

# Woosehill Church Magazine

**Sharing God's love with the community**

**July - August 2022**



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[woosehillchurch.org](http://woosehillchurch.org)  
and on our Facebook page  
Or follow our livestreamed services on  
YouTube**



*Dear Church Family and all other readers,*

Well, I am melting in front of my computer as I put the latest magazine together, but I hope that you will agree that it is a really good read. I asked for a happy issue and I think it is.

The lovely fuchsia photo on the front is from Elaine as you will see when you read her latest article. We look forward to welcoming Elaine back for our popular Café Church at the end of July.

I am now having a number of magazines printed so do pass one on to anyone who prefers this format, especially if they might be interested in our Thursday morning or Sip and Share groups - or indeed Sunday mornings at church.

At Tadpoles we have come to the end of another successful year and look forward to welcoming new members to the group in September - do drop in and see what we do in this out-reach that brings a gentle Christianity to our neighbourhood.

And now, sit down in a darkened room with a glass of something cold and enjoy the read'.

Till next time,

*With every blessing,*

*Val*

**Next deadline: September 18th**  
**Articles and notices as usual**  
**preferably by e-mail to:**  
**[valerie.weedon@btinternet.com](mailto:valerie.weedon@btinternet.com)**

## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>Editor and contents</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>A message from our minister</b> <b>Rev'd Soba Sinnathamby</b>	<b>3-4</b>
<b>Platinum Jubilee at Woosehill</b>	<b>5-6</b>
<b>Memories Made</b> <b>John Smith</b>	<b>7-8</b>
<b>Tithing Group</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Elaine's Patch</b> <b>Elaine Steere</b>	<b>10-11</b>
<b>Ride and Stride</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Sermon series at St Paul's</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>A Reflection</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>WoolWAM update</b> <b>Alison Lewis</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>WOW</b>	<b>16-17</b>
<b>Coffee morning at Bradbury Centre</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Thursday groups</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>CBM</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>News from Tadpoles</b>	<b>21-22</b>
<b>Meetings and Blessing</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Services and contacts</b>	<b>24</b>

## Truths and Sentiments from Secular Songs

### *A Reflection from our Minister*

*Dear Friends,*



Most of us have our favourite songs. I don't mean the timeless hymns or modern worship songs but the kind of songs that we grew up with – pop songs. There is something great about these pop songs. Some of them make you tap your fingers on the steering wheel while you drive. The joyful rhythm, beat and melody will always take you to a different world.

There are some great songs with wonderful lyrics. Their words speak to your soul so you find some kind of comfort and solace in them. When the melody and lyrics are outstanding, they become world class and enjoyed by many people all over the world, making them a timeless classic. One such song for me is ***Imagine*** by John Lennon.

You may be wondering why I am writing about something very secular. Recently The Times faith columnist criticised the church for being theologically cloth-headed. This is to do with a church in the diocese of Chelmsford refusing the request of the grieving parents of a teenage girl who died in tragic circumstances. They wanted to include on the gravestone the lines from a popular Abba song: ***I believe in angels, something good in everything I see.***

The denial of permission was on the grounds it was not suitable language for a churchyard. Angelology is part of the church's teaching. Besides that, ABBA's ***I have a dream***, resonates with the rousing speech of Martin Luther King and the prophecy of Joel [2:28] which is a standard text for Pentecost.

But don't you think this is the core message of the Bible? In fact, we and the atheists have so much in common. One of the lines in this song calls people to live for today. Isn't this biblical? Taken from the Psalm 118:24, we sing this hymn from our Sunday school days: ***This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*** The significance of this truth is both real and profound as the whole of the nation mourns the death of Dame Deborah James who inspired millions of cancer patients and others that one should live each day to the fullest, even though they know their days are numbered.



Whether or not we are aware of it, the church has been using verses from secular songs from its early years. I suppose St Paul has used secular songs more often than any other writer. When addressing men of Athens at Mars Hill, he quoted a line from a Cretan prophet and poet called Epimenides: **'For in him we live and move and have our being.'**

The secular world has so much to teach us. There is nothing wrong in using the truths and meaningful sentiments from popular songs. Paul employed this method to reach out to the pagan masses in terms familiar to them. Our country is predominantly secular. To effectively reach out to the masses, the approach of the church should be something that is familiar to them. Otherwise, we too have to bear the brunt of the faith columnist's criticism.

With prayers,

**Soba-**

---

God is not what you think  
Or even what you believe  
Because God is  
A word unspoken  
A thought unthought  
A belief unbelieved  
So if you wish to know  
This God, practice wonder  
Do what is good, and  
Cultivate silence.  
The rest will follow



*Author unknown*



## Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at Wooshill

After our morning service, celebrating Pentecost on Jubilee weekend many of us stayed behind for the barbecue, where we were pleased to be joined by members of St Paul's and St Nick's, making it a real parish event.



Some of our chefs were particularly enthusiastic!

Well, the weather wasn't as good as we hoped, but we're an adaptable lot so left the outside space for our valiant BBQers whilst we socialised inside. A Royal quiz put together by the Paines, Lynne and Phil, kept us all guessing while we waited for the outdoor food to be ready.

The array of food was wonderful, much of it in Jubilee style:



--- and we even had a Platinum Pudding (two in fact) - thank you Sue Smith.



After lunch it was party time with Pass the Parcel - Timothy and Ron were both delighted with their prizes.



It was just great to be all together again and a good time was had by all.  
Thanks to all who made it possible - especially John.

## Memories Made

### **Dear Readers,**

I was asked by Val after talking to her at the Church BBQ about our visit to the Queen's Garden Party and would I write my experience for the magazine, it's not a thing I would normally do and after my first try I touched something and all was lost so as the deadline is getting near I will try again.

In early May I received the invitation to attend the Queen's Garden party on the 12th of May so of course I said yes - this also included my friend Pam whose first thought was do they wear hats ? (yes they do)

On the 11th May we took the train to Waterloo and stayed at the Union Jack Club, a hotel for serving and ex forces. On arrival the hotel was packed with another group going to the garden party on that day; the men and ladies were all in summer outfits and hats but outside it was heavy rain and that continued all day, a total of 8,000 attended that day all trying to shelter in the refreshment marquee so you can imagine their day was not ideal.

On our day the sun was shining and only 2,000 attended this time, and as the Queen has such a large back garden there was plenty of room for everybody. We entered the Palace grounds under very strict security with armed guards and at every point we had to show our invitation and passport and so entered the garden and what a garden - the lawns were vast and the gardens with the lake were lovely and you think wow I'm at the Queens Garden Party how did I get here (I will explain later).

Tea was served at 2.15 in the marquee; you were given an oblong plate in order to place your tea cup and a place for your sandwich and a selection of cakes, some with the crown on top all served by the smartest and most charming staff.

While eating our tea on the next table were the Strictly Come Dancing team of Craig Revel Horwood, Anton du Beck and Giovanni (better looking than on tv ). Pam took the photo and later had her photo taken with Anton also later with Tony Blackburn.





At 3.00 pm The Princess Royal and her husband Sir Timothy Laurence arrived on the terrace steps and the National Anthem was played. She then spent a couple of hours talking to a selected group of veterans. We in the mean time sat down by the lake with an ice cream brought round by the staff and listened to Royal Marine Band.

At 4.45 Her Royal Highness left with the Royal Marine Band marching on the vast lawn.

At 5pm it was time to go with a memory that will always be remembered.

So how did we get the invitation? I am the Chairman of a large area of the Royal Airforce Association with our headquarters in Wokingham and as an association we are linked to the charity The Not Forgotten. They arrange this sort of occasion for ex service personnel, not always as good as the Garden Party but equally worth while and appreciated.

Following on from the above on the 2nd June we were again invited to attend the Queens Platinum Jubilee Trooping the Colour on the Grandstand outside Buckingham Palace so on the Thursday we caught the 6.29 train to Waterloo and tube to Green Park in order to get in the queue because if you were not seated by 9.15 you did not get in. We were each given a lunch box and took our seats. I will not go into the details of the day as most of you will have seen it on TV just to say it was a privilege and a memory I will never forget.

So again how did myself and Pam get tickets this time? It was just luck I was asked by the Royal British Legion if I would like to go and my name would be put in a ballot and picked out later and our luck was in.

Take care,

**John Smith**  
(the Chestnut Avenue one!)





## Tithing Group

I have recently joined the Tithing Group which meets once a year to allocate church funds that are available to our chosen charities under the guidance of our treasurer Lynne. In addition to our chosen church charity - currently CBM - we split the money available to various charities; some of them are our former main charities and others are chosen because of local links or due to our links with Anglican and Methodist national charities. I was unfamiliar with many of these so agreed to take them one by one to give a short summary in each church magazine.

So this is Part 1:

### Action for Children

Perhaps better known to some as National Children's Home.

The first 'Children's Home', a renovated stable in Church Street, Waterloo, was founded in 1869 by Methodist minister Thomas Bowman Stephenson, who had been moved by the plight of children living on the street in London. The first two boys were admitted on 9 July 1869. In 1871 the home was moved to Bonner Road, Victoria Park, and girls were admitted. The home was approved by the Wesleyan Methodist Conference in the same year.

Their vision is that every child and young person has a safe and happy childhood, and the foundations they need to thrive. They put children at the heart of everything they do.

They protect and support children and young people, by providing practical and emotional care and support making sure their voices are heard and they campaign to bring lasting improvements to their lives.

Val





## Elaine's Patch

### Vitamin G

The main theme at this year's Hampton Court Flower Show was well-being and the mental and spiritual health benefits of time spent in nature; some bright spark came up with the expression "Vitamin G" to describe the effect, and although it is cheesy, it does highlight an important truth. If we spend time amongst plants and greenery, out in the fresh air, it has been medically proved to reduce our stress levels and give us a sense of peace.



I live on an estate which was built in the mid-2000s, and the back gardens here are all pretty small, even those of the impressive four-storey, five-bedroom homes. A Zoopla-snooper like myself can discover that the majority have had little done to them, with a patch of grass or a few shrubs the only greenery. The front and side gardens are even less cared for, usually filled in with slate or pebbles, and there is a distressing current fashion for plastic Astro-turf! Here and there some oases emerge: one called "Rose Cottage" (a strange title for an estate semi, one might think) which certainly lives up to the first part of its name, as in June you can smell the flowers from the length of the road away, and there is another which has an odd little square front garden on the other side of the pavement which has been turned into a year-long delight of colourful planting. However, on the occasions that I have seen the owners out tending their plants, it has been obvious that both sets are in their sixties or seventies. It seems, understandably I suppose, that the younger residents are just too busy, between working, family life and socialising, to find the time to plant and tend their gardens, but it would be sad if the passion for growing beautiful things dies out with my generation.

Yet on a recent Gardeners World program I saw an inspiring report of a community garden which has been created from waste land in a deprived area of London, where residents now grow both flowers and produce and have made the area a welcoming gathering-place for neighbours of all ages.

They don't have a lot of money, so they take cuttings and collect seeds instead of buying plants and build their planting beds and supports from recycled material.



This has been such a successful project that it now provides a heart for the community, giving an opportunity for those who wouldn't normally get a chance to learn how to garden, like people with mental or physical disabilities, to get involved; it has transformed the environment, too, as bees and butterflies have found their way through the tower blocks to pollinate the many flowers.

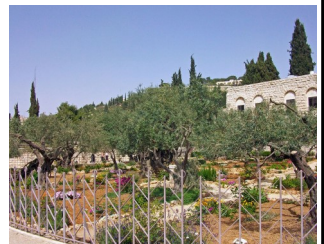
God created an awe-inspiring variety of plants for his world, and I strongly believe it wasn't solely for the practical purpose of providing food, but because He delights in beauty and wants us to do the same. Last year I planted a hardy fuchsia bush in my flower bed, and it is currently covered in more flowers than I can count, each one a masterpiece of exotic perfection. It does not seem to have much of a function, even in attracting pollinators (the humble purple salvia next door seems to be doing a much better job at that!), but as an example of the Divine Designer showing off His powers, it lifts my spirits every time I step out of my back door.

The Bible features many important gardens, from Eden to the park around the Holy City in Revelation. The most famous is probably Gethsemane, where Jesus struggled with his fears before the Crucifixion and was dragged away by the mob who came to arrest him. I have never been, but my lovely mother-in-law visited it on a trip to the Holy Land and told me it was one of the most beautiful and spiritual places she had ever encountered, and the highlight of her entire tour. It made me glad to think that Jesus could breathe in the beauty and peace of that special place as the last time he experienced the outside world before going to Calvary.

I really hope that my children's generation discover a love of gardening, and that projects like community gardens continue to flourish in areas of urban bleakness. Oops, and there are a few plants in my own which need deadheading and watering, so I had better finish this and get out there....!

**Elaine**

***Elaine will be back with us for Café Church on 31st July***





## **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September**

Ride + Stride is a sponsored event that is a great way to see some of Berkshire's wonderful churches. It takes place every year with half the money raised by each participant going to their own church and half to the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust which gives grants to churches for essential repairs and restoration work.

Many churches, usually closed, will be open for this event and it can be a grand day out. Note that the date coincides with Heritage Open Days offering people the chance to see hidden places and try new experiences for free.

Ride+Stride happens every year throughout the country. Our wonderful Berkshire supporters raised nearly £25,000 in 2021 – how can we improve on this for 2022?

St Peter's Woolhampton have won the Daphne Barnes-Phillips challenge cup for the past two years, which church will wrest this award from them?! This cup is given to the church raising most money through sponsorship and you can walk, jog, cycle, or ride round any number of churches anywhere you choose. We will have an updated list of participating churches, plus a few routes, on the BHCT website.

Sponsor forms can be printed off via the Ride+Stride website: <https://www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk/sponsorship-form> For JustGiving sponsorship please follow the detailed instructions in 'Guidelines' which can be found under the Ride+Stride drop down tab on this website.

You can go by yourself or in a group, any time between 10am and 6pm on September 10th. Sign in at each church you visit; have a look round and enjoy refreshments. Do please take photos of your expedition and send them to me after the event, we will use the best ones on the BHCT website.

**Prue Matchwick - Ride + Stride County Co-ordinator**

[prue.matchwick@gmail.com](mailto:prue.matchwick@gmail.com)

## Sunday Sermon Series at St Pauls as part of 6.15pm Evensong

**September 18:**

**Leonard Onugha: Psalm 1**



Leonard says that knowing Christ and learning to walk with him has been an adventure – being arrested for holding a prayer meeting in one country and serving as a teaching pastor with a church in South East Asia are just some of the journeys his faith has taken him on! Much of his earlier work within ministry was done whilst he held a role with a large energy company. He has a deep and continuing desire to see the full flourishing of individuals and communities.

He is married to Joanna, they have three children, and lead a church that meets at three sites.

**October 16:**

**Jonathan Dean: Psalm 96**



Jonathan is a Methodist presbyter, currently serving as Director of Learning for Ministry for the Methodist Church, supporting its work in education and ministerial formation. Previously, he's worked in local church ministry, in higher and theological education, and as a chaplain to both a maximum security prison and a university (not at the same time). He is a historian, a lover of dogs, a drinker of coffee, a consumer of politics and political journalism and a constantly hopeful and frequently disappointed supporter of Norwich City FC.

**November 20:**

**Hannah Ling: Psalm 46**



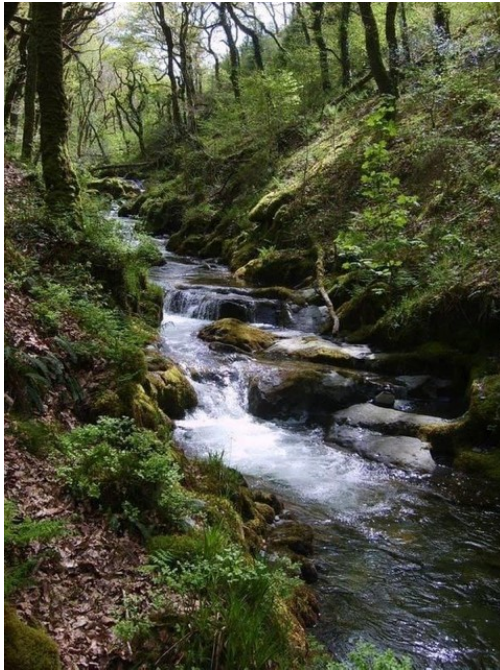
Hannah is the Diocesan Social Justice Adviser, working on the recent Diocesan report on social justice and poverty, advising on LLF (Living in Love and Faith) and helping to focus the local response to the crisis in Ukraine.

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**St Paul's Church Choir** are brilliantly led by Louise Turner, the Director of Music. Rehearsals are on a Wednesday evening and the Choir is non-auditioning. They are emerging from the pandemic in excellent heart and excellent voice. The Choir is a real gift and a real blessing, helping us meet God in worship time and time again.



## A Reflection



*Sit and be still  
until in the time  
of no rain you hear  
beneath the dry wind's  
commotion in the trees  
the sound of flowing  
water among the rocks,  
a stream unheard before,  
and you are where  
breathing is prayer.*

*~ Wendell Berry*



## WoolWAM update

WoolWAM is thriving & slowly expanding! Thanks to recent advertising, our lovely friendly group of knitters & crocheters were joined by 2 new members at our June meeting, & I have since had emails from 2 further ladies, one of whom will be coming along to our July meeting (which is tomorrow at the time of writing, but will be a couple of weeks ago by the time you read this!)

Another exciting result of recent advertising is our new link with Morrison's! In May the stewards were contacted by a lady called Natalie, Morrison's 'community champion'. She explained that her role was to forge links between Morrison's & local community groups and offer support to them. I made contact with Natalie & she came along to our June meeting, with support in the form of some delicious biscuits & cake! She stayed for the whole meeting, joining in all the chatter & afterwards commented how much she had enjoyed herself & spoke about coming again as she wanted to learn how to knit! She was also interested to hear of our support of the First Days charity, as she also has links with them.

Her most interesting comment was that it seemed to her that the knitting & crochet was almost secondary to the enjoyment & support the group seemed to get from relaxing & chatting/laughing over a cuppa.

So, if you, or anyone you know, would like to join us, just turn up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month (**next meeting 11<sup>th</sup> August**), 10am – 12midday. Some of our group knit/crochet their own projects, others produce baby clothes & blankets which we collect & donate to the First Days charity – entirely up to you what you do! If you would like any further information, contact me at [alison.lewis13@ntlworld.com](mailto:alison.lewis13@ntlworld.com).

**Alison**







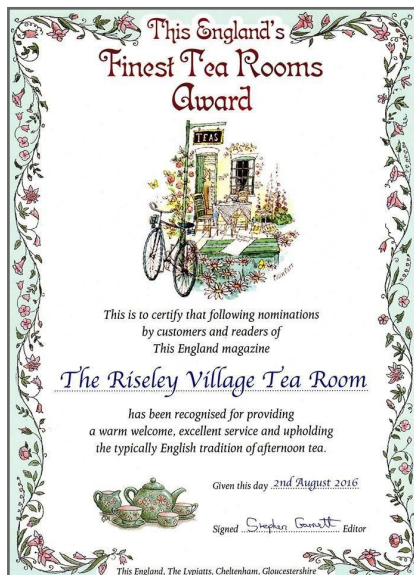
## WOW - Women of Woosehill Church

Our WOW group is thriving with a monthly programme of activities enjoyed by ladies of our church and parish.



June's event was a visit to Riseley Village Tearooms which proved extremely popular and is a highly recommended venue - we have requested a repeat visit for next year!

Thanks to Lynne Paine for organising it.



July's event was a welcome return to an al fresco evening in Lyn Brown's lovely woodland garden where the balmy summer evening was enjoyed by the gathered ladies.



Our next meeting is planned for August 23 when Sue Falquero will take us on a walk at Dinton Pastures followed by a picnic provided the hot weather isn't still with us.

September's meeting will be a pub quiz organised by Louise, date to be confirmed.

This is a relaxed and friendly group and we welcome new members.

For more information contact Lynn Smith  
[smithlynn18@gmail.com](mailto:smithlynn18@gmail.com)



## Coffee Mornings кавовий ранок



Starting 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
З 10 вересня 2022 року

To welcome Ukranian families and their sponsors.  
Вітати українські сім'ї та їх спонсорів

On the second Saturday of every month from  
10.30am - 12pm

У другу суботу кожного місяця з 10.30 до 12  
вечора

The Bradbury Centre,  
Wokingham Methodist Church, Rose Street  
Wokingham RG40 1XS

Contact [claire@wokinghammethodist.org.uk](mailto:claire@wokinghammethodist.org.uk) for  
further details or just turn up!

## Thursday Morning groups at Woosehill Church



New leaflets are now on the table at the back of the church - please feel free to give to anyone you think might be interested. We will also hopefully have some leaflets in the library and Wokingham information centre.

Are you feeling lonely or would you just like to get out a bit more? If so, then Woosehill Church's Thursday Morning Groups may be just the thing for you. Come along to as many or as few as you want.

On the **first** Thursday of each month joining in with our singing group 'Sing Something Simple' can't fail to lift the spirits.

Our knitting group Woolwam operate on the **second** Thursday of each month. So bring along your needles and wool for a cuppa and a natter.

On the **third** Thursday we change the knitting needles for sewing needles, for any type of needle craft. You can still have a cuppa and a natter!

**NOT MEETING IN AUGUST**

On the **fourth** Thursday the art group will recommence in September under a new name: Colour & Chat. We no longer have a regular experienced water colour teacher so have decided to widen our remit. The water colour paints will still be available for those who want to use them but we will also be providing general colouring (felt tips and pencils) & collage. The idea being that participants do their own thing (or nothing!) while sharing tea/coffee & chat. Doodlers & thumb twiddlers also welcome! From time to time we may do some special sessions eg card making, scrap booking, water colour, etc.

**NOT MEETING IN JULY OR AUGUST**

All of our groups are informal and friendly, starting at 10am.

For more information email [stewards@woosehillchurch.org](mailto:stewards@woosehillchurch.org) or visit our website at <https://woosehillchurch.org/> and look under the "Church Groups" heading.







### News from our current overseas charity:

34 people from rural Byumba District in Rwanda can see again, after a visit from a specialist eye health team to carry out sight-restoring cataract operations. The outreach clinic in May was part of CBM UK's See the Way project, launched in November 2020 and funded by CBM UK supporters and the UK government, which is working to prevent avoidable blindness in Rwanda by improving eye health services in rural areas.



Xaverine had been blind for 4 years before arriving at Byumba hospital for the outreach clinic in May. She lives alone and has struggled to manage since losing her sight: "It started with me not being able to recognise the faces around me. I now can't walk around by myself... I live alone at home. I don't have anyone to support me. I do sometimes get visitors to help but they come and go."

Her sight loss was due to cataracts, the leading cause of blindness worldwide. The condition can be treated with straightforward surgery, but Xaverine was unable make the long journey to a specialist eye hospital for treatment. Dr Theophile Tuyisabe from Kabgayi Eye Unit led the outreach team. He says:

"Today we managed to operate on 34 patients. We have this partnership between CBM and Kabgayi Eye Unit, where we are supporting some district hospitals.. we are strengthening their capacity, strengthening their eye units which are there, but also helping them to offer and deliver eye services to people living in those catchment areas. For those hospitals that do not have Ophthalmologists, Kabgayi team goes there to do eye surgeries.. it's a way of bringing the services to the nearest place as much as we can."



## News from Tadpoles

It's been a busy term at Tadpoles and we hope you have been keeping an eye on the noticeboard next to the kitchen where our activities are displayed. A particularly successful project now on display on the shelf to the right hand side of the Sanctuary is our Triptych on the theme 'All things bright and beautiful'. It was very popular with our groups of mums and grannies who took over and really made it their own. We finished the session by singing the hymn.



We will be bidding a sad farewell so some of our long term regulars as the term draws to a close and Cara will be joining us. Our theme will be 'One more step along the world I go' and yes, there will probably be tears! We start again in September and look forward to welcoming some new little ones who have been waiting for a place.



Round the corner of the world I turn,  
More and more about the world I learn;  
And the new things that I see  
You'll be looking at  
Along with me

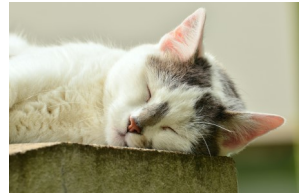


Tadpoles is a very special group which aims to nurture young families. A measure of its value was brought home to me by these two comments I received as the term drew to a close:

*“This will be mine and Martha’s last term. I’ll miss it so much. And the amazing company. I’ve made some wonderful friends and had such a lovely time every session. The craft, coffee and of course camaraderie have made our Wednesdays this last 12 months, unforgettable. Thank you and long may this wonderful group change lives and bring people together xx”*

*“ I love it here - I feel so looked after”*

These are the comments that make it all worthwhile, when we put our feet up exhausted at the end of a busy morning.



*Val on behalf of the Tadpoles team*

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### Sip and Share

**This will meet as normal on August 13th, the second Saturday.**

Have you lost someone or are just lonely?

We welcome you to this friendly supportive group for a cuppa and chat at 11am at Woosehill Church in Chestnut Avenue, just around the corner from Hawthorns School in Northway.



For more information contact Lynn on [smithlynn18@gmail.com](mailto:smithlynn18@gmail.com)



## Woosehill meetings

As more of us return to church, we continue to livestream our 10am service on our Woosehill Church YouTube channel, the link also advertised weekly on our Facebook page, newsletter and website [woosehillchurch.org](http://woosehillchurch.org)

## Parish Bible study on Tuesday evenings 7.15 - 8.30pm

Schedule for upcoming meetings –

Tuesday 19th July - Meeting in person at Woosehill Church, starting 7:15pm.

Summer holiday

Tuesday 6th September. Soba leading and hosting Communion. Meeting in person at Soba's and Nava's Manse, starting 7:15pm.

Tuesday 13th September. New series: Life of Elijah the prophet. Normal Zoom meeting, starting 7:15pm

## Together in Prayer on the third Thursday of the month from 8-9pm

Contact Lyn Brown for details - **no meeting in August**

## A Celtic Blessing

*May the strength of the wind and  
the light of the sun,  
The softness of the rain and  
the mystery of the moon  
Reach you and fill you.  
May beauty delight you and  
happiness uplift you,  
May wonder fulfill you and  
love surround you.  
May your step be steady and  
your arm be strong.  
May your heart be peaceful and  
your word be true.  
May you seek to learn,  
may you learn to live,  
May you live to love, and  
may you love ~ always.*



## **Our Current Pattern of Services at Woosehill Church**

1st Sunday - Holy Communion

2nd Sunday - Morning Worship

3rd Sunday Holy Communion

4th Sunday - Morning Worship

5th Sunday - Morning Worship / Café Church

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE REFLECTIVE SERVICE IS NOT MEETING IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER**

### **Church Contacts**

Rev'd Soba Sinnathamby, 23 Sheridan Way RG41 3AP,  
01189894374 [soba.sinnathamby@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:soba.sinnathamby@hotmail.co.uk)

Rev'd Richard Lamey, The Rectory, Holt Lane 0118 3279116  
[richard.lamey@spauls.org.uk](mailto:richard.lamey@spauls.org.uk)

St Paul's Parish Office, Reading Road, Wokingham RG41 1EH  
0118 979 2122 ( Parish administrator Louise Cole)  
[church.office@spauls.org.uk](mailto:church.office@spauls.org.uk)

Rev'd Catherine Bowstead, Methodist Superintendent Minister  
5 Chetwode Close, Wokingham RG40 2LL 0118 9781756  
[minister@wokinghammethodist.org.uk](mailto:minister@wokinghammethodist.org.uk)