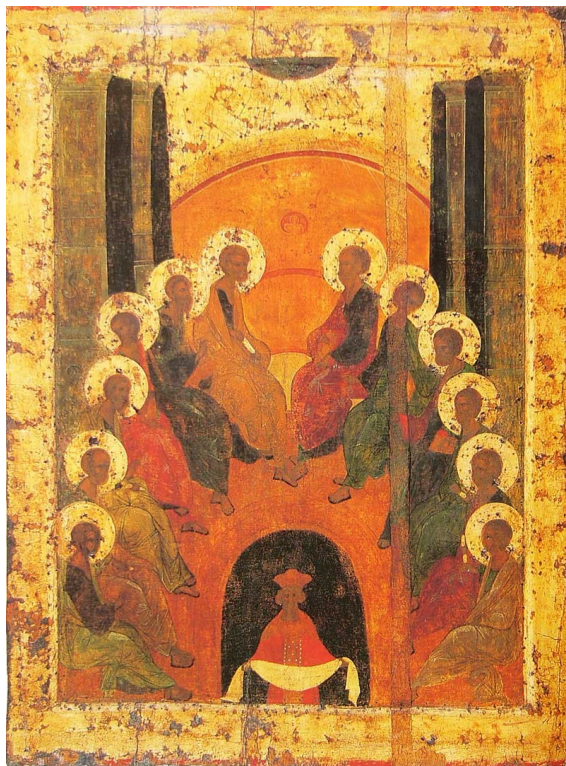


Woosehill Church Magazine

Sharing God's love with the community

May - June 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,

We seem to have a theme of new beginnings in this issue, perhaps more usually associated with the New Year. We say a fond goodbye to Julie, recently described by one of our church members as 'a mother to us all'. We wish Julie and Keith every happiness in their new home and ministry in Lambourn.

St Paul's has an exciting new initiative which we look forward to hearing more about. Read about it on pages 8 and 9.

Meanwhile back at home Patrick gives us tips on putting our spiritual house in order, tying in well with Eileen's powerful prayer for the future of our church. Let us listen and look out for the Lord's response - is your heart moved?

It has been the most beautiful Spring this year, a time to celebrate God's wonderful Creation. As we look forward to the feast of Pentecost I wish you every blessing and look forward to a time of renewed energy in our much loved church. May God Bless you all,

Val

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
12 July 2019

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Editor and contents	2
Clergy letter : Rev'd Patrick Mukholi	3-5
Moving on: Rev'd Julie Mintern	6-7
Tithing - a new initiative: Rev'd Richard Lamey	8-9
A prayer for our church: Eileen Fletcher	10-11
PMC and me: Eileen Fletcher	12-13
Pentecost Vigil	14
Sermon Series 2019	15
Weekdays at Woosehill	16
Women of Woosehill - WOW	17
Julie Mintern's Licensing Service	18
Kennet Court SOS	19
Embrace the Middle east	20
Ride and stride 2019	21
In the Parish	22
Regular meetings and contacts	23
Pattern of services	24

Clergy Letter

Daily Spring Cleaning



I know that the Lent season that focuses on decluttering of our lives is over but should it be behind us? Every season in the church calendar reminds us of what the growing Christian life could look like. Some things are more difficult to jettison than others, especially things that our identity is tied up into. Impulsive buying of those 'must have' clothes or gadgets or souvenirs when on holiday etc. Are there any 'must have' spiritual practices? I think decluttering is one of them. Decluttering usually makes way for focus on what is truly important—living a godly life and building God's Kingdom.

Questions we ask to help with decluttering of items (let's call it spring cleaning).

1. Have I used this item in the last year?
2. Would I buy this again if I was shopping now?
3. Am I just keeping it because it's sentimental to me?
4. Do I have something similar that does the same job?
5. What plans do I have to use this again in the future?
6. Is it something that needs fixing?
7. Why do I have this?



Choices For Each Object When *Decluttering* Your Home

**1.**

Keep
In
Room

**2.**

Put
Away In
Another
Room

**3.**

Donate
Or Give
Away

**4.**

Sell

**5.**

Trash

**6.**

Recycle
Or
Repurpose

More Info @Home Storage Solutions 101

But the prophets also remind us to, “Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity”. Prayer, fasting and weeping and mourning are part of us, as we daily observe the dissonance God’s broken and breaking world.

These spiritual habits help us to continuously re-evaluate in order to focus on what actually benefits our walk with the Lord. Any other junk is thrown out. Just like spring cleaning, there are habits, thoughts, plans, actions, words to discard for the good of our soul.

In Paul’s words, “But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.” If my heart and mind were a physical house what would you do to declutter? As we know so well decluttering takes time and effort (and courage) but is very beneficial.

How do you declutter these? Here is a list of things to help you discover the clutter in your heart. The things on this list will make you think of other things. Find out what clutter lies in your heart. Write for yourself what action you will take.

Memories of hurtful conversations with your husband or children		
Lack of Exercise		
Painful episodes or trials from the past		
Negative labels for yourself or others		
Unnecessary use of computers, mobile phones, iPads, televisions, newspapers, etc		
Self-pity		
Failures, mistakes and sins		
Negative words you revisit again and again		
Thoughts that immobilise ("We don't have enough money.")		
Doubts about God and His goodness		
Daydreams about a different spouse, children, home, life		
Frustration toward others, especially spouse and children		
Worries and anxieties		
Others.....		

Rev. Patrick Mukholi June 2019



Moving On

I wonder, dear reader, if you have ever moved home? As many will know Keith and I are doing precisely that in a few weeks time. Our last service will be in St Paul's on June 16th, Trinity Sunday and then the van will arrive on Tuesday 18th to take all our worldly goods off to the Vicarage in Lambourn where I will be installed as Vicar on July 29th at 7pm – to which you are all invited.



The preparations have begun in earnest. Arriving home from an especially challenging day I discovered the hall had been taken over by a vast number of packing boxes - too numerous to count! And so began my reflection upon how much baggage we carry through our lives. At first, it was all pretty practical – the clothes I'd never worn since moving into the very same house from which we'd be moving were shipped off to local charity shops. A significant number of theological tomes were boxed up and went on a road trip back to college where the students pounced upon them. And all those sentimental trinkets . . the stuff I'd held onto for far too many years . . .

Then I began to reflect upon how much baggage we *all* carry around for years – maybe a whole life time for some of us. And here, I'm not talking about the clothes, the books or the trinkets. I'm thinking about the burdens and challenges that so often weigh us down – that make us feel tired and worn out and sometimes worse. And what Jesus says to this is simply 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls'.

Jesus invites everyone, each one of us to give all our baggage to Him – his arms are open and He will give you what he promises – rest and refreshment. The baggage will no longer weigh heavily upon you as you let go and turn to our Lord and Saviour.

Finally, thank you to all those who have made us *both* so very welcome in this wonderful Parish of St Paul's Wokingham. I have learnt so much from being a priest in your midst. Please pray for us as we will pray for you.

God bless
Julie and Keith

A Celtic prayer

Spirit of God around me

In the air that I breathe.

Glory of God around me

Inspiring all I see.

Joy of God around me in laughter and mirth

Majesty of God around me.

In the fruitfulness of the earth

Son of God around me.

In the creatures of this land.

Love of God around me

Holding my future in his hands.

Liz Babbs



Tithings - a new aspect to Church life at St Paul's

(And it's not about money!)

Those of you who read the last issue of this magazine will have seen an article by John Hoskins about tithing in the more commonly understood sense about giving a proportion of one's income. However this new initiative at St Paul's is quite different.

Read on ---

What is tithing anyway?

A tithing was a grouping of the households living within 10 hides of land in 10th century England. They were a small community, mutually supportive and jointly responsible for one another's health and flourishing.

THE VISION BEHIND THIS PLAN FOR ST PAUL'S IS TO FORM SIMILAR COMMUNITIES OF ABOUT TEN PEOPLE WHO ARE COMMITTED TO MUTUAL NURTURE, FLOURISHING AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

Key Facts about the Tithings Initiative

- Tithings are going to be the core of pastoral care at St Paul's from September, along with a trained volunteer Pastoral Care Team.
- They are groups of about 10 people who agree to meet together about three times a year.
- They will be the first port of call when someone is ill as well as being an encouragement and a support to each other in all of the stuff of life.
- Groups can be based on geography, or existing Church groups but we hope that most groups will be a cross-section of the congregation.

- The underlying vision and hope behind this plan is of groups of people of all ages and backgrounds who commit to walk with each other as pilgrims and disciples, to learn from each other, to share the journey. St Paul's is too big a Church to allow everyone to relate to everyone else so this is a gentle and affirming way of building community within the family of the Church. It is an attempt to go with the grain of what we have and who we are already, building on the values and traditions of St Paul's.
- Please pray for the flourishing of this new adventure in Christ.

Richard

We need some items for Holiday Bible Club can you help?

- Vent hoses for tumble dryers or extractor fans .(We know where we can buy these but if you have a spare one it will reduce our costs and help to make a space suit!)
- Cardboard tubes from kitchen roll, cling film , wrapping paper or foil. (No toilet roll centres please)
- Lurex or other shiny material leggings or tee shirts (also useful for spacesuits)
- Silver gaffer or duck tape
- Strong cardboard boxes suitable to make into a model space station.
- Please save any of the above that you no longer need and pass them onto Lynn Smith for the children to use in July.



A Prayer for our Church on Woosehill

At our service on Sunday May 19th, Eileen included the prayer below. Do please read it and let the message lay on your heart. It is not designed to make anyone feel guilty or hard pressed, but to listen for God's message about his plans for the future of our beloved church:

"In all their troubles, He was troubled, too. He didn't send someone else to help them. He did it himself, in person"
Isaiah 63:9 The Message Bible

Heavenly Father, we are few in number compared to years gone by. Many of us are getting older. Sometimes, we get disheartened - and wonder if we will ever again see the growth that this church once experienced.

Have compassion upon Woosehill Church, dear Lord. Remember your Covenant. Your love and mercy are timeless and unfailing. Come in power. Come to give life and growth to Woosehill Church. Do this in such a way that you are recognised and glorified as the giver of this life. Cause us to be excited by you.

"O God, you search us - and you know us. All our thoughts lie open to your gaze"

Shine your liberating light into our hearts and minds - to give us a fresh revelation of the glorious majesty of Jesus and His vast love.

Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see where you are working - in each one of us - and in our church. Enable us to recognise the things you want us to perceive. Open our ears to hear what you are saying to us - and asking of us. Enable us to comprehend the things you want us to understand.

Jesus, demonstrate your power over all that holds us back. Sweep away everything that binds us - all hindrances to our natural and spiritual growth. Energise and motivate us. Make us a bold, active church with a heart for your service and a desire for your glory.

Dear God, we cannot do this in our own strength, but you can do what we are unable to do. When we are weak then we can be strong in you. Demonstrate your power on our behalf. Fill us to the measure with love for you - and for each other - so that everyone will know that we are your disciples

Lord, you are able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine - by your power at work in us. To You be glory in this church and in Christ Jesus throughout the generations, for ever and ever!

Amen





PMC and me

(a conversation between Steve and Eileen about our Partnership in Missional Church journey written by Eileen)

Steve:-

Woosehill Church started its PMC journey in September 2015, initially all went well, ably led by our Minister Paddy and Gavin (*the steering team leader*). Unfortunately, as we started year 2 Paddy left and owing to a change in his work commitments Gavin was unable to provide the required input as the steering team leader. At this point we started to flounder unsure what to do and struggling to make any progress with the year 2 Missional Adaptive Challenge. By February 2016 I, Steve Lewis, had taken over as steering team leader and our new Minister, Patrick had arrived, (*but he was still getting to know his new Church and understand what PMC was all about*). What was clear in February 2016 was that the Missional Innovation Team was in crisis unable to recruit members or make any progress, so I agreed to attend one of their meetings to see if I could help; Where I met Eileen...

Like me, Eileen was on the margins of Church life and took quite some persuading to join the PMC team. But now she is the driving force in getting our outreach activities up and running. Also, Eileen provides me with much needed support and reassurance as I carry out my steering team leader duties, acting as my conscience, questioning me, challenging me, correcting me! Both of us have moved from the edge to the centre of Church life - I'm still trying to work out how that happened and whether I like it or not!

Eileen:-

"Go and ask about it! Go and ask about it!" Someone had been talking about Partnership For Missional Church (PMC) during the church service. I'd only been half-listening. But as the service ended, a strong impression seemed to come upon me "Go and ask about it! Go and ask about it!". I knew I needed to know more about PMC. My query resulted in an invitation to the next PMC meeting.

I had a lot of questions - such as "*where is God in all this?*" - and a lot more. Steve Lewis, the PMC leader, patiently answered my bombardment of questions. Eventually I got my head round it all. What struck me most was the fact that PMC is about looking to see where God is at work in our community and joining with Him in the

work. That was what attracted me and drew me in.

You see, forty years ago, God intervened powerfully in my life to bring me to know that there is a God - and that He is not a distant God, but One who can break into human lives and share His heart with them. So the primary concept of PMC totally resonated with me. In fact I absolutely loved the idea of being involved in a process of seeking to know where God wants us to join in with His work in the community.

Our 'brief' was to reach out to isolated and lonely people. So, after much prayer and discussion, we set up three groups, **Sing Something Simple, Wool With A Mission**, and **Woosehill Watercolour Group**. The most exciting and fulfilling aspect of my involvement in PMC has been watching God at work in answer to the prayers that the church has been praying. He has inspired and provided for the groups, led people to us, and blessed the work of PMC.

Prior to becoming involved with PMC, my husband, Ian, and I been at Woosehill Church for about eight years. However, my job as a travel photographer meant that I was out of the UK a lot of the time. So I'd never really had the time to become terribly involved in the church, or to develop strong relationships. It was not long after I'd given up the travel photography that PMC came to my notice.

For me, one of the most satisfying aspects of PMC has been the deepening of my relationships within the church. Woosehill Church is a lovely, gentle church. We have been so happy there. But now I find that relationships have moved onto a different level; deeper friendships; a sense that these people really are 'family'.

But what I love most of all about PMC is that, when God 'shows up' in answer to prayer, people get excited. I'm reminded of the saying "God is most glorified when we are most delighted in Him." I believe that PMC is a God-glorifying process and, for me, that is more important than anything else.

But a very close second is the joy of seeing lonely people, with tears in their eyes, talk about how much it means to them to be able come to the groups. Sometimes they haven't spoken to a soul for days; so being able to spend time in supportive company is a very important to them. That gives me an awful lot of satisfaction.

Eileen Fletcher



Events at Woosehill

*****Please note the day and time*****

Woosehill Church invites you to a Pentecost Vigil

Saturday 8th June
6:15pm to 7:15pm

Reflective Worship



Acts 1:4 "Waiting for the Father's Promise"

Pentecost, also called Whitsunday, celebrates the founding of the Church of Christ, when the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles, as recorded in The Acts of the Apostles. Pentecost is celebrated fifty days after Easter Sunday.

The Parish of St Paul Wokingham Sermon series 2019

as part of Choral Evensong at St Paul's @ 6.15 pm
on the 3rd Sunday of the month



June the 16th: The Rev'd Jane Kraft

Jane has (wonderfully) been involved in the life of the Parish since she retired to Owlsmoor in 2015. She had previously served as Asst Curate of Finchley and Team Vicar of Chipping Barnet. She is also Associate Area Dean of Sonning.

July the 21st: Special Summer Celebration Evensong

September the 15th: The Rev'd Vusi Mabuza @ Woosehill Church

Vusi came on placement to St Paul's in 2017. He served, until recently, in the Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman in South Africa. He now lives in Warfield and works at Windsor Castle while trying to work out how the Church of England functions!



Weekdays at Woosehill

**Wool With A Mission - third Thursday of the month
from 10am to midday:**

**June 20th
July 18th**

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**

**June 6th
July 4th**

For more information see:

<https://singwoosehill.wordpress.com>



Woosehill Watercolour

Places are limited on this new Thursday morning initiative, so have a word with Eileen for further details



WOW Calendar for 2019

June: Walk and pub with Amy



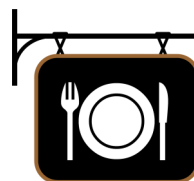
July: Al fresco evening with Lyn Brown



August: Walk and picnic at Dinton with Gillian



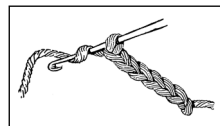
September: Meal out with Lynne Paine



October: Skittles evening with Lynn Smith



November: Learn to crochet with Eileen





**Rev'd Julie Mintern's Licensing
St Michael's and All Angels, Lambourn
7.00 pm - 29th July 2019**



It is hoped that as many people as possible will be able to attend Julie's licensing and if a sufficient number of people would like to go by coach, one will be organised.

The coach would have to leave Wokingham at about 5.15 pm and would get back around 11.15 pm.

It is estimated that the cost should be no more than £15.00 per person, but the more people there are, the less expensive it will be. For children and Under 18s, the cost will be £5.00; a definite price.

If you are interested in coming on the coach, please will the people at St Paul's sign up on the sheet at the back of the church.

Anyone at St Nick's or Woosehill who would like to come on the coach, please would you email me at rhoda43@virginmedia.com and I will add you to the list; and I will acknowledge that I have received your email.

Money will be collected beforehand – this will be notified at a later date - but please be aware that if you have to drop out within two weeks of the date, we will have to ask you for the fare, unless your place is taken by someone making a late decision. The cost per person will have been calculated on the number signed up.

Rhoda Hart



Kennet Court Very Sheltered Housing

This development is in the middle of our Parish, very near to Morrison's and home to many in either apartments or bungalows, where residents can be as independent as they wish.

There is a home cooked lunch for those who struggle to cope on their own or for those who just enjoy a meal with their friends. There are activities provided for, by the entertainment team most days of the week and the residents meet in a large lounge for these activities.

As a church we hold a service on the third Thursday each month and twice a year our music group hold a concert; at Christmas time this is a mixture of Christmas music and Carols. The summer concert has some songs to sing along to and other pieces to listen to. As a church we are always made welcome when we visit, especially to their Christmas and summer fairs.

You are always welcome to join in the services and help swell the numbers. If you feel you would like to participate in any way at Kennet Court or to find out more about the accommodation, please speak to me.

Lynn Smith

HELP URGENTLY NEEDED !

Can you use a computer? The Church needs your help!

The team that man the projector is about to be reduced to

3, this means that we will not be able to project all our services as each of the team have other responsibilities in the Church. It is not difficult (let face it I can operate it) and full training will be given. Please let me know as soon as possible if there is any chance you could help even if it is just to see what is required before committing. Thank you, Lynne.

email lynnepaine@yahoo.co.uk or call 9774257.





Praying for Christians in the Middle East at Pentecost

This creative prayer idea is inspired by a Syriac-Orthodox tradition. During their Pentecost liturgy, leaves are dipped into a bowl of water.

You will need:

A bowl of water, some leaves, a permanent marker pen and a Bible opened at Psalm 1.

Think of some distinct nations and Christian traditions Embrace's partners come from:

Egypt, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon and Syria

Eastern Catholic, Protestant and a range of Orthodox traditions including Syriac and Coptic.

Choose one of these nations or traditions at a time

Write each one of a separate leaf. Then dip the leaf in the water.

As each leaf gets wet:

Thank God that His Spirit is present with all His people in this nation or part of the church.

Pray a fresh blessing on the Christians connected to this distinct part of His family tree.

Pray specifically for Christians in the Middle East to be like Psalm 1:3's tree:

Rooted in Christ and drinking deep from the Spirit's life-giving water

Bearing fruit to help vulnerable people in their community, whatever the season.





RIDE + STRIDE for Churches

Ride and Stride 2018 is now a pretty distant memory for most of us, but with the final results now in it's worth pausing to take note of what we achieved, and to thank all those who helped us achieve it. Altogether some 75 riders and striders made 471 visits to 72 churches, and raised almost £19,000 for the Royal County of Berkshire Churches Trust – money that will go directly to helping keep the churches of our county in good repair.

Last year I walked with a friend through Reading. Some of the churches I had visited before, some were new to me, but all gave me cause to stop and stare and wonder. I started at the church of the English Martyrs in Tilehurst and ended (via Reading Abbey ruins and the church of St James) at St Peter's in Caversham, and altogether visited sixteen churches. There were too many to describe here individually, but some stand out – the lofty interior of J P St Aubyn's All Saints, Downshire Square; the wonderful furnishings (including a Pugin screen) at Holy Trinity; the grandeur of the Minster; the classical restraint of St Mary Castle Street; the quietness of the burial ground behind the Friends' Meeting House in Church Street; the Victorian gothic masterpiece that is Henry Woodyer's Christ Church; and the magnificent series of stained glass windows by C E Kempe at St Luke's. And at many of them I met people who clearly loved their churches and were glad to share their love and their knowledge with me. It was a great way to spend a Saturday, and an inspiration to be reminded of the magnificent heritage we have in Berkshire.

Doubtless other participants could tell similar stories of their experiences elsewhere in Berkshire. I myself am planning to explore another part of the county in September 2019. If you would like to take part, have a word with your local organiser – or email rideandstrideberks@gmail.com. Whether you visit two churches or twenty, I'm sure you'll have a good day, and whether you raise £50 or £500, every penny will help our churches.

Peter Durrant

Chairman, Royal County of Berkshire Churches Trust



In the Parish

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
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

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

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