

Woosehill Church Magazine

Sharing God's love with the community

May - June 2020



Find us on our website
woosehillchurch.org
and on our Facebook page



Dear Church Family and all other readers,

This is a magazine with a difference and one to look back on in future years. It will appear online only on the Woosehill Church and St Paul's parish websites as well as by a circulated link.

In these times when life is changed dramatically by the global Covid19 pandemic, we have had to find ways to stay connected. The church buildings have been closed but the church communities have been active, spreading the love and staying connected and many of us have learnt to navigate our way around new technology, whilst the landline, at our house at least, is busier than it has been for many a year.

I have asked for contributions from our church family: how are you filling your time, how are you keeping up social contacts, which worship study are you finding helpful?

Here is a selection of the responses!

Stay safe and God bless,
Val

Next deadline:

12 July - provisional!

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
A message from Jo	6
WOW online	7-8
Pub at home with MOW And a limerick from Amy!	9-10
A Good News Story Ann Pearce	11
Together in Prayer in lockdown Lyn Brown	12
Life in lockdown Sue Smith	13
CS Lewis	14
Parish Pastoral Carers	15
A Prayer for a Global Pandemic	16
Our Giving - John Hoskins Meditation Group Susannah Riley	17
Yeldall Manor update	18-19
A Special Story - Lynn Smith Tadpoles - Val Weedon	20-21
Worship Resources	22
Nursing and Care Homes	23
Current service provision	24

Next step for Patrick's Nomadic Journey



At the time I write this piece I am conflicted but hopeful. Yes you might say there is some trepidation and angst. My time comes to an end in this beautiful part of the country in a month's time.

Yet I am not sure where the Lord Jesus Christ takes us or allows us to go next. As I look back, I think of my life thus far being like that of a nomad.

When I was little, my father worked for what then was the East African Railways & Harbours. Memory is sometimes sharp and vague at other times, but I remember travelling on those beautiful Choo, chug and chuff monstrosities to places like Jinja in Uganda, Iringa in southern Tanzania, Ndi and Nairobi in Kenya. Transfers were frequent and we went wherever my father was posted. To manage my being uprooted from one school to another, my parents placed me in a boarding school when I was only eight years old.

It was not until I was twelve that I rejoined the family after the railways and harbours were split and my father opted to remain in the harbours in Mombasa city. There as a day scholar, I completed my primary school and went off again to a school 400 miles away in Nairobi. Up and down, up and down I went, as the sleeker diesel engine trains replaced the forest guzzling steam ones, until the 'O' and 'A' levels were finished with me.

Nomadic life over? No way. Nairobi University beckoned. After graduation, I was posted to Kilifi 40 miles north of Mombasa, as an Agricultural Engineer and Helen joined me as a Veterinary Officer. There we served the Lord and His people until we were called to train for church ministry and again went to Nairobi for three years. I was ordained in the Anglican Diocese of Mombasa and served as a Diocesan youth Advisor.

Three years down the line, the Church Mission Society came knocking and the Lord sent us to Blackbird Leys Oxford, as missionary youth workers. That apart from an earlier toe dip in the Brummy language was our baptism of fire for seven years. Thereafter I was appointed Principal of a Bishop Hannington Bible School in Mombasa for three years, then Pioneer Minister in Penhill



Swindon before it pleased the Lord to allow us this three year stint in Wokingham.

We came to Wokingham expecting to meet the pumped up middle England that Jeremy Paxman and Kate Fox talk about. Blackbird Leys and Penhill had opened our eyes to the poverty mentality in the UK. Wokingham has pleasantly surprised us especially with the generosity of the people. The picture of Cutteslow walls built to keep out the undesirables has all been wiped out. People are generous with their time and what they have.

Even though we have gone through lean times for leadership, we never have had to ask for special permissions to keep people in as Wardens or Council members. You have always risen to the challenges that have come our way including Helen's illness and recuperation. You have also been very forgiving of my own foibles like turning in late expenses claims and some long sermons with me claiming that in Africa we use the sun to tell the time! I am sure the people of Woosehill even in these unprecedented times will rise up to work together with and support the new minister as they have overwhelmingly done with me. I see the vacant posts of the Stewards being filled to overflowing, by young people.

We would have loved to stay in the parish but I am stained with nomadic blood and have to take my tent now to I don't know where yet. Lord don't you think that at my age I should be settling down and not having to go interviewing for new assignments. Yes I know you called Abraham when he was 70 and Moses 80. But surely the socioeconomics of those many years ago do not sync with today. I know you'll tell us where to go next and I should have learnt never to be anxious but I find brinkmanship (or is it brinkgodship?) really terrifying. I would not have done well at the Red Sea.

May I pray for the people of Woosehill and Wokingham in general. Please reward their love and investment in us and ours in them. Thank you for the privilege and opportunity to serve them in your name. Give them spiritual wisdom and the insight to know You more. May they receive that inner illumination of the Holy Spirit that they may know how great is the hope to which You have called them. May they always be fruitful in all you have called them to be and do. May missionaries come from here to the ends of

earth.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among them and remain always with them.

AMEN

Patrick



We are very sad that we can't say a proper goodbye to Patrick as the church building is not open for us to organise a celebration of his time with us and to give thanks for his ministry here.

We send our love and prayers to him and to Helen and hope that we may be able to get together at a later date, face to face and not just through Zoom.

Editor - Val





A Message from Jo

Most of you will know that Joanne, the daughter of our dear friend Jo died tragically early, leaving behind a grieving husband, two children and of course her Mum.

Jo recently sent me this message which she is happy to share with us.

'My daughter Joanne's memorial stone was erected a few weeks ago and at the bottom of the stone was the first verse of a poem by Emily Dickinson, an American who lived from 1830 – 1886. The subject of the poem was hope.

I am attaching the whole poem for you plus a bit about the author.

I think at the moment we all need hope, Joanne certainly had it. The first verse is on her memorial stone:

“Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
That sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all.”

And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.

I've heard it in the chilliest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.”

Emily Dickinson was born on December 10, 1830, in Amherst, Massachusetts. While she was extremely prolific as a poet and regularly enclosed poems in letters to friends, she was not publicly recognized during her lifetime. She died in Amherst in 1886, and the first volume of her work was published posthumously in 1890. "Hope is the thing with feathers" (written around 1861) is a popular poem by Emily Dickinson. In the poem, "Hope" is metaphorically transformed into a strong-willed bird that lives within the human soul—and sings its song no matter what. Essentially, the poem seeks to remind readers of the power of hope and how little it requires of people. The speaker makes it clear that hope has been helpful in times of difficulty and has never asked for anything in return.

Women of Woosehill Church - WOW

Our WOW group went online in the early stages of lockdown. I was due to host an evening entitled 'Bring a book or a favourite object' and it seemed entirely possible to do this online. A WOW e-group was formed and around 14 church ladies signed up to take part. Over the next few weeks our inboxes were full as people submitted their choices to me and I circulated them at an interval of several days, inviting comments and discussion. What an array of items we had:

Ruth sent in this picture 'found in my fathers art notebooks a pen and ink drawing of our family home. Now framed on our wall.'



Lynne was able to share an object online which she wouldn't have brought to my house with a lovely story attached:

'For those of you who have visited my house you will have seen my child's Orkney chair in my lounge. Thanks to John H I now know that it is worth around £600 after he alerted me to the fact that one was on the Antiques Roadshow recently.

Some of you will be aware that I am from north Northumberland and that my parents were Scottish, from Fife. As a small child I would go and stay with my grandparents for part of my school holidays. When I stayed with my granny (mum's mum) you went out to visit her friends on certain days and usually got squash and homemade cake! This chair belonged to one of her friends, known to me as Granny Blackwood. I was allowed to sit in the chair as long as I sat still! I must have behaved for when Granny Blackwood was near the end of her life she insisted that my granny took the chair and gave it to me (she had



no grandchildren). I would have been a young teenager at the time. The act of kindness always impressed me and it not only brings back the memories of my visits to Granny Blackwood but the memory of the visits to my granny who lived within throwing distance from the Firth of Forth. A time when you went out in the morning and only went back to be feed. Much fun and fresh air was had. I am sure some of the memories are "rose tinted" but I was definitely happy.'



Having exhausted this topic we moved onto WOW's next planned activity which was Easter garden and afternoon tea. We were regaled with garden photos and memories of temptingly delicious afternoon teas in wonderful settings - an outing for when we are together again?

Lynne took over after this and organised a fun quiz with childhood pictures of group members for us to have a guess at. Some were instantly recognisable, Lynne herself was the most difficult with only one correct guess!

We will continue to think of inventive ways to be together until we can meet again.

Val

----- and meanwhile a small, but select group of our menfolk, or MOW, have a rather different programme as John Hoskins relates:

A Virtual World



Let me first say that I am distinctly out of my comfort zone when it comes to technology, but, even so, have been impressed at how quickly we all seem to have adapted to on screen meetings, both business and social.

Not without its mishaps and “out takes” it must be said. As a Chartered Surveyor and still doing some work, I have to complete 20 hours of continuing professional development every year and, unsurprisingly, I was very quick to take up an unprecedented offer of free CPD by the RICS. Part of this was a very long talk to approximately 1300 people watching a lady who is leader of a large Council in the south, during which “low battery” flashed up on the screen. There was a look of panic and a gesture to, clearly, one of her teenage daughters to go and get a power cable. When it arrived it was the wrong one. “Go and get Molly’s” was the reaction – shortly followed by an irate teenager storming into the room shouting “you can’t do that, you’ve just lost all my work”. At which point the screen froze and then cut off. Sadly, it was edited out when the recordings were made available the next day!

Now, not many people know this, but over the years Tony, Bob and I having been meeting up for an evening in the pub. Usually the Wheelwrights in Davis Street, but other pubs are available, especially when we find the Wheelwrights crowded out with members of WOW (they are far too rowdy)! Bob kindly drives, has a pint of lager – ‘Amstel if you’re buying’ – then moves on to St Clements. Tony and I do try others, but our favourite is Wadworth’s Swordfish (again, in case you’re buying). It provides an excellent opportunity to put the world to rights and to re-affirm how much better a job we could do than our politicians of whatever persuasion.



With the advent of lockdown we thought we would have a virtual night at the pub, but with real beer of course. Wadworths fortunately do mail order, so when a consignment of Swordfish turned up we were all set. A time and date were put in the diary and we set up a Skype meeting. All went very well, the connection was good, the beer was good and the conversation (and the beer) flowed. There was the occasional empty chair as the call of nature intervened, but, before we knew it, it was closing time.

So, we all said goodnight and went our separate ways. When I emerged from the study the house was in darkness and Mrs H. was in bed. So, just like the real thing!

John (his hair has grown!)



Amy entertains us again with one of her limericks!

Our Amy an old lady was she
Well known for hating her PC
But on Good Friday she found
Complete with sound
A service from Singapore Cathedral
Yippee!



A Good News Story

These are scrubs made by Jane White from Tilehurst but she has been able to pack them beautifully with cards donated by members of our parish and it really has made all the difference.



I am also about to sew on 40 buttons on mask extenders made by my cousin in Cornwall and they will go to care homes in our area.

Donations of thread and elastic are also flying in all directions.

All blue sheets are now being worn by staff at the Sue Ryder Hospice at Nettlebed!

Stop Press!

And this is what happened to some of your buttons!

Thank you to everyone.



Ann Pearce



Together in Prayer in lockdown

As you probably know, we have a monthly prayer group which meets together to pray for our Church, our Parish and the community around us. Once we went into lockdown, it became apparent that we needed to find a way of talking together about all the issues that were arising and to continue to pray together about all those concerns. It also became clear that meeting once a month was just not enough! Consequently, my husband Craig set us up with a 'Woosehill Prayer Meeting' via a "Lifesize" app on our phones, laptops or PCs and we have been able to meet together every Thursday evening for prayer. It has seemed really appropriate to be able to do this after having stood on our doorsteps to applaud all the NHS and frontline workers for their unceasing efforts in the war against Coronavirus.



Over the last few weeks we have been privileged to bring to the Lord our worries and anxieties but always with our thanks and praise for His steadfast presence in this time of deep uncertainty for us all. Here is one of the prayers we have used:

Dear Lord,
Help us in our time of need
Take away the burden of anxiety and worry
And replace it with a deep knowledge of your Spirit with us
The peace that only you can give
And the comfort that envelops us
As you surround us with your loving presence
Stay close Lord
Amen

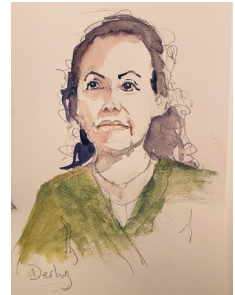
Lyn Brown

Contact Lyn or Lynn Smith for more information or to join this group

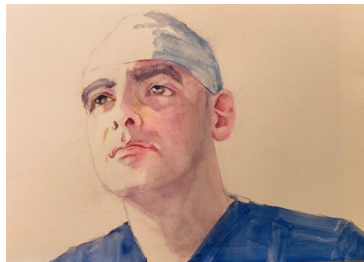
Life in Lockdown

For any artists out there, I am really enjoying the fabulous plays being streamed each week by the National Theatre and most if not all of the London Art Galleries have virtual art exhibitions and talks. I have been meeting up with local artists via Zoom to paint each other's portraits. I'm getting really good at 10 minute poses. Great fun!

Here is an example:



One that took longer was a local surgeon who posed for two hours in his scrubs for the charity GUTS which aims to catch bowel cancer early:



Mike and I are also enjoying playing games with the family via zoom. It's lovely to see their faces. In fact our kids are really making an effort to keep us up to date with photos, videos and face time calls.

Sue Smith

Thanks Sue also for sending the wonderful C S Lewis quote on the next page.



Written by C.S. Lewis in 1942 in response to the effects of WW II....

C.S. Lewis 1942

Satan: "I will cause anxiety,
fear and panic.
I will shutdown
business, schools,
places of worship
and sports events.
I will cause economic turmoil".

Jesus: "I will bring together neighbours,
restore the family unit,
I will bring dinner back
to the kitchen table.
I will help people slow down their lives
and appreciate what really matters.
I will teach my children to rely on me
and not the world.
I will teach my children to trust me
and not their money and material resources."

Parish Pastoral Carers

Judi Hattaway and Jane Kraft have done a sterling job keeping in touch with those who attended the Pastoral Carers' morning in February a group from across the parish who are particularly concerned in maintaining contact with those in need for reasons of health or loneliness.

Daily emails have included beautiful photos from Jane and Judi's travels, scenes of the unfolding Spring and personal reflections. The responses from recipients has shown how much these have been appreciated.

Thank you Judi and Jane.



Do you need support?

Our pastoral lead at Woosehill Church is Lynn Smith

We are very much here for you at this time— if you need prayer please contact us on woosehillprayerchain@gmail.com or if you need any practical help call us on 0118 9619393



A prayer for a global pandemic

'Love...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.'

(1 Corinthians 13:7-8)

Loving God, strengthen our innermost being with your love that bears all things even the weight of this global pandemic
even the endurance of watching for symptoms or patiently waiting for this to pass
watching while we pray,
keeping our gaze fixed on you,
and looking out for our neighbours near and far.
Instil in our shaken souls the belief and hope that all things are possible with your creative love
for strangers to become friends
for science to source solutions
for resources to be generously shared
so everyone, everywhere, may have what they need.
May your perfect love that knows no borders
cast out any fear and selfishness that divides.
May your love that never ends
be our comfort, strength and guide for the wellbeing of all and
the glory of God.
Amen.

Thanks to Michael Taylor for this prayer, from a Methodist Bulletin sent to him by friends in Northern Ireland

Our giving

A message from our senior steward John Hoskins:

With no physical Church services there is no physical collection plate and the vital income from our lettings has dried up completely. At the same time the Church continues to have financial outgoings in this difficult time –utility bills, insurance and other regular payments, but, principally, what we pay to our 2 parent churches to cover the salaries of our ministers etc.

We are incredibly grateful to all those who continue to give generously by standing order. If you normally use the numbered envelopes and wish to continue regular giving at this critical time can we ask you to consider giving via online transactions. Similarly, if you normally contribute by cash you can still continue to contribute to the virtual collection bag electronically or by cheque or, indeed cash (we do have the facility to scan and deposit cheques so there is no need for us to go to the bank). Please do speak to or email Tony Sayer or John Hoskins for further information.

johnhoskins@talk21.com
tony.sayer@ntlworld.com

Meditation Group

Currently taking place via Zoom

If you would like to learn more, please email Susannah Riley at

meditationgroup@spauls.org.uk





Yeldall Update June 2020

By Sue Hedger

**Administration & Supporter Relations
Manager**



Life at Yeldall, as everywhere, is much-changed these days. I am currently working from home, but it is great to be in touch with those staff who are working hard at Yeldall, and to hear how things are going. We have been doing building work to make sure that we have enough single rooms for everyone to reduce risk of infection should any of the residents develop the virus. We have also commandeered a staff flat as an isolation unit, thanks to St. John's Convent allowing us to rent their retreat house for the five staff, which was a real God-send.

The staff team on-site are operating a reduced programme, so the residents have more spare time, and of course they still can't go out or have visitors, so that is hard. Some have struggled with this, as we all do from time to time, but the overwhelming sense is one of gratitude for being in a safe place at this time. It is also great that we are still able to welcome a limited number of new admissions, as the need is, if anything, greater than ever.

Sadly, this year, we can't hold our normal Ride for Recovery for the Good Samaritan Bursary Fund. But you can still ride (or walk, or run) the distance of your choice, either outside or in your own home if you have an exercise bike or treadmill. We are starting on 6th June, the date we would have held the ride, but are giving you all week.

So, if you want to walk two miles or cycle 100 miles (or more?) over the week, you can. Because the time and duration are up to you, all the family can take part too, in whatever way suits them, and it's open to people all over the world! As always, you can support the Bursary Fund either through donations and/or sponsorship on JustGiving.

We already have a man with Downs Syndrome cycling for five hours on a static exercise bike over the week (his brother took part last year and he wants to do something to help), and a couple walking between church members' houses (staying socially distanced, obviously) so having a pastoral benefit too. What could you do? To join or for more info, please email suehedger@yeldall.org.uk or visit www.rideforrecovery.co.uk.

The other event we are missing out on is our annual Open Day. This year, we will be holding a virtual event on-line instead. This will be on the afternoon of Saturday 4th July (probably 3pm) and will be available on Facebook, YouTube and our website at <http://www.yeldall.org.uk/support-yeldall/forthcoming-events/>.

Please tune in and enjoy updates, worship, testimony and more – don't forget your strawberries!

STRIDE FOR RECOVERY

6th - 13th June 2020





A special story from Lynn Smith

Thank you to Bertie for his Emails.

This is a long story and I will do my best to keep it to the point. When I was 15, I went to the Word Guide Chalet in Switzerland, the mode of transport was the train, and my Guide Captain needed 12 to get party travel rates and there were not enough of us aged 15 to go so she invited her niece and her friend Pauline who were Guides in Chard Somerset; we were from Newton Abbot in Devon.

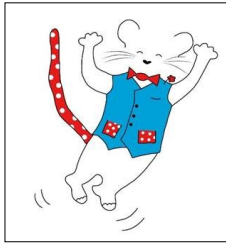
We had a wonderful time but did not see or hear from the Chard Guides again. Seven years later I was a Ward Sister nursing in the Army in Hongkong and had a patient, an Army teacher, who seemed familiar but the Mess I lived in had a member with the same surname so I dismissed it until one afternoon I was talking to her and another patient who asked where in the UK we came from and when Pauline said Chard I said "Switzerland 1963" and she knew who I was - she thought she knew me but couldn't place me! That evening she introduced me to her fiancé, a Major in the Royal Signals, and they invited me to their wedding in Hongkong a short while afterwards and Pauline and I met a few times before the wedding.

On the day of the wedding I travelled to the service in transport with a school friend of hers whose husband was in the Navy and we went afterwards to the reception in the Mess and stood together not knowing anyone else, when two Subalterns came over to chat to us, and introducing themselves asked if we knew the bride or groom. When I said we had met through Guiding, Colin one of the Officers said "Oh you were a Guide were you I was a Scout" and the rest is history....

Leaving Hongkong we lost touch with Mike and Pauline until my wonderful husband Colin decided to surprise me with a party for my 60th birthday and contacting Military friends managed to get in touch with Mike and Pauline at whose wedding we had met - unfortunately they couldn't make the party but we have kept in touch since and attended their Ruby wedding and they have visited us in Wokingham.

The other Saturday I answered the phone to Pauline who asked if I was the Lynn Smith on the Bertie Emails talking about Food banks. This was amazing, as they live in Sherborne in Dorset! Their Granddaughter has been planning her wedding at St Paul's for 2021 and when she realised her Grandparents were missing a Sunday service sent them the Bertie news with details of Sunday worship which they have really enjoyed. She now forwards Bertie or Richard's messages to her Grandparents every day.

It just goes to show how the internet can bring people together - and well done Bertie!



Tadpoles

We are missing our little ones and their parents and grandparents who normally meet at church on Wednesday mornings for playtime, craft, songs and snacks for the children, coffee for the adults.

We are keeping in touch through our closed group Facebook page 'Tadpoles at Wooshill' and every Wednesday I post the first line of our circle gathering song 'Hello everyone, how are you today?' We also share craft activities from time to time and sometimes pictures of the children and their activities are posted for us to share. We'd rather be together physically, but in the meantime virtually will have to do!

Val



Worship resources

I am following the daily devotional using the Lectio365 app, recommended a while ago by Lynn. It provides a short 'service' of around 10 minutes daily, can be read or listened to in the audio version and is up to date, taking account of the Covid19 pandemic, so prayers are relevant to our current situation. At present they are using extracts from Pete Greig's book 'How to Pray'.

I do like the prayer which closes each day's devotional:

Father help me to live this day to the full

Being true to You, in every way.

Jesus, help me to give myself away to others,

Being kind to everyone I meet.

Spirit, help me to love the lost,

Proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.

Amen

Val

-- and a prayer from Patrick from the Church of England Easter Pilgrim app, also available by email daily:

God of love and light,

In this time of fear, give us your peace.

In this time of isolation, give us your presence.

In this time of sickness, give us your healing.

In this time of uncertainty, give us your wisdom.

In this time of darkness, shine your light upon us all.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Churches Together in Wokingham

Nursing and Care Homes- how you can help

We are making progress with the work we are part of on Nursing and Care Homes, who need our support now as much as ever. Please do write, or send a picture, or reach out to whichever home you know, to both the staff and residents. And then, in terms of what we are doing in the parish, we are collecting hand cream for staff to use after they have washed their hands: Please deliver them to Mary Cassidy (28 Holmes Crescent) for West Oak, Teri Austen (17 Martins Drive) for Alexandra Grange or Vince Pearson (15 Sadlers Lane) for Lord Harris Court, or to the Parish Office (through the letter box if possible).

We are also collecting magazines you have read- they can be delivered to the same places and then passed on to the residents to give them something new to read and enjoy.

Richard

*Working for God on earth does not pay much, but
His Retirement plan is out of this world.*



Rebutia pallida



Woosehill Church Covid 19 Services update

At **9.30** each Sunday morning an Anglican service is livestreamed from the Rectory on YouTube through the St Paul's website:

www.stpauls-wokingham.org.uk

And also available on Facebook led by Richard Lamey with contributions from across the parish.

An audio service is streamed from Wokingham Methodist church at **10.30** led by Catherine Bowstead and others.

www.wokinghammethodist.org.uk/

(From 'Sunday Worship' go to 'Recorded services')

Why not join our Zoom group for coffee after the service?

Contact Patrick for details of how to join.

We also Zoom:

Bible study on Tuesday evenings 8-8.30pm

Morning Prayer for the Parish on Thursday mornings at 8.30am

Contact Lynn Smith on 0118 9619393 for details

For Zoom house group on Monday evenings contact Geoff Peck on 0118 9786711

Church Contacts

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

**Rev'd Richard Lamey, The Rectory, Holt Lane 0118 3279116
richard.lamey@stpauls.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**