

Woosehill Church Magazine



Sharing God's love with the community

May - June 2023



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woosehillchurch.org
and on our Facebook page
Or follow our livestreamed services on
YouTube**



Dear Church Family and all other readers,

I think my earliest memory, probably like some other of the older members of the church, is of being invited to 'the Big House' down the road to watch on a very small black and white television the Coronation of the young Queen Elizabeth II. How different the world is now - and how different again it will be by the time of the next coronation. (I hope that won't be too soon since King Charles was born in the same week as me!)

With the news dominated recently by Royal events it is easy to lose sight of an event more important in the life of the church. As we celebrate Pentecost on Whit Sunday we remember the time when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. It is a time for joy and festivity, embracing the origins of the church as a diverse and multicultural family.

'When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.'

*With every blessing,
Val*

Next deadline: Sunday July 16th
Articles and notices as usual
preferably by e-mail to:
valerie.weedon@btinternet.com

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God Save the King!



A prayer for the new King

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King.
Bless his reign and the life of our nation.
Help us to work together
so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness
flourish among us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



The Tadpoles team celebrated the Coronation in fine style with a range of craft activities and produced this wonderful work of art especially commissioned by the church for the event! It is now displayed in the church for all to see.





Pastoral Care Groups

It has become apparent to the Church Council that the emphasis on the Pastoral Care Groups had dropped somewhat recently and that this needed some action. So a meeting was convened to discuss the purpose and way forward for these groups.

The view is that the Pastoral Care Groups are best viewed as mutual support networks that could pick up on any problems members of the congregation might have, with the clergy remaining a central component. The network supplements and does not replace existing friendship and activity groups. It is also clear that there will be differences in the way the groups operate, in line with the expectations of the coordinator and the members. The people

currently given as the main contacts for the groups should be considered as group coordinators rather than group leaders, ensuring that the network functions effectively. A guiding principle is that we, as a congregation, need to look out for one another and the groups can form a network, which perhaps notices when things are not quite right and can check if there are any issues. In the event of a problem, the coordinators can provide a sympathetic ear and if necessary work with you to identify additional support, if you feel that is needed.

Given that we had not been successful in activating the network at its initial launch, the coordinators propose to meet once a term to discuss progress ensuring that the clergy play an active part.

There are a number of stages involved in reactivating the Pastoral Care Groups, and we will be reporting progress back to the Church Council at its next meeting. We intend to ratify our approach by briefing Staff and Stewards at their June meeting. Coordinators have been asked to ensure that they contact all members of their groups within the next six weeks. This article will be the first stage in publicising our approach and we hope to formally relaunch the groups at the July Café Church.

It is important that as many people as possible have an input into how the pastoral groups should work and their purpose; so please

discuss any thoughts you may have, suggestions, questions or concerns with your coordinator or with the Stewards or So-



Elaine's Patch

Are you Park or Village?



If you drive south down the A33 out of Reading it becomes increasingly rural until, just after the bridge crossing the River Loddon, you reach a roundabout with the right-hand lane signposted “Sherfield-on-Loddon”. If you turn there you find a traditional English village with a green, duckpond and two charming pubs which date back for centuries. However, if you continue along the A33 a little further, past the golf course and glamorous Sherfield School, another roundabout soon offers you two compact estates of newer housing: Longfields, which is still being built, on the left, and the early-2000s development of Sherfield Park (where I now live) on your right. Both have grown up on farmland and provide homes for those working in nearby bustling Basingstoke.

A few months after I had joined my local church I was standing in line for coffee after the service when one of the group of elderly ladies who sit together at the back (where they constantly complain that they can't hear or see properly!) said to me “You're quite new, aren't you? Are you Park or Village?”. She was not to know it, but my previous experience of being “village”, which involved feeling judged and excluded, had left me over-sensitive to the sort of question, and although I tried to stay calm, I could feel my hackles rising! In her very next sentence, fortunately, she explained that she herself lived on Sherfield Park, and she wondered if I had been to any of the excellent coffee mornings which took place regularly at the vibrant Community Centre? My hackles were smoothed, and I vowed not to over-react to the subject in the future.

Over the past two years I have slowly learnt more about the area, talking to people who have lived around here all their lives as well as those who, like me, have moved in fairly recently. As a keen observer of social history, I find it interesting that what has been happening here is mirrored in countless rural areas up and down the country, as the relentless mission to build enough housing for our growing population leads to a massive amount of development. Over the past few years I have been able to observe that situation



from three different points of view: from my years in Wokingham, where a well-established but burgeoning town sprouted estates such as Woosehill, which blended with ease into the life of the area; from my difficult period in Oxfordshire, where the traditions of the village reigned supreme and everyone had their “place”; from my new vantage point in Hampshire, where the energy of the younger demographic of the new estates appears to be seen as a welcome revival in community life.

Standing geographically halfway between Park and Village, desperately trying to make sense of all this, is the church to which I am now licensed.

Apparently, its unusual location outside the village originates from the time of the Black Death, when there was a need for new, safer spaces for congregations to meet away from centres of population. From its soaring spire to the delicate old paintings on its walls, under the roof which urgently needs hundreds of pounds of work to make it fit for purpose, it is still trying to serve the whole community in the best way it can.

Because of my positive experience at Woosehill, and my enthusiasm for working with families, I bounded into this old, sacred space with the feeling that its best contributions to the lives of faith of the people who live around it (in both directions) were in the past. Now, as I become more involved with the complexities of the situation, I am not so sure. When we hold our growing Messy Church sessions at the Sherfield Park Community Centre, or host the popular bi-monthly Café Church there, I see an exciting future involving a church plant and, eventually, a stand-alone church like my beloved Woosehill. However it is glaringly obvious that if we put all our energy into establishing that community of faith, it would leave an aging congregation dwindling away less than a mile away in a fragile building, without the resources to move themselves on. It's not that those people would not fit in on to a church plant-they adore Café Church, and are enthusiastic about new forms of worship - but if the church was no longer used, what would happen to the precious welcome it offers to those who choose St Leonards for weddings or funerals? To the beehives in the graveyard, which produce amazing honey which is sold to raise money for charity? To the Warm Place initiative which has offered hospitality to dog walkers and passing motorists alike during the winter?

As we pray and plan, the hope is that we can build up our activities in our original sacred space (whilst trying to prevent it from falling down around our ears!) as well as nurturing our Fresh Expressions and reaching out to those of different age groups and experiences of worship. Of course, this has the potential to be pretty demanding sometimes, as we discovered last summer when the Park Summer Fete was followed two weeks later by the Village one. A group of us put up our gazebo and mounted our church banner on a scorching hot Saturday on the field outside the Community Centre, vibrating to the sound of Drum & Bass and redolent with fumes from the curry stall and the beer tent, running games and giving out lollies whilst fortified by a 99 from the Mr Whippy van. A fortnight later we assembled the same gazebo and banner on the Village green to the chimes of Morris dancers, just across the path from the Pimms and Craft Cider stalls, organising our skittles and tombola whilst sampling a tub of Jude's Vegan Salted Caramel from the ice cream van. (You will notice, by the way, how selflessly I am prepared to eat ice cream for Christ!) We had a brilliant time on both occasions, but it deeply touched us that at the first one, so many families were really appreciative about all our activities being free.

A disastrously elitist original verse of a popular Victorian hymn, now deleted for obvious reasons, talked about God creating both “The rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate”. In today's world, without being elitist at all, we can still acknowledge the economic and social reality of “the 4x4 in the village, the Ford Galaxy on the estate”. We know that Jesus' love flows always, everywhere, and to everyone; as caring churches, we are going to make sure that everyone gets an opportunity to experience it, even if we have to spread ourselves pretty thin in order to do it!

Elaine Steere

Licensed Lay Minister



THIRD THURSDAY (formerly Thread Craft Group)

We meet in church between 10 and 12 am for chat, coffee and biscuits on the third Thursday of the month..

Why the name change you may ask? the answer is we would welcome new members and have found that the name has been putting people off!

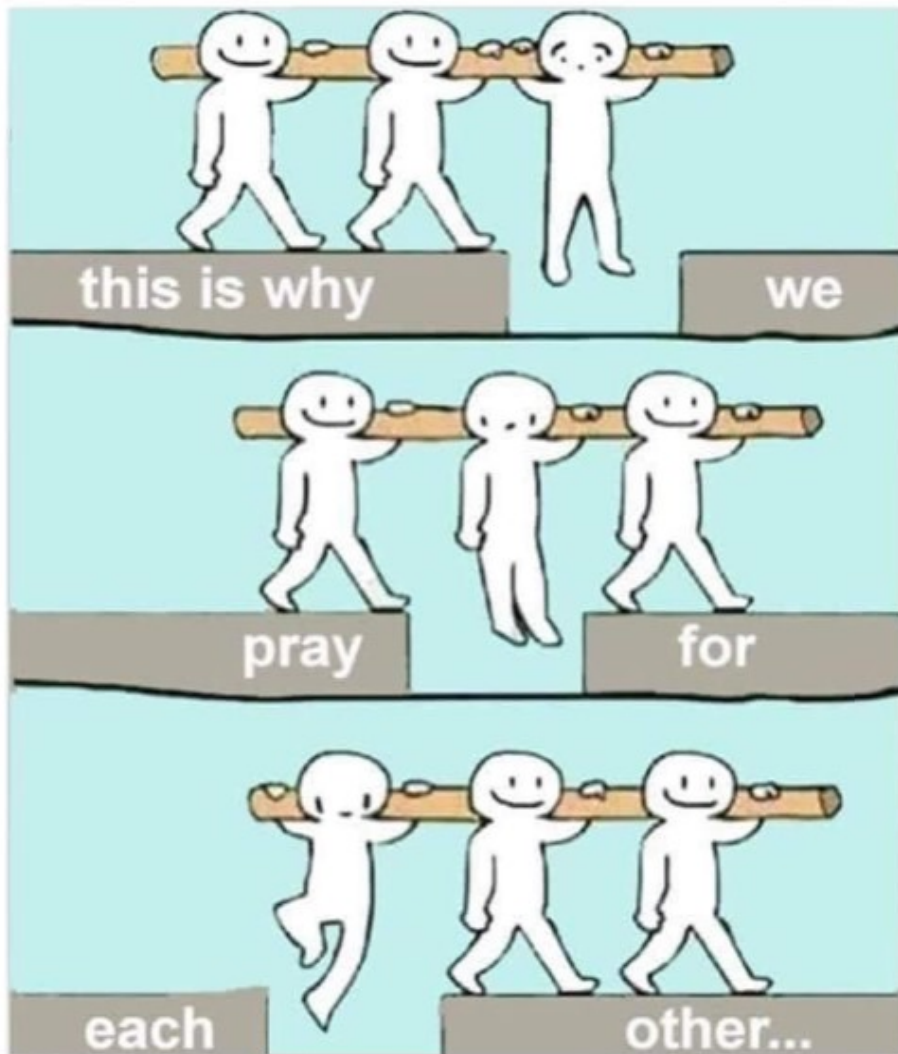
Over the time we have met those coming have knitted, shortened trousers, done tapestry, cross stitch, cut out pictures for Tadpoles to make their collages and made bobbin lace. However there is no pressure to do anything it is just a time to meet with other people and do what you like or just chat.

I'm going to bring a jigsaw to our May meeting on the 18th and would love to see you.

Ruth



The importance of prayer





Christian Aid

Those of you who were at Café Church on 30 April will have heard Peter Barrett on behalf of Churches Together in Wokingham telling us about events in Christian Aid week (which will be over by the time you read this) and also showing a video about the Pigeon Pea project.

We saw Esther Saizi and her cooperative making bread from flour ground from processed pigeon peas. They meet every morning in the warehouse Christian Aid has built and use the large oven to bake bread to sell at the market.

From the Christian Aid website:

'Every Christian Aid Week, people across Britain and Ireland step out in love for our global neighbours in a joyful celebration of our determination to change the world, through our gifts, prayers and actions. This Christian Aid Week (14-20 May), we stand with farmers in Malawi like Esther, determined women who want to make their children's dreams come true and who will work to achieve great things. By donating now, your gift could help people around the world secure a safer, happier future for their children and grandchildren, and send a powerful message that we believe poverty can be beaten.'

Peter has since sent us this message: (I have removed events already past) 'Thank you for having me Sunday before last. I thought it would help if I shared the details again as there was a lot of information to remember! We deliver envelopes (but we don't go back asking for money) during CA Week.

We have a sponsored walk starting from Bix village car park (north of Henley) at 10am on Saturday, May 27 (I think I said May 20 - apologies!). There will be a 5 and 10 mile option. Let me know if you can make it. If you can get sponsorship, even better.

Why? Outside of CA Week, we've decided to do something called The Multiplier. CA has agreed with the EU that all money raised will be increased by a factor of five. So for every £1 raised, it amazingly becomes £6! But we have to raise at least £3,000 (ideally, £5,000) and it must be done by the end of this year. All money raised from the Bix walk will go into the Multiplier! That's it. Thanks for all your support of Christian Aid. Hopefully, I will see you at some of the events mentioned above!'

Church family news

We have had plenty to celebrate within the church family in recent weeks.

We offer our congratulations to Lynne and Phil Paine on the arrival of a third grandson Oscar, a second son for Emma and Ali who were married at Woosehill and a brother for Jack.





— and on 30 April we were very flattered that Naomi chose to spend part of her 18th birthday with us at Café Church. We suitably embarrassed her by presenting her with cake complete with candles and singing to her at the beginning of the service. Thanks to Elaine for providing the cake.



Tithing Gifts

Part 6 in the series exploring the charities who benefit this year from the allocation of our tithing gifts.

The Methodist World Mission Fund - caring for people around us, globally

Their website states:

The Methodist Way of Life commitments include

'We will care for ourselves and people around us'.

As Methodists, we believe in learning and caring as part of our discipleship and there are plenty of opportunities for us to support the Church whether that's in prayer, the giving of our time or the giving of our money.

Through our **global relationships** in the Methodist Church, the World Mission Fund is able to support **107 partner churches and organisations** in Africa, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific in their mission and ministry to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission; through evangelism, mission work, schools, hospitals, environmental projects, emergency situations, administration, training and much more.

Mission Partners:

Mission Partners are initially trained in this country and invited to serve for periods of at least one year by partner churches in the Caribbean, South & Central America, Africa, The Pacific, Asia and Europe.



The Methodist Church



IMPORTANT NOTICE

HELP
Still needed!

Staff and Stewards have been politely asking for help for some time. Unfortunately, we are still struggling on with just 2 Stewards, as well as an urgent need for support for the technical team. Not putting too fine a point on it, we are at breaking point.

We love our Church, and we want to look after it and keep it a growing and vibrant place, but we are tired and we all have other issues calling on our time and emotions. We **NEED** a larger team to share the load.

Please consider joining us - we are a friendly bunch and we do have fun. Maybe you have an idea of another way to help - we would love to hear from you.

We urge you to think prayerfully about joining the team.

Please pray for us.

Parish News from Rev'd Canon Richard Lamey



A group of people from St Paul's Church, All Saints' Church and Westcott House Theological College in Cambridge set up a shoe-cleaning stall on Maundy Thursday for two hours. They were inspired to offer to clean anyone's shoes for free by the example of Jesus who washed the feet of his disciples as a sign of his love and service and then called on them to do the same for others - "love one another as I have loved you." As well as cleaning over 25 pairs of shoes, they handed out free sweets and Palm Crosses and relished the chance to talk to people about the meaning of Jesus and the love of God.

We were really humbled by how many people were willing to stop, and by how quickly people were willing to have some really in-depth and honest conversations. Some people wanted to ask what we were doing. Some people wanted to just chat. Some people wanted to talk about their own faith journey. Some people took a bag of sweets and a Palm Cross as they went past. And some people really, really needed their shoes cleaning!" the Rev'd Canon Richard Lamey, of St Paul's, Wokingham, said. "It was really good fun. It was good to be doing something different, unexpected. And we got to have some really moving and important conversations we wouldn't have had otherwise. We will definitely be back in 2024."



Church Events

WOW - Women of Woosehill Church

The April WOW event was a Games afternoon, including Beetle Drive and Board games, held on a Saturday 22nd April so that our members who work during the week, and also our young people could be there.

Thanks to Linda Hoskins for organising.

Linda reports: 'there were 16 of us, so a good turnout. We played a couple of rounds of a Beetle Drive to get us into a competitive spirit, and then split into groups and played a variety of games, jigsaws, Jenga etc. and consumed lots of cake and cups of tea.

There was a lot of laughter and no doubt a lot of cheating! Good fun was had by all.'

The May WOW event is a evening walk organised by Amy, followed in June by afternoon tea at Riseley Village Tearooms, organised by Lynne Paine.

If you would like to be on the WOW circulation list please talk to Lynn Smith.

Colour and Chat

On 22nd June, Tricia is coming to guide us through how to make our own cards. We will be making birthday cards and Tricia will bring packs containing all you need to make 3 or 4 cards for which a £5 donation is requested.

I would be grateful if on this occasion you could let me know if you are thinking of coming so that Tricia has an idea of how many packs she should bring.

All welcome, **Lynne**

lynnepaine@yahoo.co.uk



Creator God,

like a bird you hovered over the chaos of the world's first day,
drawing life from crashing waves
and making a world of possibility.
You hovered still over parting waters,
liberating an enslaved people,
guiding them forward with cloud and fire,
nurturing your followers and sharing your love.



Like a still, small voice
you made your presence felt to
prophets and healers,
to a people in exile,
and young mothers-to-be.
In the life of Jesus
your healing touch was felt
and all were made welcome.

Like flickering embers dancing into flame,
you revived those who looked for you,
inspiring their speech and startling onlookers.
Undeterred by death, you delivered
creative power,
transforming determination
and your eternal, supporting presence.

And your Spirit nurtures us still,
a gathered people at Pentecost,
moved to celebrate, free to be ourselves,
glad to meet God and open ourselves to the world around us.

Spirit of the living God
move among us,
as you transform us into the people you invite us to be,
as you transform the world into the place you dream it to be.
Make us one in love,
humble, caring,
selfless, sharing.

**Blow among us, Spirit of God,
fill us with your courage and care.
Hurricane and Breath,
take us on a journey of love!**



A Coronation Reflection

At the very beginning of the Coronation service, King Charles came to his Chair of Estate on the pavement of Westminster Abbey. He was surrounded by world leaders and dignitaries. The event was watched live across the entire globe.



The opening words of the service were spoken not by a Dean or Archbishop but by a child: 'Your majesty, as children of the Kingdom of God we welcome you in the name of the King of Kings.'

The King replied, quoting the very words of Jesus: 'In his name and after his example, I come not to be served but to serve' We pray, that the King's life and reign will flow from that promise.

St Paul encourages us today to pay attention, to reflect, to think deeply in these moments, in these words "Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things".

We look back further to the sacred kings of ancient Israel, celebrated in the Psalms, anointed with oil at the beginning of their reign: to Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet.

The Coronation distils deep seams of divine and human wisdom on leadership in communities into simple acts of consent, disrobing, of anointing and prayer, of kneeling, of acclamation, of the acknowledging and the balancing of power. The words of the service remind us of the blessings of stability and order and rule mediated through a person as well as an institution: a deep humanising of authority and justice.

There was much in the service which encouraged us to reflect on the present. The service was a testimony to a mature, multicultural, diverse United Kingdom: a unique moment in history.

Different faith leaders and cultures played their part as the monarch sought to bind us together in humility and a generous inclusion.

The different nations of these islands each played their part, countering the forces of separation and division which have marked this last decade. The whole nation was invited to party in the local celebrations which followed in towns and villages celebrating volunteering for the common good, making memories and binding communities together.

There was much, finally which helped us to reflect on the future. The words of the service painted a picture of a still better kingdom. A kingdom of healing and renewal in the natural world. The world faces environmental catastrophe in our own generation. Surely Charles is king for such a time as this. A kingdom of justice as inequalities grow wider. A kingdom of peace in a world at war, forging alliances across the world. A kingdom of welcome and a friend in need to the many who are in distress.

King Charles has prepared for all his life for this moment. He is and will be a rich blessing to our nation and Commonwealth and the world. We know him better than any previous monarch because of the age in which we live. We know he will have a strong support and stay in Queen Camilla.

Whatever is good and honourable, think about these things says Paul. We reflected on the past, the present and the future as the great liturgy enfolded us. We will reflect too, I hope on our own lives, on our own faith, on the part we have to play in building this nation and in building God's kingdom.

In his name and after his example, let each of us come not to be served but to serve.

God Save the King.
Amen.

Steven, Bishop of Oxford

A reflection from the Bishop of Oxford written on 5 May on the eve of the Coronation—edited to make sense after the event

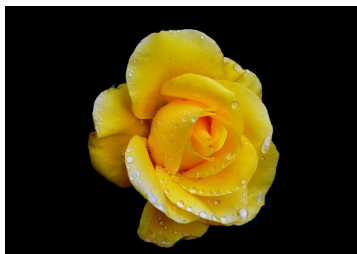
GOLDEN WEDDING



We offer our warm congratulations to Ron and Daphne on the occasion of their Golden Wedding on 19th May.

Probably our most loyal livestream supporters!

With love from all the Woosehill Church family





Online meetings for school years
5, 6, 7, 8, (ish) to **chat**, play **games**
and think about **God**.

Mondays (fortnightly)
12/9, 26/9, 10/10, 7/11, 21/11, 5/12
4.30pm—5.15pm

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82296159100?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82296159100?pwd=QnhSNWlycWtGRjMvQzAwOUNmRm9MZz09)
[pwd=QnhSNWlycWtGRjMvQzAwOUNmRm9MZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82296159100?pwd=QnhSNWlycWtGRjMvQzAwOUNmRm9MZz09)

Meeting ID: 822 9615 9100 Passcode: 337378

Contact Richard Lamey for more info:
rector@spauls.co.uk

Youth club for school years **5, 6, 7, 8 (ish)**
to explore their **faith**, including
discussions about the Bible and **prayer**.

Starting with Luke,
please bring a Bible if you can!

Wednesdays (starting 21st Sept)

6.30pm—7.15pm
(we will take choir members to church afterwards)

Carpenter Room, St Paul's Parish Rooms (upstairs)

Talk to Esther for more details:

estherlamey99@gmail.com

5 6 7 8 Online

5 6 7 8 In Person

Did you know?

If you have the Bank the Food app. on your phone it will keep you updated on current urgent needs for the Foodbank. Just identify your local area and it will automatically link to your nearest Foodbank and is more up to date than other links.





A Closing Reflection

*Lord, let not our souls be busy inns that have no room for thee or thine,
But quiet homes of prayer and praise, where thou mayest find fit company,
Where the needful cares of life are wisely ordered and put away,
And wide, sweet spaces kept for thee; where holy thoughts pass up and down
And fervent longings watch and wait thy coming.*

Julian of Norwich – Revelations of Divine Love



Julian of Norwich was an English mystic of the Middle Ages. Her writings, now known as *Revelations of Divine Love*, are the earliest surviving English language works by a woman.

In 1373, aged 30 and so seriously ill she thought she was on her deathbed, Julian received a series of visions or shewings of the Passion of Christ. She recovered from her illness and lived in seclusion for the rest of her life.

Woosehill meetings

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

Parish Bible study on Tuesday evenings 7.15 - 8.30pm via Zoom

Together in Prayer on the *Third* Thursday of the month from 8-9pm via Zoom. Contact Lyn Brown for details

What's on at Woosehill Church

Sunday Services – 10am at the Church or online

Thursday Mornings at 10am - just turn up

1st Thursday - Sing Something Simple

2nd Thursday – WoolWAM – a Knitting & Crochet group

3rd Thursday - Needlework/Craft Group

4th Thursday – Colour & Chat

Saturday Group

Sip & Share – Have you lost someone or are you just wanting company? Then this group is for you. Chat over a cuppa. Every 2nd Saturday at 11am

No need to book.

Table Tennis
On Friday Evenings
at 7:30pm



Tadpoles

On Wednesday mornings from 9am. Playtime and coffee for under-fives and their carers. You must register for this group, please see website.

Planning a Wedding, Christening or need to organise a Funeral. Then please do talk to us.

For more information about any of the above, please email stewards@woosehillchurch.com

Or visit our website www.woosehillchurch.org



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

Church Contacts

Rev'd Richard Lamey, The Rectory, Holt Lane 0118 3279116richard.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

Rev'd Soba Sinnathamby, 23 Sheridan Way RG41 3AP,
01189894374 soba.sinnathamby@hotmail.co.uk

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



Woosehill Church