective occupations, that the money raised should go to the fund. There was also a surplus from the Harvest Lunch so that now our fund stood, just before Christmas, at £373.

Since then anniversary celebrations have rather taken over at Woosehill, but as we start a new year we anticipate further fundraising and if anybody would like to organise something it would be much appreciated.

For more information talk to John Hoskins or Steve Lewis.





Partnership for Missional Church

Woosehill Missional Vocation Statement

“Sharing God’s love with the Community”.

Woosehill Vision for Embodiment

“To prayerfully seek God at work in our neighbourhood and join with Him in building community for His glory. To demonstrate the love of God by deepening relationships as we work with the people around us to meet the needs of the community”

Refresh, refocus and reinvigorate the 6 Partnership for Missional Church Spiritual Practices

All 3 churches, St Pauls, St Nicks and Woosehill are starting the New Year by refreshing, refocusing and reinvigorating the 6 PMC Spiritual Practices; these are key to achieving our PMC aims and ambitions. The first one we are revisiting is “Announcing the Kingdom” or as we know it at Woosehill looking for “God at Work”.

Announcing the Kingdom is very simple, it’s just noticing where God is actively working in our community and then telling each other about it so that everyone can learn what God at Work looks like. But why is “Announcing the Kingdom” important? What is the benefit of it?

Well, by noticing where God is actively working we can “join in” following His lead; knowing that we are doing what God wants us to do and that He’ll be helping us to carry out this work. Acting on these “God leads” it will be a much easier for us to achieve our PMC aims and ambitions; without having to convince people of our intentions

or the need, just a welcome and thanks.

It will also help raise our awareness of God in the world; helping us to realise He is present and He is actively working in the world and in our community. Which arguably is more important than the joining in aspect – seeing God's active presence is a powerful comfort and reassurance.

So look out for God; if you spot Him at work or even if you only think you've spotted Him at work then please come and tell us all or write a note for the noticeboard. If it's something we could join in with that's fantastic, if not, don't worry - what you notice and tell will still help raise all of our awareness of God. Finally, as some of us know, God loves to nudge, so if you've been nudged let us know as well.

The second PMC Spiritual Practice we'll be refreshing is "Dwelling in the Word" looking for messages from God through reading the same bible passage for a year - an often underestimated, but potentially powerful Spiritual Practice.

The process is simple before the start of each meeting or gathering the bible passage for the year is read and everyone is invited to notice something, be it an insight, observation or question.

Then everyone tells someone else what they've noticed and that person tells someone else what the first person told them.

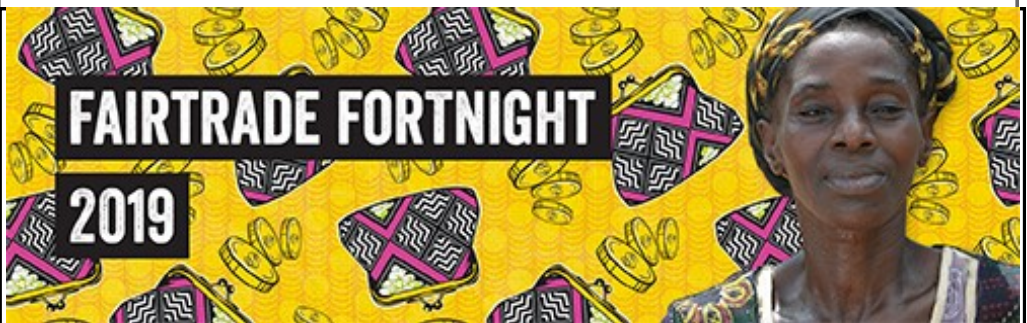


The surprise is the number of different things noticed by people at the meeting and the number of different things noticed by one person in the same passage throughout the year. There can be and often are a lot of different interpretations of the same bible passage – all of which are valid, (which is why everyone has a chance to say what they've noticed), there is no one right interpretation. Having to tell others what you've heard someone say helps develop “active listening” – actually listening to what is being said rather than assuming what is being said; which can help in spotting “God at Work” and reaching out to others.

Dwelling in the Word can become powerful when everyone notices the same thing - is this God trying to direct some/all of the meeting/gathering? Or if someone notices different aspects of the bible reading throughout the year is this God led? In both cases the common group interpretation and the changing individual interpretation are indicators of God's active presence in the world and that bible study is an important communication route used by God.

So rather than see “Dwelling in the Word” as a task to be “got out of the way” before the real reason for the meeting/gathering can start look at it as an opportunity to tune in to what God is trying to tell you and the meeting.

Steve Lewis



Remembering we are a church who has agreed to support Fair Trade:

A lot of us enjoy chocolate treats over the festive season. But more often than not, we don't think about the people who grow the cocoa. That's why for this year's Fairtrade Fortnight, launching on 25 February 2019, the Fairtrade Foundation are shining a spotlight on the crisis in the world's cocoa industry.

Cocoa farmers typically work gruelling days yet earn insufficient money to provide the basics for their families or give opportunities to their children.

The world cocoa price has collapsed, making farmers even poorer than before.

Women cocoa farmers carry the greatest burden. They work in the fields, look after children, carry water and transport the cocoa beans to market. They usually see even less money for their crop than men.

They deserve more.

That's why the Fairtrade Foundation are launching our

[She Deserves a Living Income](#) campaign, featuring women farmers who grow the cocoa for the chocolate we love.



Goodbye to Bishop Andrew



**The Bishop of Reading
The Rt Revd Andrew Proud**

Dear Richard,

Next spring, I turn 65 and will have served as Bishop of Reading for eight happy, fruitful years. It seems like a very good time to retire and to move on to the next stage in life.

As I begin to plan for retirement I feel a deep sense of gratitude. It has been such a joy to ordain deacons and priests and see them grow and move on, and to have had the privilege of baptising and confirming so many.

We have also made some great parish appointments, adding to a strong team of clergy and laity. The Royal County of Berkshire is a very beautiful, special and diverse place, with so much going on, and we have many good friends here. I have much to thank God for, and I pray regularly for all of you.

My diocesan responsibilities have also taken me to the heart of vital issues for today's Church - safeguarding the vulnerable and leading in mission. They and my work with the Mothers Union have also kept me connected to the worldwide Church.

Looking back, we have achieved a great deal and I am so grateful to the Arch-deacon of Berkshire, the Ven. Olivia Graham and my wonderful area team colleagues for their support, wisdom and friendship.

The last few years have not been without pain and heartache, but that is the cost of pastoral ministry, as we share in God's costly, abundant, generous love.

It will be hard to leave, but there is still lots to do and ample time for us to say our farewells. I am planning to spend a few days in each Deanery in the lead up to Easter and my last official engagement as Bishop of Reading will be on Easter Sunday. A farewell service is planned for Wednesday 1 May in Reading Minster.

Many of you have, we know, been praying for Janice and me over the years. Please continue to pray for us as we begin to look forward to what God has for us next.

With prayers and all good wishes,

+ Andrew Reading



John Hellyer

We also say good bye to John Hellyer, Methodist District Chair, who took our anniversary service at the beginning of December. He is standing down in August after many years service, though not retiring as he is moving to be a circuit Superintendent in Gloucestershire. John has always been an advocate of the need for the Methodist Church to work ecumenically. His experience in urban areas has also led him to the conviction that we need to be willing to work with people of all faith and no faith for the sake of God's kingdom.

He has a particular concern to encourage a culture of life long learning in the church so that Christians are more confident about relating discipleship to daily life.



(Taken from the website of the Methodist Church SE District)



A Service with a difference

On February 10th, at our usual 10am worship time, we welcome Neil Graham from our current church charity:

Embrace the Middle East

The service will be jointly led by Rev'd Richard Lamey and by Neil Graham from Embrace. It will be a Morning Worship service and as Richard says:

'We want to make everyone informed about the charity and also to make them think more deeply about their faith and the Global Church, and some of the pressures and delights of being a Christian in the Middle East.'

We have asked Richard to be involved in this service knowing of his interest following his visit to the Holy Land during his Sabbatical last year.

Do come along, it promises to be an interesting and inspiring service, allowing us to reflect together about the work of Embrace in the Holy Land.

Val

Newly born hope!

One of 1,500 babies delivered at, or cared for by, St Luke's hospital each year in Nablus some 50 miles north of Bethlehem



There will be a retiring collection in aid of the charity

Renewing our Covenant with God

On Sunday 20th January our annual Covenant service was held at Woosehill. Methodist in origin it has become a special part of our worship at our joint Anglican/Methodist church (sometimes known as an LEP: Local Ecumenical Partnership).

For those new to our church, or indeed for those of us who need a reminder, here is a bit of background:

Methodists hold an annual Covenant Service – a celebration of all that God has done and an affirmation that we give our lives and choices to God. It is an invitation for people to renew their covenant relationship with God. Most churches hold the service at the beginning of the New Year, but some hold them in September at the start of the Methodist Year.

The Covenant Service goes back to John Wesley's time. He wanted a form of worship which would help people open themselves to God more fully. In 1755 Wesley created such a service, using material from the writings of the seventeenth-century puritans divines, Joseph and Richard Alleine. Over succeeding generations the Methodist Church has made changes to the service so that it continues to be relevant to congregations using it.

The aim of the service is to help people hear God's offer and God's challenge; to provide space for God to prompt and for people to respond. Yet, more than this, for the Covenant Service is not just a one-to-one transaction between individuals and God, it is an act of the whole faith community. Both the Covenant Prayer and Service are regarded as jewels of Methodism and one of the most distinctive contributions of Methodism to the liturgy of the Church in general. Other churches are now discovering it and making use of it in their worshipping life.

The Covenant Prayer which we say together during the service has been compared by some to a set of New Year resolutions, but ones that emphasise the importance of doing and being as much as believing. But more than that, the prayer represents a commitment to being a disciple and putting God first in our lives and in everything about our lives: what we do, what we say and who we are.

It is both a surrender to, and a trust in, God.



Coming up in the Parish



DESERT ISLAND DISCS

Sunday 3 February at 10am at Woosehill

Patrick will be sharing his 'Desert Island Discs' with us with music provided by the Music Group. Not to be missed!



QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 9th February at St Paul's Parish Rooms 6.30pm for 6.45pm start.

Menu choice: Fish, chicken, sausage or vegetarian option with chips. Teams of 8 max. Bring a team or join one on the night.

Please bring own drinks and glasses.

Tickets: Adults £10, Children £5, Family £25.

Please see Chris Piper 978 3305



Epiphany to Easter 2019 Tuesday Night Bible Study



**(God's) Promises Kept:
9 Studies of the whole story
and history of the Bible**

Tuesdays 8.00 to 9.30 Woollahill Church

**January 15th, 22nd, 29th Feb. 5th, 12th, 19th 26th
March 5th, 12th**

**Everyone is welcome to these conversations, however
much or little you feel you know about the Bible and
Christianity**

**For further details talk to Patrick or contact the Parish Office on
0118 979 2122, or by email at church.office@spauls.org.uk**



Epiphany to Easter 2019

Tuesday Night Bible Study

	Date	Topic	Facilitator
1	January 15th	General Introduction + Creation. Genesis 1-2, John 1	Patrick
2	22nd	The Fall. Gen 3, Luke 11	Patrick
3	29th	Call of Abraham Gen 12, 21 & John 8	Richard
4	February. 5th	The Exodus. Exodus 12, Luke 22	Julie(tbc)
5	12th	Kings: David Judges 2, 2 Sam 7, Mark 8-9	Derek(tbc)
6	19th	The Prophets. Amos 8-9, Luke 23	Catherine (tbc)
7	26th	Jesus of Nazareth Luke 9, 24	Richard
8	March 5th	Today. Acts 1-2	Julie
9	12th	Jesus' Return Revelation 20-22	Patrick

Weekdays at Woosehill

Wool With A Mission



Thursday Feb 21st 10am

Thursday March 21st 10am

Refreshments are served and you are welcome to bring children.

For more information see:

<https://woolwithamission.wordpress.com>

email: woolwam@gmail.com

Would you, or anyone you know, like to knit for local children in need? You don't need to be able to get to our meetings. You can simply knit or crochet at home and we will arrange to get the items of clothing to First Days. For more information about First Days, and for patterns please see our web site <https://woolwithamission.wordpress.com> or phone **07511 230036**.

Sing Something Simple

We meet on the 1st Thursday of the month, outside of school holidays, at Woosehill Church from **10.00am to 12.00pm**

Forthcoming dates:

Feb 7th **No Sing Something Simple** - church being used for voting

March 7

For more information see:

<https://singwoosehill.wordpress.com>





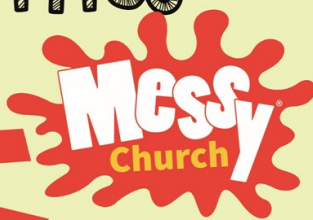
Woosehill Church

CHILDREN'S

activities



Come and join us for



**EVERY 4TH
SUNDAY**
4:00-6:00PM



Sunday Club

EVERY
2ND SUNDAY
OF THE MONTH
10:00 - 11:00 am

toddlers
Parents & Carers
Every Wednesday
Morning 9:00 - 11:00am

tadpoles

holiday Club

2 DAYS
EVERY
SUMMER
9:30 - 3:00 pm

Do you know about our e-prayer group?

To join, all you have to do is to email woosehillprayers@gmail.com and ask to join.

Eileen Fletcher who organises this will then add you to the list and a prayer for our church and community will land in your inbox each morning.

Eileen says: 'We would love to have as many people as possible praying these e-prayers.'

Here is an example:

Lord, as we engage with PMC, help us to make time in our busy lives to pray.

And let our primary aim in prayer to be to see you glorified in the answering of our prayers.

Show us what and how you would have us pray.

Keep us patient and persevering in prayer until you choose to answer our prayers in your own way; in your own time.

We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen

Thank you for praying for our church and our community

The Power Of Prayer:

"I strongly suspect that if we saw all the difference even the tiniest of our prayers make, and all the people those little prayers were destined to affect, and all the consequences of those prayers down through the centuries, we would be so paralysed with awe at the power of prayer that we would be unable to get up off our knees for the rest of our lives." (Peter Dreeft, Professor of Philosophy)

Note: These are PMC (Partnership for Missional Church) e-prayers and blessings.

All other prayer requests should be directed to our confidential Prayer Chain co-ordinator

Lynn Smith woosehillprayerchain@gmail.com



Thanks to Michael for making us smile

Poster found in a Church in
France... (translated):

"When you enter this church
it may be possible that you
hear "the call of God".
However, it is unlikely that He
will call you on your mobile.
Thank you for turning off
your phones. If you want to
talk to God, enter, choose a
quiet place and talk to Him.
If you want to see Him, send
Him a text while driving."



FIRST STEPS



FIRSTSTEPS for pre-school children and their parents, grandparents or carers to introduce the children to church in a relaxed, fun and friendly way.

2nd Thursday of Each Month during Term Time

14th February; 14th March;

11th April; 9th May.

Children's Chapel

St Paul's Church, Wokingham

Please come along with your pre-school children for **songs, stories, craft activities** and **refreshments**.

For more information call Rev'd Richard Lamey 0118 327 9116
or
Liz Gallagher 0118 989 1176





Saving the planet one paper cup at a time

We are a community that is mindful of our impact on the world we live in. We use Fairtrade coffee and sugar and recyclable paper cups. We do not have a large kitchen or dishwasher and so after services serve drinks in disposable cups. Many coffee shops encourage customers to bring their own cup and some of you may do this when you buy drinks during the week. Ed and I have started to bring cups to church every week so that we use them and not the disposable ones. Could you do the same? Together we could save the church money and maybe help the planet a little too. If just 10 of us did this each week over the year over 500 fewer paper cups would be used and the coffee will taste better too!

Ruth



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

REGULAR MEETINGS

Sunday

Church services - see Services Diary and weekly newsletter

Mondays and Wednesdays at 8pm: **House Groups**

For more information talk to Geoff Peck: 9786711

geoffpeck@hotmail.com

Tuesday

Bible study group: Exploring Faith from 8-9.30pm in the church.

Wednesday

Tadpoles group: Coffee and play for pre-school children and their carers
9.00-11.00am in term time.

Contact: Val Weedon: 9791156/ 07919062770

or valerie.weedon@btinternet.com

Thursday

Together in prayer: monthly on third Thursday from 8-9pm

Contact Lyn Brown: 9782816

Saturday

Church work party: first Saturday in month 10.30am

Contact John Hoskins: 9792597

Church contacts

Rev'd Patrick Mukholi - 23 Sheridan Way, Wokingham, RG41 3AP 0118 9773397 patrick.mukholi@spauls.org.uk

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

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

Rev'd Catherine Bowstead

5 Chetwode Close, Wokingham RG40 2LL 0118 9781756
minister@wokinghammethodist.org.uk

**For room hire bookings contact Tony Sayer on 0118 9786560
or email tony.sayer@ntlworld.com**

**Pattern of Services at Woosehill**

Keep an eye out in the newsletter for more up to date information too. You can receive this weekly by email:

contact Alison Lewis at woosehill.church@goolemail.com

1st Sunday:

8.45am Holy Communion

10am Morning Worship

2nd Sunday:

**10am Holy Communion with
Sunday Club for our young people**

3rd Sunday

8.45am Holy Communion

10am Morning Worship

4th Sunday

10am Holy Communion

4pm Messy Church - for all ages

6.15pm Evening Reflective Worship

(5th Sunday)

10am Café Church

5.30pm Service at Suffolk Lodge Care Home