

Woosehill Church Magazine

Sharing God's love with the community

July - August 2019



***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,

There is a lot of reading in this issue to carry you through the summer until our next issue in September.

Look out for news from our church, parish, circuit and diocese, including the exciting announcement of our new Bishop Olivia which reached me just in time for our deadline!

News too from Debbie Davison whom many of you will remember as Julie Minter's predecessor.

As many activities close down for the August period, it's time to re-charge batteries and think ahead to September when we have our special Harvest celebration - a whole weekend with a chance for everyone in our church family to participate in some way.

Whether you are away on holiday or staying at home I wish you a time of rest and refreshment, enjoying the beauty of God's creation in our gardens and countryside.

*With every blessing,
Val*

EARLY DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2019

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

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Clergy Letter



You can tell it's a British summer when someone complains to you about how hot it is less than an hour after they've complained about the rain. That seems to be the usual pattern- days of warmth followed by sudden sharp showers. That said, as I write, it is incredibly close and muggy and I am wondering when the rain is going to come. The strawberries are crying out for it and so am I. My Grandad (quite wrongly, but very quotably and wonderfully) used to say: "There's no such thing as bad weather, only the wrong clothes." The people who got utterly soaked to the skin last year at Stonehenge while we watched (a tad smugly) from shelter having our picnic would definitely have disagreed!

This is a holiday reflection rather than a weather reflection, so let me get to the point: going away and days out are a treat, whatever the weather. They allow rest and perspective. They are hugely valuable- if they make a difference to daily life as well.

If being away made you think "It's so good to see my family properly, and to be properly present for them" then the question has to be: "What can you change about your daily commitments which allow you to be present?" If being away made you think "I can't believe how beautiful the world is" then the question has to be: "How can you see things differently so you notice the beauty all around you every day?" And if going away made you feel like you again, then how can you make sure that you are the real you all of the time?

Holidays allow us space to help us rediscover who we are. The tragedy is how quickly we lose sight of that when everything piles back on us again, which it will, unless we resist, and carry forward some of the things we have remembered and rediscovered. Changing the balance of our lives and daily routine is not easy- but finding again how good it feels to be us can be a powerful statement of how high and precious the stakes can be.

Richard



My experience volunteering with Soulscape



***"Soulscape** is a charity working in partnership with Wokingham and Bracknell schools to give young people the space they need."*

Since volunteering with Soulscape I have been impressed with the focus on the children they are helping. Much like Boys' Brigade, everything they do is based on what the children need and is delivered in a fun way.



How does Mind The Gap work?

"Soulscape trains and equips teams of volunteers to visit year 6 pupils at primary school during their last Summer term. Volunteers lead workshops and group activities, get to know pupils and help them to understand and prepare for the changes ahead. Then in September, when the young people arrive for their first day at secondary school, they find the Mind The Gap team already there waiting to greet them at the school gates. Volunteers remain at school for the first few days during lunch and break times, helping pupils to make new friends and settle in"

First I visited Hawthorns and Winnersh primary schools where the Soulscape team led 5 sessions with a total of over 150 year 6 pupils. This was our chance to let the pupils know we will be there to help them 'Mind the Gap' and that we are on their side and available to help.

After the primary school visits the next step was to visit secondary schools on the year 6 pupils induction days. It was great to see some of the same pupils again, this time in their new schools. It's amazing how different the secondary schools are to their more familiar, and much smaller, primary schools. You start to see how it could be intimidating for some of the pupils. More sessions were run, again based on games, but this time led by year 10 and 11 students. I was amazed how well the older children coped, and this helped build friendships and again provides a confidence boost to the year 6's.

What is different about Mind The Gap?

"Because Mind The Gap volunteers visit pupils at both their primary and secondary schools they are able to form what is perhaps a unique link between the two worlds. Our teams come alongside pupils, make the transition journey with them and, as the name suggests, they help to bridge the gap between one school and the next."

In September we enter the final stage, being at the secondary schools to welcome the new year 7's into their new environment. The Soulscape team and the volunteers will be there on the first few days to make sure the pupils feel welcome and looking out for any that need a little extra help or a confidence boost.

I've really enjoyed volunteering with Soulscape and feel like I can make a difference to children's lives in today's pressurised world. It has been great to work with people from other Churches in Wokingham, sharing experiences and stories. If you would like to know more or are thinking of volunteering please speak to me or contact Soulscape at contact@soulscape.org.uk.

Steve Bottom



Good news from the Oxford Diocese



Bishop Steven has announced as follows:

'The Queen has approved the appointment of the Venerable Olivia Graham, the Archdeacon of Berkshire, as the next Bishop of Reading.

One of the things that was apparent when we were listening and consulting about the new bishop was that people wanted somebody who really knew what it is like to be in ministry in this part of the world. Someone who knew what the pressures and challenges are.

In this and many other areas, Olivia brings just what we need at this time. I am very excited about what Olivia's appointment means for the Diocese.

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

More here: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/news/>

News from Debbie Davison



Moving to a post in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway is exciting and also daunting. My earliest times in Scotland were as a teenager, when the family spent summer locum holidays in Loch Awe, and on Skye. My brothers and I would swim across Loch Awe and make dampers over a hot fire on the islands. The water supply to the house came straight from the burn above the Parsonage. My brothers, fascinated to see what would happen with the flow of water, once built a small dam with predictable results, including furious parents. There have been other adventures since, but this will be the first that involves working there.

The Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC), a province of the worldwide Anglican Communion, has a very distinct history from the Church of England, and sprang up in its own unique way, the Scottish Reformation dating from 1560.

History is vital, in how it may determine the future, and places us in the present. English are often not good at this, and we know from Biblical readings how crucial context is to understanding. I was grateful for a couple of essays from a priest already living and serving in the Diocese. As the essay ran to more than 90 pages, it soon became apparent it would take more than a couple of train journeys to assimilate historical and ecclesial context! A key feature of the SEC is that it operates separately from the State.



Bishops are elected, not appointed; and Anglicans – as mostly in the world, are non-conformists. They (we) are also outnumbered by Presbyterians (Church of Scotland) and Roman Catholics about ten times in each case.

As I left after a couple of days meeting members of both Vestries (sort of equivalent to English Parochial Church Councils), one of them, Joyce, pressed an article in my hand. I thanked her, tucked it into my bag, and read it on the long train journey south. It frankly, made me laugh, and cry. Saying precisely why is difficult. There was a sense of genuine respect where so-called difference is concerned. There was a matter-of-factness that sometimes gets lost when church and state are interwoven, and civic duties prevail. It was unexpectedly moving to read '...all our Bishops ordain men and women. We don't have any resolutions suggesting that some priests are not really priests' (the Very Rev Kelvin Holdsworth, Provost of St Mary's Cathedral Glasgow).

I am very intrigued and drawn to discover more and work with the people it was so inspiring to meet at interview. For me there is everything to discover and learn. But I may well keep my brother away from the water supply...

Deborah Davison 30/5/19

For those who might have joined the parish more recently, Debbie was Julie's predecessor as Assistant Curate

Emblem of the Scottish Episcopal Church





LET'S MAKE SOCIAL MEDIA KINDER

Fifteen years ago, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube didn't exist. Today, [67% of people](#) in the UK are active users of at least one of them, and we now spend almost two hours each day on social media. Yet society is increasingly fearful of the risks of fake news and harmful content and distrustful of the very platforms that consume so much of our time.

Our lives are irreversibly online, lived with ever decreasing levels of privacy and hyperstimulated to a relentless place. Few of us have stopped to properly consider what it means to live well in this age, but as Christians, we have an essential part to play in the shape of online society.

This week the national Church launched [a Digital Charter](#), which includes guidelines and a pledge that anyone can add their name to as part of a personal commitment to making social media a more positive place. I've signed up to the Charter, and I hope you will too.

As a Diocese, we've been spending time exploring what it means to be a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world. It's a journey that started three years ago as we studied the Beatitudes together. Recently I've begun to ponder what those eight beautiful qualities might mean for social media and our online lives.

- **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
I will remember that my identity comes from being made and loved by God, not from my online profile.



- **Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted**
This world is full of grief and suffering.
I will tread softly and post with gentleness and compassion.
- **Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**
I will not boast or brag online, nor will I pull others down.
- **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**
There are many wrongs to be righted. I will not be afraid to name them and look for justice in the world.
- **Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.**
I will not judge others but be generous online. I will be conscious of my own failings.

You can download a card ([colour](#) version | [black and white](#) version) to keep near your phone and tablet and share this [social media graphic](#) online.

Advances in technology have brought sharp ethical dilemmas and deeper questions of human identity. There are important debates to be had about the exploitation of our personal data, along with the threats (and benefits) of AI. These will take time and will require legislation, but we can also do something right now: let us each play our part in making social media kinder.

+Steven

June 2019

From Doreen:

The Revd Dr Barbara Glasson is President of the Methodist Conference for 2019/20. The following is an excerpt from her speech. Although addressed to Methodists it is relevant to all Christians:

On a trip to China in 2017, Dr Glasson heard of the story of nineteenth century Cornish missionary, Samuel Pollard, brought up to date in a country with the fastest growing Christian population on earth. On another journey to Myanmar she encountered Shanti Kana, or safe space, a project run by All We Can (Methodist relief & development fund) for women, so that they can feel safe and cool and rest, away from the cramped, claustrophobic and often violent shacks of the nearby refugee camp.

The people of these stories she said, “live the Jesus story and so can we, we who are Methodist and Methodish, we who are marinated in faith or just dipping a tentative toe, Conference buffs and Conference rookies, big wigs and small fry, gay or straight or trans or undefined, broken, diffident or downright scared, all of us, each of us is called to this simple, costly way, living out our stories within the eternal, challenging, costly, glorious stories of God - because nothing in all creation can separate us from it.”

In her address Dr Glasson called for more than just telling of stories but to push for change and to listen: “We will need to be people of reconciliation and peace in an increasingly angry and divided Britain. We will need to commit ourselves to not only making the church inclusive, but allowing those who we might think ‘on the edge’ to challenge and transform us. We need to listen in three dimensions to what is told and what lies in the dark spaces between the words.”...

The original can be found here;

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/latest-news/all-news/new-president-of-the-conference-calls-for-confidence-in-telling-the-story-of-god-to-a-fractured-world/>



News from Wokingham Methodist Church

The Mosaic sculpture



History (2017)

For some years now, Wokingham Borough Council have been planning the regeneration of the town centre and a dedicated group of Church members have done their very best to ensure that the building and needs of its users were not ignored. As the plans progressed, we realised that the buildings of the new Peach Place would leave the town with an unattractive view of the Church and Bradbury Centre and not the aspect we ever planned for.

I began to think that this may be an opportunity to make the Church visible in our community and to make the corner a more interesting and attractive feature within the new development by having a sculpture of some sort.

I started to think about the possibility of a sculpture and what would be an appropriate subject. At the time, we were preparing to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Methodist church in Wokingham, I didn't intend to design the sculpture myself, but I needed an idea to play with and I began to make rough sketches inspired by the Christian symbol of fish.

I became aware that the Town Council were planning a mosaic history trail around the town and local businesses and organisations were keen to sponsor circular mosaics designed and made by a mosaic artist that would be inserted into the walkways and pavements during the development work.



After discussing ideas with a few church members, I began attending meetings of the mosaic committee to research the possibility of having a fish mosaic for the Church and becoming part of the trail. I took along the idea of a fish inspired wall sculpture and the mosaic committee were very enthusiastic about it.

The mosaic sculpture is planned to be the start of a mosaic trail throughout the town; the other planned Mosaics will be set into the pavement and the designs will be based on historical events in Wokingham.

The council is planning that anyone following the trail will be able to access an App on mobile phones that will give more information about each individual mosaic.

The idea was then given to the Artist Rosalind Waites; she too was very enthusiastic about the project. We now have a small group of Church members meeting and working with Rosalind to achieve a stunning artwork for our building.

We asked Rosalind to design a sculpture with twelve mosaic fish and twenty-eight metal fish, representing twelve disciples and their followers, the sum of 40 fish being a biblical number.

Rosalind's design incorporates fish from the Sea of Galilee, the St. Peter fish and a Barbel. The larger fish are planned to be in brightly coloured glass mosaic and the metal fish will be textured galvanised metal. Both will reflect and react with the light. We are having samples of both types of fish made to help us visualise the final concept.

The fish sculpture is a visual celebration of our 200th anniversary in Wokingham and was paid for by fundraising and donations. Church groups and individual Church members sponsored fish for the sculpture.

The Anniversary Mosaic Sculpture was unveiled on 14 July 2019.

Jane Bonney and the Mosaic Team



Living in the moment

We have all lived for many years and when we look back we can remember everything that has happened to us. From our very first memories to a second ago brings a whole load of experience – in fact a lifetimes worth. Every moment of our lives has one thing in common. Each one was the present moment at the time, even though it may not seem like it looking back. The present moment is the only one we can ever use. If we want to do something in 10 minutes time, we cannot do anything until those 10 minutes are up.

We cannot do this if we try to live in the future or the past. Brooding about our own actions in the past or what might have happened cannot help us. Worrying about what might happen in the future can be very negative. We have to plan, but we do not have to worry.

I find that my faith in God helps me to live in the present moment, my faith makes me calmer because I know there is someone much more powerful than me looking out for me. He will support me when I need to be calmer and bring me back to earth. I find that prayer is a great way of taking my mind of the unknown of the future or the what ifs of the past. Prayer means talking to God and honestly expressing my feelings which can bring a great sense of release. It is also very meditative and if done in a group brings a sense of peace and common purpose to the whole group. Prayer also brings me closer to God and gives a sense of oneness with the world around me. I find writing down prayers enables me to express myself better and understand myself more. I recommend regular prayer as a way of avoiding worry and stress and getting closer to God.

Geoff Peck

One of a series of articles that Geoff wrote for the church notes column in the Wokingham paper in 2018

The Parish of St Paul Wokingham

Sermon series 2019

on the 3rd Sunday of the month

Note the venue on this occasion



Sunday 15th September: 6.15 at Woosehill

The Rev'd Vusi Mabuza, who spent some time in the parish in 2017, is originally from the Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman and now lives in Warfield.



Woosehill Church Harvest Weekend & Flower Festival

Saturday 28th September 2pm – 5pm

Sunday 29th 12pm – 3pm

Come and Join Us and find out what we do

Find Out who Uses our Building

We will be serving Tea/Coffee and Cake on the Saturday

Soup with Bread on the Sunday.

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

For more information email lynnepaine@yahoo.co.uk

Art Group

Sing Something Simple

Brownies, Guides & Rainbows

Table tennis

Energy Kidz

WWAM

Circuit & Parish

Sunday Club

Tadpoles

MOW & WOW

Banner Group

Bible Study

This is a very special weekend for our church which needs support from all of us, a great opportunity to showcase all that we do and a time to share fellowship and friendship.

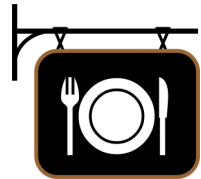


WOW Calendar for 2019

August: Walk and picnic at Dinton with Gillian



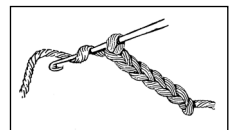
September: Meal out with Lynne Paine



October: Skittles evening with Lynn Smith



November: Learn to crochet with Eileen



December: We hope this will be our usual carol singing with the Music Group open for all at the Leathern Bottel





What is a deanery?

The Diocese of Oxford is divided into four smaller 'episcopal Areas', three of them overseen by their own Area Bishop. One such area is Reading. Each area is then further split into deaneries. The deaneries of the Reading Episcopal Area are: Bracknell, Bradfield, Maidenhead and Windsor, Newbury, Reading and Sonning. Sonning Deanery stretches from Wargrave in the north to Sandhurst in the south. It contains 12 benefices with 23 places of worship in a mixed rural, semirural and urban setting. Our current Area Dean is the Revd Richard Lamey, Rector of the three Churches of the Parish of St Paul, Wokingham.

What does the deanery give to the parish/benefice?

The deanery represents a manageable level of organisation between a parish/benefice and the Diocese/Archdeaconry. Its aim is to assist churches to do things together that they could not do on their own; to support and encourage clergy in a role which can often be isolated and pressured; to perform an administrative function (eg allocating the Parish Share/organising building inspections); to act for the Archdeacon on inspections; to offer ideas, challenge and inspiration through meetings; to offer prayer and encouragement for each other; to work together towards input to the diocese; and to support mission and ministry in the parish/benefice.

What is a deanery synod?

The deanery synod has a membership of all clergy who are licensed to a parish/benefice within the deanery, plus elected lay members from every parish. The larger your Electoral Roll, the more members you are entitled to elect. Members meet approximately four times a year at varying venues throughout the deanery. All meetings include a financial report, including reports on Parish Share, followed by a talk. Over the past year, lay discipleship, fundraising, and human sexuality have been discussed. All members share in a Eucharist service at one of the meetings. Currently, the Deanery Plan is being finalised. The emphasis of this plan will be on those areas of mission that can be done better as a deanery than as individual parishes: for example, outreach into new communities, empowerment of lay leaders, shared training courses, to name but a few.

What is Deanery Chapter?

Clergy within the deanery meet monthly over lunch at Deanery Chapter. These meetings form an important basis for support, challenge and collegiality for clergy to learn from each other and from those who address the meeting.

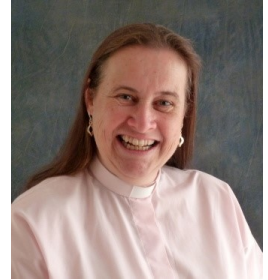
Regular Prayer Letters are sent out from the Deanery- do please use those intentions as a way of weaving us all together in prayer.

Pauline Humphreys (Deanery Synod Standing Committee Member)

Parish, Diocese and Circuit

Catherine Bowstead:

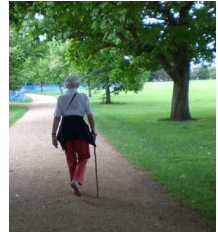
We send our very best wishes to Catherine as she takes up the role of Circuit Superintendent on September 1st



Bishop Steven's Day Pilgrimage to Sonning:

Tuesday 3rd September: all day

You are invited to join our Bishop for all of the day or for part of it- he will be stopping to pray at Wooshill.



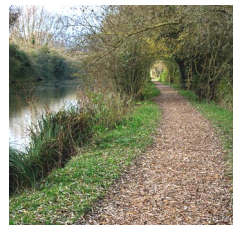
Stand strong

A training day for women passionate about reaching their communities Saturday 14th September 2019 St James Church Centre, Kingfisher Drive, Woodley RG5 3LH 9.30am - 3.30pm £10 including a light lunch
Book online at www.activateyourlife.org.uk

St Frideswide Pilgrimage

Sunday 19th October: Christ Church Cathedral

Join others from the parish walking to Oxford along the Thames in time for tea at 3pm and a Pilgrims' Service at 4pm.





Rooted

**‘Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.’
(Psalm 62:5)**

Take a few moments to quietly declare this benediction over your life:

*In the busyness of this day
grant me a stillness of seeing, O God.
In the conflicting voices of my heart
grant me a calmness of hearing.
Let my seeing and hearing
my words and my actions
be rooted in a silent certainty of your presence.
Let my passions for life
and the longings for justice that stir within me
be grounded in the experience of your stillness.
Let my life be rooted in the ground of your peace, O God,
let me be rooted in the depths of your peace.*

From ‘Celtic Benediction’, J Philip Newell

Circulated by Tearfund as part of their Lent Reflections

Music!



We are in urgent need of musicians who can cover our services when our regular support is not available. We like an eclectic mix of worship songs and hymns from modern in the Stuart Townend or Graham Kendrick vein to the more traditional. Please get in touch if you or anyone you know might help us out.

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



FIRST STEPS



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

**12th September; 10th October;
14th November; 12th December.**

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



REGULAR MEETINGS

Sunday

Church services - see Services Diary and weekly newsletter

Mondays at 8pm: House Group

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