

Woosehill Church Magazine



Sharing God's love with the community

November - December 2022



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



Dear Church Family and all other readers,

This issue covers the Advent and Christmas season and takes us into the New Year. I hope you will enjoy reading news of church family as well as seasonal items - and important dates of Christmas services for your diary.

It has been really good in recent weeks to see our church fuller again with friends old and new and lots of chat after the service, with the new coffee and card machines both put to good use!

For many of us, this will be the first 'normal' family Christmas in several years, a time to be happy sharing one another's company. For some though it will be an anxious time as bills mount up and the cost of fuel is a constant worry.

Whatever you are doing and wherever you are spending it, I wish you joy as we celebrate this time of our Saviour's birth.

*With every blessing,
Val*

Next deadline: 15 January 2023
Articles and notices as usual
preferably by e-mail to:
valerie.weedon@btinternet.com

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A Message from our Minister



Dear Friends

Advent Hope

Advent has just begun. As we go through this holy season, we continue to reflect and meditate on the words from the Bible, concerning the coming of Christ. This season, culminating at Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Christ, doesn't stop there. It goes beyond his birth and reminds us of his second coming.

The church over the years has taught us about this. It is contained in the two Creeds we commonly use in our worship as well as in our communion liturgy in the form of the declaration of the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Prophecies from the Old Testament speak of his first coming. The gospels and almost all the books of the New Testament tell us about his second coming. There are many passages we can find in the NT which speak clearly about this. Of them all, Jesus' own words recorded in Matthew, tells us how certain it is. After speaking to his disciples about his second coming he said,

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away

Like his birth, death and resurrection, the second coming of Christ is so fundamental to our faith as we see the Holy Bible ending with these words in the book of Revelations:

The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

As we prepare to receive the Christ child at Christmas, let us continue to live and work, with the expectation of his second coming.

With every blessing,
Soba-





Do not turn off your computer



We've all been there. You've got limited time, but you want to just finish that article/send that email/check those details. Instead of your friendly login, the unforgiving screen stares back at you with the Moving Circle of Death stubbornly rotating, and the words guaranteed to chill your soul: Loading Updates, Do Not Turn Off Your Computer. The number slowly climbs to 100%, and your spirits lift, your fingers beginning to flex; then the count drops back to 0% again as yet another unasked-for, unwanted update drops in with the agonising slowness of callous technology. Defeated, your window (or Windows) of opportunity exhausted, you slink away miserably without achieving your goal.

We all love Christmas - who wouldn't love a season when we spend precious time with family and friends, hang sparkly lights around our windows, and discover multiple flavours of cream liqueur on the shelves at Marks and Spencer? Advent, however? Now that, apart from getting daily small helpings of chocolate, gin or even cheese from behind the windows of our advent calendars, is not so popular. It seems to be an unfashionable season of the church's year (unlike Lent, which has become rather trendy amongst those who need to give up chocolate for the sake of their pancreas or booze for the sake of their liver) which is only really popular with good-looking priests, like our catwalk star Mark here in my new Benefice, who know they look stunning in purple.

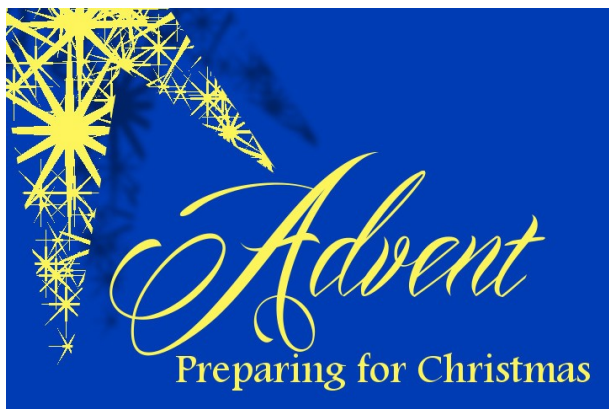
Yet here's the thing: Advent, like updates, is useful. At its deepest level the meaning of Christ's birth is disturbing; if we believe that God gave his Son to be born as a human in an outrageously generous plan to save the soul of every person on Earth, then that is a truth which is impossible to ignore. It demands a personal and permanent response. To ease us into coming face to face with this truth, Advent (if it is seen as a time of spiritual preparation, rather than a few frenetic weeks of retail activity and over-eating) gives us space to reflect again on the historical evidence for the coming of Jesus, and to come to terms with what it really means that God chose to become one of us.

If I go into a hissy fit and turn my computer off in the middle of the updates, the only thing I achieve is to postpone the pain until the next time I log on, because updates are both inevitable and relentless! However, if I turn off my spiritual “computer” and decide that in the month before Christmas I am not going to take any time to consider and pray about the significance of Jesus’ birth, all that happens is that I lose my opportunity to open myself to what God would like to teach me.

It’s so easy to think that the things which should be receiving my full attention from 27th November to 24th December are buying and wrapping presents, decorating the house and tree (which I have to say has been raised to a fiercely competitive Olympic sport on the estate where I now live) and bringing home the latest Waitrose magazine so that I can have a full-blown panic attack about the necessity of making my mince pies from first principles.

These things, which are seen by and shared with others, seem to take priority over study, worship and doing something extra for charity, like donating one item a day to the Foodbank. But how about if this Advent I decide to step outside the norm, flip the priorities from external to internal? Then maybe I will discover that instead of the much-sought “perfect” Christmas (as if!), I will be more ready to have a truly fulfilling Christmas.

Elaine





Looking Back to Look Forward in Advent

When my children were younger, we would go on long road trips during the winter holiday from school to visit our families. We'd eagerly pack up our bags, make sure there were plenty of snacks for the little ones, and get onto the road. Our children, like so many, would ask, "Are we there yet?" or "How much longer?" Children are impatient because it is hard to wait for the unseen. As adults we had a bit more patience. My husband and I would also be eager to see family and to arrive at our childhood homes, and because we were used to the long trip ending with the reward of loved ones, we felt more anticipation than impatience. Road trips are full of anticipation and hope for what lies ahead.

The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *adventus*, or *arrival*. **Advent** is a season of preparation for Christmas when we remember the birth of Jesus and the Incarnation. It's also a time of preparation for the second coming of Christ in the future. When we await something or someone, we are in an "in between" place. We are "not there yet." St. Ignatius considered life to be "on the way," an image of life as a pilgrimage. Ignatius was physically a pilgrim for a time, traveling through Spain to Jerusalem and later Rome, but even when this period ended, he understood that we are still always on the way in our life's journey—spiritually, ethically, and as a community seeking justice in the world. Our world has not arrived at perfect peace and justice. We as individuals and communities are still en route to living in the world that reflects the Reign of God.

Sometimes we adults also can wonder, "Are we *there* yet?" We read the news, and we can be like children who impatiently wonder, *When will we ever get there? Can we really believe in a world where peace and love reign?* But to hope for such a world is to anticipate that there really is something good at the end of the journey. For us as Christians, it is Jesus himself who is the gift. God became incarnate as a person, to be with us, in the past. God remains present in the world around us and present to us in prayer and contemplation. And God is in the future; we believe that God will fulfil God's promise of love and justice and come again.

Marina Berzins McCoy

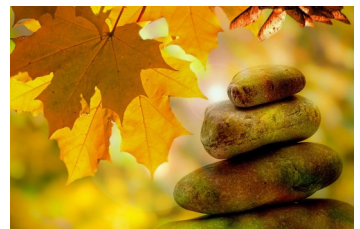
An article which appeared first in Ignatian Spirituality

-Sunday Prayer-

I Need to Breathe Deeply, Eternal Friend,
Grant me an ease to breathe deeply of this moment,
this light,
this miracle of now.
Beneath the din and fury of great movements
and harsh news and urgent crises,
make me attentive still to good news,
to small occasions,
and the grace of what is possible
for me to be,
to do,
to give,
to receive,
that I may miss neither my neighbour's gift
nor my enemy's need.

Precious Lord, grant me a sense of humour
that adds perspective to compassion,
gratitude that adds persistence to courage,
quietness of spirit
that adds irrepressibility to hope,
openness of mind
that adds surprise to joy;
that with gladness of heart
I may link arm and aim
with the One who saw signs of your kingdom
in salt and yeast,
pearls and seeds,
travellers and tax collectors,
sowers and harlots,
foreigners and fishermen,
and open my eyes with these signs
and my ears with the summons
to follow to something more
of justice and joy.

—Ted Loder
Amen.





Tithing Gifts

Part 3 in the series exploring the charities who benefit from the charities nominated this year for allocation of our tithing gifts:

Church Mission Society (CMS) - Our history

The Church Mission Society story began more than 200 years ago with a group of Christians whose hearts were stirred to go to the edges.

The Society was founded in Aldersgate Street in the City of London on 12 April 1799. The group included people like William Wilberforce, John Venn and John Newton. Together, they worked to abolish the slave trade, they fought for the rights of oppressed people at home and they launched out onto dangerous seas to share Jesus with the world.

The spiritual background to the emergence of CMS was the great outpouring of energy in Western Europe now called The Great Awakening. As the Church of England struggled to step out to the edges of the modern world, this new membership society sought to find laymen and women who were willing to go. While always maintaining their roots in the Anglican Communion, the earliest missionaries were actually German Lutherans and for more than a century, CMS enjoyed a rich relationship with the Churches and seminaries of Western Europe.

The overseas mission work of CMS began in Sierra Leone in 1804 but spread rapidly to India, Canada, New Zealand and the area around the Mediterranean. Its main areas of work in Africa have been in Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Congo, Rwanda and Sudan; in Asia, CMS's involvement has principally been in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, China and Japan; and in the Middle East, it has worked in Palestine, Jordan, Iran and Egypt.

From that initial meeting in Aldersgate at the close of the 18th century, Church Mission Society moved quickly to larger offices in Salisbury Square, remaining there for more than 150 years. In 1966, it moved to premises in Waterloo Road before reaching our current home in Oxford in 2007, where we now follow God's call to the edges as part of a network of mission hubs all over the world.

In CMS's vast history, thousands of people have crossed geographical, cultural and societal boundaries to make disciples of Jesus. Through their efforts, missteps and all, we have seen the gospel of Jesus make itself at home in a variety of contexts all over the world. Sometimes in ways we could never have foreseen.

Job advertisement!

Still Wanted: Secretary for Church Council Meetings

Who are we?

The Woosehill Church Council meets approximately 4 times per year to discuss and agree Church matters. In addition, there is an Annual General Meeting held once per year. We urgently require a secretary to organise these meetings, take minutes and distribute them.

Routine meetings, what will you be doing?

Prior to the meeting

- Remind everyone there is a meeting
- Book a Zoom meeting if we're not meeting in person
- Remind those responsible for producing reports & the agenda to do so
- Distribute the reports, agenda, and the previous minutes

At the meeting:

- Ensure the Chairperson signs the previous minutes of the previous meeting and then file them
- Take notes, recording any decisions made and any actions to be undertaken

After the meeting:

Type up the notes into a set of minutes and distribute (once reviewed by the Chairperson)

AGM, what will you be doing?

The same as the routine meetings, except there will be more people to chase about their reports, and the various reports will need combining into a single AGM report. Plus remind every Church member about the AGM and send them the AGM report, agenda, and previous minutes.



What are we looking for?

A volunteer, it's as simple as that, no special skills or experience required; just a willingness to give it a go.

What's in it for you?

- Tea/coffee and (maybe) biscuits during the meeting
- The satisfaction of a job well done
- The thanks of the Church Council
- The chance to make a difference

If you can help, or God is telling you that you can help, please have a chat with John or Steve.

Make a Stewards day – volunteer!

.....

Café Church

Our Café Church continues to be a popular service when there are five Sundays in the month. There was a really good turn out at the last one in October, led by Elaine:



Birthdays

Two special ladies celebrated their birthdays this year and we surprised them with an afternoon tea party at the church. Amy and Jo had a wonderful time - and so did everyone else!

Thanks to all the bakers, table cloth makers, tea makers and all who contributed to the success of this event.

Amy wrote afterwards:

A very big Thank You to everyone involved in the 80th Birthday Party for Jo and myself on Saturday. To say I was surprised was an understatement. Lynn had done such a good job of convincing me that she was having a little do for Jo that I still thought the party was for Jo not for me as well. My first thought was how kind you all were, my second was 'thank goodness I washed my hair'!! Once again thanks so much to all of you.

Love from Amy



More birthdays

Some of you may not know Ron and Daphne Knights who no longer come to church because of Daphne's infirmity. They are however regulars on our livestream and both celebrated their **90th!** birthdays recently with some happy family celebrations at home and at daughter Kim's house, including a darts tournament which Daphne won! Thanks to Kim for sending this lovely photo.



Kim recently sent me this message which I have passed to Bob to let the tech team know:

Just popped by mum and dad's and wanted to say how wonderful it is that Woosehill broadcasts the service each week. It's such an important part of mum and dad's life and to see them both comfortable, joining in together is such a gift.

I'm so impressed by how clear the stream is too. Very thoughtfully presented.

Huge thanks to all who make it happen every week.



Timothy

Congratulations to /Timothy on moving to his new home.

We wish him every happiness there and hope we will still see him at Woosehill on Sunday mornings.



HELP!!!!

We have vacancies (or should I say opportunities) in all departments. We need a couple of additional Stewards, a Church Secretary, people for the rotas – projector, tech team, Communion Stewards, intercessors, flowers, readers, coffee – to lighten the load for everybody. And if you can play an instrument.....

Interested? Then talk to Steve or John or anybody on a Rota to find out more.





News from Tadpoles



We will be marking the end of term with the telling of the Nativity story, followed by festive treats.

A busy, quite exhausting term!

Thanks to a great team for all the practical, creative and pastoral support they give to this group which is such an important part of our church.

Val on behalf of the Tadpoles team



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

Flowers



What a talented Flower team we have.

Lynne's arrangement for Remembrance Sunday was truly amazing - everyone said 'Wow!' as they entered the Sanctuary.

You don't have to have this level of skill to join the Flower team though; a pretty bunch of flowers in a vase is acceptable too!

Do talk to Lynne if you are willing to help.



WOW - Women of Woosell Church

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

Our latest meeting took place at Val's house on 16th November when a group of 11 of us (yes, it was tightly packed!) shared titles of books that have brought us pleasure. If you would like a list of the books we discussed please contact Val on valerie.weedon@btinternet.com



The next meeting will be a wreath making workshop led by Gillian Payne and Lynne Paine and will take place at the church on 12th December. If you are not on the circulation list for WOW and would like to be included, please contact Lynn Smith.



In the New Year we will be meeting to plan our programme for 2023 - all ideas welcome!

Servant Leadership

As Ruth has remarked in the past I have more than enough books on management on my shelves, so I was interested when my professional organisation drew my attention to the following:

Servant leadership - what's it all about?

Servant leadership is the latest buzzword in the world of management, but what does it mean and why does it matter? The article gives you an overview of what this leadership style involves, why it might be useful and how you can incorporate servant leadership practices in your own personal style.

The actual article defines servant leadership as:

Servant leadership is the idea that a leader aims to serve and benefit the people they lead and society overall. In the working world, this is common practice at socially responsible companies or firms that encourage a participative leadership style.

Who is going to break it to them that the idea is over two thousand years old and if they want management case studies the church has them in abundance?

Ed Smith





Christmas snippets to make you smile

A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre. He greeted the youngster merrily and asked, 'And what would you like for Christmas?'

The little girl stared at him open-mouthed in horror. Then she gasped, 'Didn't you get my email?!!'



A Sunday school teacher asked her class, 'What was Jesus' mother's name?' One child answered 'Mary'.

The teacher then asked 'Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?'

Another child ventured, 'Verge?'

Confused, the teacher asked, 'Where did you get that?'

He replied hesitantly: 'Well you know they are always talking about Verge 'n' Mary.'



Yeldall Manor



To contribute towards our Christmas & new year expenditure, please make a donation via www.justgiving.com/campaign/yeldall-christmas

You can also buy a gift for residents' stockings: small items such as stationery, books, pocket games, men's clothing (i.e. scarves, gloves, underpants, socks), quality men's toiletries, confectionery, and other stocking fillers. Please wrap the items, with a post-it note indicating the contents, and bring to Yeldall by Monday 19th December

And from the Yeldall prayer diary:

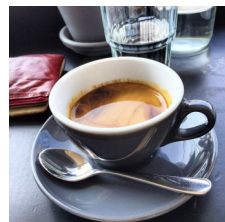
Monday 31st October: Resident Stuart asks for prayer that God continues to bless him in recovery, continues to fill him with the fruits of the Holy Spirit, and continues to give him opportunities to serve and glorify him. He thanks God for you, the supporters: "Yeldall is a lighthouse in a sea of pain and your support keeps the light on. Thank you and God bless you."

Coffee Machine

NEW COFFEE MACHINE

Thank you to everyone who has donated money to help cover the cost of the new coffee machine. If you would still like to donate, you can do so via the new card reader or make a bank transfer to the usual church account reference COFFEE.

Thank you from **Lynne** - our treasurer.





Christmas Services

**St Paul's Church, Wokingham
(Reading Road RG41 1EH)**

Sunday 18th December

6.15pm Nine Lessons & Carols

Wednesday 21st December

10am Crib Service for younger children

Saturday 24th December

3pm & 5pm Christingle Service

11pm Midnight Mass

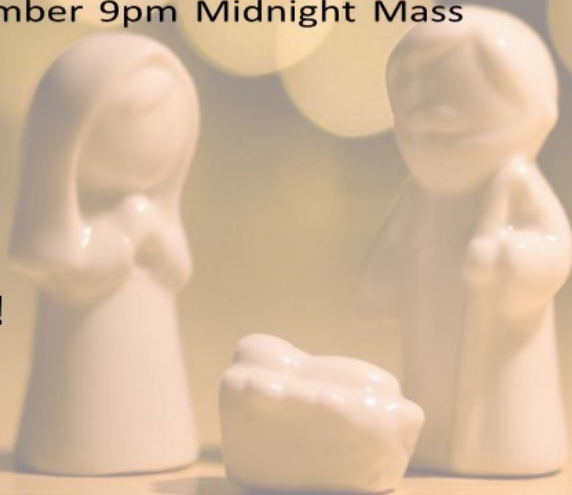
Christmas Day 8am BCP Communion

9.30am Christmas Day Eucharist

St Nicholas Church (Emmbrook Village Hall)

Saturday 24th December 9pm Midnight Mass

**Welcome back
to church
this Christmas!**



Christmas prayers

Let the love that shaped earth and heaven

Dwell within us this Christmas

Let the love that shaped humanity

Dwell within us this Christmas.

Let the love that overcomes suffering and hatred

Dwell within us this Christmas

Let the love that causes us to rejoice with loved ones

Dwell within us this Christmas

Let the love that causes us to rejoice with loved ones

Dwell within us this Christmas

Let the love that brings the blessing of peace

Dwell within us this Christmas

May we share that peace with all people near and far

Amen





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

Together in Prayer on the **Third** Thursday of the month from 8-9pm .
No meeting in December. 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 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
5 Chetwode Close, Wokingham RG40 2LL 0118 9781756
minister@wokinghammethodist.org.uk



Happy Christmas From Woosehill Church

Please join us at the following services

Carol Service - 18th December at 7:30pm

Crib Service - 24th December at 4pm

Christmas Day Family Service at 10am



The Woosehill Church family wish you and yours every blessing in this Christmas season and invite you to join us at our services over Christmas and in the New Year.

