

Woosehill Church Magazine



Sharing God's love with the community

May—June 2024



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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,

The time is drawing near when we must say goodbye to the Lamey family who have been part of our lives for over eleven year.

We will of course miss Richard's thought provoking sermons, but also his unwavering support of us as a church within his parish, yet independent in its style of worship. We will miss his pastoral support of our church family, collectively and individually; we will miss Becca and Naomi bringing the joy of live music to our services - and Naomi too as a valued member of our church as well as helper at our Wednesday morning Tadpoles group.

We always knew that we didn't have Richard for ever, and his new role promises to be a great match for his skills in outreach and mission.

We wish all the family well as they move onto this new phase of their lives.

Pray for them, and for our church at this time of transition, remembering also Soba and Nava who will move on next year.

With every blessing, Val

**Next deadline: July 18th 2024.
Articles and notices as usual
preferably by e-mail to:
valerie.weedon@btinternet.com**

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The Lamey Legacy



As the stewards and ministry team from Woosehill turned up at the welcome event (or “Death by Quiche, as these things are often called...”) in St Paul’s Parish Room that evening all those years ago, we were aware of people all around us filled with what they were desperately afraid was an unreasonable hope. St Paul’s and all associated with it had been through a tough time, and everyone was discouraged and in need of healing. That night there was simultaneously a longing for comfort and spiritual revival, and a self-defensive doubt that it could be within reach. Could a new beginning for the parish really be within that room, eating cheese straws and about to meet the congregation who were expecting them to wear a cape and leap tall buildings at a single bound? I filled my plate, did the rounds, and eventually said hello to someone who seemed to radiate energy, empathy and sincerity. At that moment I immediately felt a load lift from my shoulders, as did everybody else. Richard Lamey had arrived in our midst.

One of the brilliant things about being within Richard’s fold in my role as an LLM at Woosehill was that he shares ministry so generously, and I was soon invited to preach at a service at St Paul’s. Unfamiliar with incense, bells and processions, I was somewhat amazed that once we had robed, Richard and I walked out of the vestry door and set off with the immaculate choir across the churchyard following the Cross, with the incense thurible being swung as we went. The fact that there was a howling gale and driving rain did not seem to deter any of them in the least, and as we rounded the corner of the church and headed for the huge front door, having stopped to relight the thurible for the third time, Richard turned to me, blinked the raindrops from his lashes, and with a blinding smile shouted over the wind noises: “Isn’t this fun?”! Richard can do solemnity very well, but he also brings joy to it, and it’s an irresistible combination.

Also, of course, he brings wisdom. It is often difficult to process the fact that someone with so many people skills can have such an outstanding theological brain, because famously the two attributes very rarely coexist. Those sermons....oh, those sermons. I have never heard Richard preach a bad



unchristian feeling of envy that engenders in the hearts of those of us who are! Over the years he has given us informative ones, inspiring ones, restorative ones, playful ones. All of them have offered an opportunity to understand our faith more deeply and grow in our spiritual lives; whether we have grasped that opportunity has, of course, been up to us as individuals. The one which perhaps stands out for me most took a very familiar passage, Luke 8: 40-56, and invited us to imagine a conversation between the two women who were healed by Jesus, Jairus' daughter and the woman suffering from a gynaecological problem, as they reunited many years later. It was both profound and accessible, and I don't know anybody else who could have written or delivered it.

We have received so many other blessings throughout Richard's ministry that it is impossible to list them all. Let's hope we can remember the examples of leadership, collaboration and innovation so that now that he is moving on, we can continue the work he started. Our thanks and best wishes go with him and his lovely family to Norwich, a wonderful city which is about to get a whole lot more wonderful!

Because, for those of us left behind.....well, it can go one of two ways, I guess. Interregnums can be times when new teams form, fresh gifts get discovered and shared, and the whole church/parish moves forward together, making the best of what God has given them. They can also be times when everybody runs about like headless chickens, moaning about the good old days. It's up to us, really; we have had the privilege of learning from someone who is as clear and bright a channel of God's grace as we are ever going to meet. We can choose to continue along the path on which Richard has guided us, using everything we learnt from him, or we can pretend that it has all disappeared up to Norwich in his moving van. I say "we", because the advice and support I received from Richard didn't in any way cease when I moved away from Wokingham in 2015, eventually settling in a different diocese altogether, and that is another amazing thing about him.

For the past few years, I have been working hard on my Richardisms. I have been experimenting with different formats of sermon: some personal, some using the listeners' imagination, some straightforward teaching. I have tried

to use humour to defuse awkward tensions in church meetings, although frankly, sunny charm is not really my thing! I sadly have to admit that I haven't yet invented my own anthropomorphic, dairy-obsessed avatar capable of giving people courage and inspiration during a global crisis, but I assure you it is only a matter of time before I do. How are your Richardisms going? Do you need more practise? It's very important to observe keenly for the next few months, so that by the time the final farewell "Death by Quiche" events take place in June and July, we will all be proficient. Then we can be sure that Wokingham, the Parish of St Paul's and St Nick's, and Wooshill Church will continue to shine just as brightly as they have for the past eleven and a half years.

Elaine Steere - Licensed Lay Minister





Congratulations to Steve!

All good wishes to Steve on his recent retirement and thanks to Alison for supplying photos of their wonderful retirement cruise.

Don't worry Steve, we will soon find you jobs to do, and I am sure Alison will too!



The Miracle of Pentecost



We celebrated Pentecost last Sunday, commemorating the coming down of the Holy Spirit upon early believers and the creation of a new community.

The Acts of the Apostles tells us that the number of disciples has grown - one hundred and twenty of them - and were now in Jerusalem, waiting in eager anticipation, as instructed by Christ. They spent their days in worship and prayer, awaiting the great day of fulfilment. We can imagine in a congregation of that size, how excited they would have been. There was certainly a time of apprehension among the disciples until the appearance of the risen Christ. But after their Master's ascension, their anxiety and fear were replaced by joy and expectation for the fulfilment of the promise of Christ.

And it happened! While they were gathered together in a house, The Holy Spirit came down with a sound that of a mighty wind. This sound brought many other God-fearing people to the scene. After Peter explaining to them the miracle of Pentecost and exhorting them to repent, three thousand people presented themselves for baptism on that day alone. In all senses, Pentecost is a day of miracles!

This great occasion that gave birth to a new community by the Holy Spirit, through whom the new faith spread all around the world and still continuing with its creating and empowering activity, is regrettably `only a Sunday` in our churches. What is more regrettable is the fact that the intervening forty-nine days from Easter, have lost their significance. Certainly, the occasion of the Pentecost is a major spiritual boost for worshippers and believers, but an eager anticipation in between, like the season of advent before Christmas or Lent and the Holy Week before Easter is largely absent in our current church traditions.





Jesus Christ established the Kingdom of God in the world and called all believers to work for its fulfilment. It is for this sake, the empowering, envisioning and inspiring activity of the Holy Spirit first manifested at Pentecost. As we have seen in the holy seasons of Advent and Lent culminating on great days of celebrations, a period of preparation and anticipation preceding Pentecost would enable Christians to remember and recall the values and virtues of our calling as disciples of Christ. The primary task of our discipleship is to make more disciples. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to work towards that and to make sure that is universally perpetual.

With warm greetings,

Rev. Soba Sinnathamby-



“As the Holy Spirit fell on the disciples, the barriers of language and culture were broken down – not so that everyone thought and looked the same, but so that everyone understood each other in their own language and culture. In God’s new kingdom culture we don’t become an amorphous lump of homogeneity, but learn to appreciate and respect our differences.”

Christina Sines

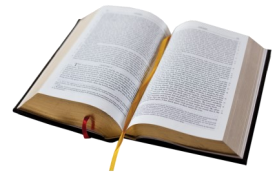
A Reflection on the reading from Acts 1.15-17,21-26

In only two chapters of Acts the world has changed utterly- the dam has been breached and now the great lake of God's love and kindness is released to wash over the earth, a second flood, which we are part of, only this time it will water the earth and not drown it, causing the seeds to grow and yielding a great harvest.

The one thing to remember is that the thing that changes the world is Peter saying "I might be wrong. God might be doing this. We should just rejoice at what we see." Which takes us back to the start- it's when we rejoice at what God is doing and remember that God is God and we are not, when we lay aside our assumptions, our judgement, our pride, our superiority, that the Church can become the body we are meant to be, built not for our comfort out of those who think and look and live like us but built on the radical and wonderful love of God who tells us in Jesus that he has chosen us, and that his Church is made up of all those who keep the great commandment to love as we have been loved first, whatever might separate them in human terms and whatever their differences might be.

The church is meant to be a little piece of heaven on earth, made up of everybody God loves, which is to say everybody. The world might define and divide but we do not. Do you love Jesus a little? Then come in and sit down and tell us all about it.

Rev'd Canon Richard Lamey



The final words of Richard's sermon at St Paul's on Sunday 12th May focusing on Peter realising that he should call nothing unclean:



Our New Boiler

A very BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has made a donation to our new boiler which is now installed and working. It is very much appreciated. It has been a large outlay but hopefully it will keep us going for another 30 years!

If you haven't given yet but would like to contribute, it will be very gratefully received.

This can be done by a transfer to the church account referenced '**Boiler.**'

Thank you,

Lynne



For further information contact Lynne on:

treasurer.woosehillchurch@gmail.com

Thursday Groups



A group meets at the Church every Thursday morning at 10am.

On the second Thursday this is WoolWam, a very friendly knitting, crochet and natter group. You can do your own thing or make items for local Wokingham charity 'First Days' (babies & children's clothes, blankets or toys)

WoolWam members are welcome to attend any other Thursday where the emphasis is just on getting together to chat and enjoy whichever activity you fancy. You can simply have a cuppa and chat or you can sew, draw, knit, do puzzles, build jigsaws – whatever takes your fancy. Occasionally we run special activities such as card making – keep an eye on our website woosehillchurch.org



Refreshments are provided, a contribution of £1 is requested. You can bring your children; you are responsible for them - toys are available.



Sharing God's Love with the Community

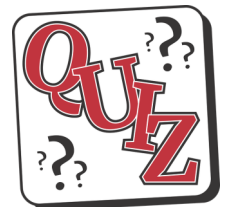
If you would like to join us, please just come along or to get a bit more information first email treasurer.woosehillchurch@gmail.com



WOW 2024

Here are the planned activities for our popular Women of Wooshill Church social group. Look out in the weekly newsletter or talk to the organiser for more information about timings and venue.

Date	Activity	Venue
May Amy Truluck	Evening Walk	tbc
June Ruth and all to help	Strawberry Tea	Church
July Lyn Brown	An evening of Pimm's and nibbles	Lyn's garden
August Lynn Smith	Walk to the Walter Arms from the church for a cool drink	Starting point church
September 10th Linda Hoskins	Walk around Dinton Pastures with refreshments at the cafe	Dinton Pastures
October Louise Cole	Pub Quiz	tbc
November Sue Falquero	Pottery Painting Christmas decorations	Church
December Gillian Payne	Christmas Wreath making	Church



WOW (Women of Woosehill Church)

Our April WOW proved to be both informative and fun when a group of us met at the church to hear Jeanette talk to us about Deaf Awareness and to teach us a few signs from British Sign Language. Afterwards we played games using our new found skills (?) and of course there was the obligatory tea and cake!

Thank you so much to Jeanette for leading this afternoon. Maybe we can have another go to refresh and expand our knowledge in the future?





WOW June Event - date for your diary Strawberry Tea!

The next WOW event will take place on the afternoon of **Saturday 29 June**. This will be a fundraiser for our recently installed boiler and ALL are welcome to come along and donate to this good cause to keep our church warm and welcoming.

Ruth is leading the organisation of the event, BUT will need lots of help in the form of strawberry picking, baking scones and cakes as well as general help on the day.

It is anticipated that set up will be around 2.30pm, serving from 3-5pm and clear up until 5.30pm.

Please do step up to help make this occasion a success socially and to raise much needed money for our new boiler.

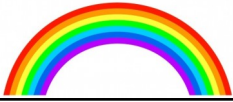
For catering purposes it would be helpful to know who is coming - though you won't be turned away.

Watch out for more information in the weekly newsletter.



Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Many thanks to all who helped or came to the Coffee Morning on 18th May. The total raised was over £1,000 which is considerably more than in recent years and a welcome contribution to fundraising for Christian Aid Week.



News from Tadpoles

Tadpoles continues to welcome a group of families each week in term time, with a gentle Christian approach. We will be saying goodbye to a few of our regulars in July; one family has had three children through our doors and will be very much missed. We have never needed to advertise, relying on word of mouth, but will have a few spaces in September, so if you know of any local families who might like to join us, do assure them of a warm welcome!

As you will see below, June is the National Month of Prayer for toddler groups so we ask you to include this valuable mission outreach and in particular our group in your prayers. Thank you.

Val, on behalf of the Tadpoles team

This years theme is -
The parable of the mustard seed

1 2 7 7
make them count

NATIONAL MONTH OF PRAYER FOR TODDLER GROUPS JUNE 2024

Pray for your local toddler group, its leaders and all the families it comes into contact with.

For more information, ideas and resources visit;
FB GROUP - 1277 National Month Of Prayer
www.1277.org.uk/resources





A Prayer

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from the craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends left at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the Devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people.

And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. **Amen**

The Walter Lecture

In Our Hands: *our climate future*

Prof. Christopher Merchant

(Ocean & Earth Observation)

Department of Meteorology,
University of Reading



7pm, Thursday 6 June 2024

St Paul's Parish Rooms

With the "climate crisis" repeatedly in the news over the past year, how serious is global warming?

What happened to Earth's climate recently, and what is to come?

Why is Net Zero promoted as a solution to global warming and is it possible, or even desirable?

To book:

scan the QR code or email
thewalterlectures@spauls.org.uk.

Or go to:

<https://spauls.co.uk/events/walter-lectures-01/>.

For more information call
St Paul's Church Office.



A NASA supercomputer model shows how greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide (CO₂) ... influence Earth's atmosphere throughout the year. Credit: NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio (2021).



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0118 979 2122 | church.office@spauls.co.uk
www.spauls.co.uk



A PRAYER FOR THE PARISH

Almighty God hold us in your loving care,
lead us in the way of your son Jesus Christ, and
send your Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us
in this time of change.

We pray for your guidance in the appointment of our new Rector.

Help us all to look forward with hope for
the priest who will pray with us and for us.

A priest who will lead us by example and inspire us
with enthusiasm for witness and mission,
a priest who will teach and preach the Christian faith
and help us to serve you with joy and courage.

We pray for a priest who will value the traditions and ways of worship
of St Paul's, St Nicholas and Woosehill;
a priest who can hold us together as a parish
and embrace that which makes us unique.

Help us Lord during the interregnum
to use the gifts and talents you have given to each of us for your glory,
to seek your wisdom in prayer before we make decisions,
and to encourage, care and pray for each other.

Give wisdom and discernment to those charged with finding our new Rector,
make our hearts ready to welcome, support and love our new priest,
and enable us all to work together for the building of your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

A prayer to take away and use each day

**O God our Father,
encourage our Parish,
guide our leaders,
bless our future,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Rev'd Cara Smart





Dear Friends,

I am writing to you in order to initiate the Diocesan Synod elections, to elect a new Diocesan Synod to serve and hold office for the next 3-year period (triennium 2024-2027 starting 1st August 2024).

As Area Dean, I will be responsible for conducting the elections to the House of Laity.

Currently, Sonning Deanery are allocated four representatives in the House of Laity.

For those wishing to stand for election, the paperwork must be completed and returned to me at rector@spauls.co.uk by no later than midday on Friday 7th June.

Should more than four candidates put themselves forward, an election will be held. In this eventuality, voting paperwork will be sent out to lay members of the Sonning Deanery Synod on 17th June, with replies required no later than 3rd July. The Declaration and Statement of Results would then be issued on 8th July.

Any person over the age of 16 who is on the electoral roll of a parish within the Deanery is eligible to stand for election to the Diocesan Synod. **However, they must be proposed and seconded by members of Sonning Deanery Synod.**

Hence, in order to reach the widest possible pool of candidates I am asking for the support of Incumbents, PCC Secretaries and Church Wardens.

I ask for your help in ensuring that the following information and paperwork be made available to as many members of your parish's electoral roll as possible. This could be through email, notices within services, information posted on parish websites, or items brought to the attention of the PCC, notes and paperwork available within church promises.

The Diocese is particularly keen for Christians from under- represented parts of the Church to put themselves forward and as such, your support is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Lamey

Area Dean of Sonning

(The required paperwork available on request).

Richard's last service in the parish July 14th

PLEASE NOTE:

There will only be one service that morning

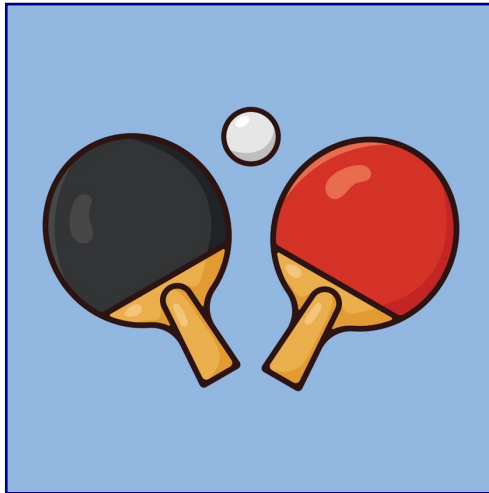
at St Paul's at 9.30am

and then an afternoon of socialising from 2.30 to 4pm with games and picnics on St Paul's Junior School field, followed by cakes and tea from 4-5pm in the Parish Rooms.





Table Tennis



Fridays at 7:30pm

Woosehill Church, Chestnut Avenue
RG41 3RS

All welcome, all abilities

Small donation for adults, U16 free

Table tennis in May will only be on the 3 May and the 31 May although this can change if a volunteer can be found to open and close the church.

Woosehill Meetings and Service Livestreaming

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

*May you have -
Walls for the wind
And a roof for the rain,
And drinks bedside the fire
Laughter to cheer you
And those you love near you,
And all that your heart may desire*

(Celtic Blessing)





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 Soba Sinnathamby, 23 Sheridan Way RG41 3AP,
01189894374 soba.sinnathamby@hotmail.co.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)
church.office@spauls.org.uk

Rev'd Catherine Bowstead, Methodist Superintendent Minister
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9781756
minister@wokinghammethodist.org.uk

