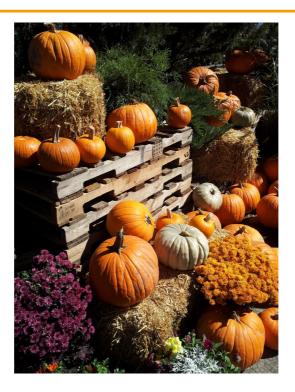
# Woosehill Church Magazine

Sharing God's love with the community



We are on Chestnut Ave, just around the corner from The Hawthorns School.

'All are welcome here'

Find us on our website woosehillchurch.org



# Dear Church Family and all other readers,

For most churches this is a time when activities resume after the summer break, hopefully with renewed energy and enthusiasm. Indeed for the Methodist church it is the start of the official year; hence, Catherine is taking up her appointment as Superintendent for the Circuit at this time. And in news 'hot off the press' (I felt like a proper journalist!) Richard makes an exciting announcement on page 5.

It's great to have a new contributor and Margaret Gerrard's article on pages 8 & 9 makes for really interesting reading.

Coming up soon is our Harvest Weekend when we get the chance to showcase to the community all that we do in our church building with special displays and ongoing refreshments over a two day period at the end of the month. See page 6.

Spread the word, bring your friends and family - let's make sure folk in our community know where to find us!

With every blessing, Val

# **DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:** November 17, 2019

Articles as usual preferably by e-mail to:

valerie.weedon@btinternet.com

#### IN THIS ISSUE

Editor and contents	2
Clergy letter : Rev'd Judi Hattaway	3-4
New curate for the Parish Rev'd Richard Lamey	5
Harvest Weekend	6
Book review	7
Volunteering at the World Transplant Games Margaret Gerrard	8-9
From Gibraltar Methodist church	10-11
Why I love Greenbelt Festival Val Weedon	12
Lectio Divina Doreen Murgatroyd	13-14
Season of Creation	15
A Franciscan Blessing	16
Yeldall Harvest Appeal	17
Be still	18
Sermon series 2019	19
Foodbank needs	20
WOW calendar	21
Coffee and Chat	21
First steps	22
Regular meetings	23
Pattern of services at Woosehill	24

# **Clergy Letter**

September!

What does the month conjure up for you?

It is a month of contrasts or binaries. The last warmth of summer, the first chills of autumn. The start of the new academic year—holidays for families a fading memory, but a time when those of us who are retired may make a trip away. Shorter days, longer nights. Smokey bonfires consume dead vegetation from the garden, while we consult seed catalogues for the coming year, and plant hyacinths and daffodils in readiness for next spring.

It's a month too, of great abundance; ripe fruit dripping sweet and luscious juices, and grapes coming in for the first pressings. Olives are shaken from trees in hotter parts of Europe to produce the golden oil of ancient history and now.

In church, activities restart as the days shorten and the evenings draw in. Harvest festivals are on the horizon while leadership teams plan services. Fresh produce or tins and packets? Harvest of talents? Which charity to support? The questions are asked, and answers bubble up, as they marinate in the minds of those on the rota who will preside.

As you read this we have a new Conservative and Unionist Party leader, and a new Prime Minister. But the problems our kingdom faces are still many and urgent. The list of issues does not shorten, even if the days do.

In my counselling practice I am coming across increasing numbers of people whose personal problems are exacerbated by the social backdrop against which their lives are lived out. Providing money, housing, rent, and food are still stressful for too many people.

Jesus said there would always be the poor among us. It is shameful that 2000 years on this is still true. There are the just-about-managing, as Mrs May called them, and then those who are not managing at all.



May called them, and then those who are not managing at all.

The Trussell Trust, founders of The Foodbank Scheme, are about to announce that by working with other agencies they have created the first area in London not to need a Foodbank. This is wonderful and welcome news.

During the summer holiday volunteers from Churches Together in Wokingham created hundreds of meals for needy families. Funds were made available from the Wokingham United Charities fund, time and talents were harvested, and put to work to benefit those in greatest need in our community.

As the warmth of the summer sun fades, mists envelop the landscape, and the ripe fruits in the garden become the pies and crumbles of our suppers, can we spend a while reflecting on the year so far. Can we wonder what we might do this autumn that is new, or relinquish something that is no longer useful? In this season of abundance what can we share of our lives, our possessions, and our faith?

Like the children and young people who have headed into a new academic year, learning new facts and weighing different opinions, might we too be challenged to open ourselves to new possibilities, a new role, a new vocation?

The year may be beginning to fold in on itself but for us the future is now, and the future beckons us to be bold, imaginative, and fruitful.

Rev Judi Hattaway Associate Priest St Paul's Wokingham

#### **New Curate for the Parish!**

I am delighted to announce that Cara Smart has agreed to come to the parish as Assistant Curate from June 2020. I've really enjoyed meeting her over the summer and look forward to working with her in the years to come. She currently worships at Aldermaston and spent a day here visiting the parish



in late August, where she met a number of people. Please pray for her and her family as they begin to think about moving house and schools and settling into a new community here, and please pray that her time here will be a solid and encouraging foundation for her lifelong priesthood.

## Cara tells us a bit about herself:

I'm Cara, married to Richard, with two school-aged children, Oscar and Bethan, and a rather energetic wheaten terrier called Toby. For the past 4 years I've worked as a Children's Worker for my current church benefice whilst training for ordination at Ripon College Cuddesdon; prior to that I've worked as a toy tester and also for Macmillan Publishers before having children. I love music and enjoy playing the flute, as well as being passionate about social justice and the environment. As a family, we are excited to explore Wokingham and find all the good parks and places to walk the dog.

I'm really looking forward to getting to know everybody in the 3 communities, hearing all your stories and growing deeper in faith together. I can't wait to live and serve in the parish and to share the sustaining and life-giving joy of the Eucharist with you. That we are all loved by God is, for me, at the heart of the Gospel, and I'm looking forward to being part of a Church that is living out our shared calling to be and see Christ in everyone we meet.









This is a very special weekend for our church, giving us a great opportunity to showcase all that we do and a time to share fellowship and friendship.

-----

## Music!

We are still in urgent need of musicians who can cover our services when our regular support is not available. We like an eclectic mix of worship songs and hymns from modern in the Stuart Townend or Graham Kendrick vein to the more traditional. Please get in touch if you or anyone you know might help us out.



# So What's the Story ...?

# A resource book for Christian Reflection and Practice Barbara Glasson and Clive March

We came across this new resource whilst attending the first of several interactive workshops at Greenbelt Festival this year. Barbara Glasson and Clive March are, respectively, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2019/20. It looks as if it would be a good basis for small group study such as in house groups.

# The back cover says:

'Stories help us to better understand the world around us, our relationships with other people, and even ourselves. We use them in our daily life and work; churches and other communities use them to build from within and to reach out to others; and stories enrich our knowledge of God and help us grow in faith.

What can we learn from other people's stories? How can we better express our own story, and hold it alongside the stories of God? How can a deep engagement with all these stories be helpful to our life and witness, and on what occasions can they be unhelpful?

This inspiring new book explores these questions, and can be studied privately or in groups. Each chapter includes points for reflection, points for connection, and a suggested prayer.'

## Val Weedon



# Volunteering at the World Transplant Games 17-24 August 2019

The Summer Games are held every 2 years (winter games in alternate years) - this year the UK was the host country and they were held in the North East at 15 top sporting venues across Tyneside and Wearside. There were 59 countries taking part with over 2000 participants (from 6 to 84 years) plus supporters and 800 volunteers. Everyone funded themselves either personally or by fund-raising but there was free travel on the Metro and some buses. As volunteers we got a packed lunch if our shift was over 5 hours.

The purpose of the Games is to raise awareness of organ and tissue donation and transplantation and to encourage transplant patients to regain their fitness. I volunteered with my youngest sister, Gillian, because as some of you know 2 years ago I gave her one of my kidneys whom we named 'Millie'. I had my kidney removed at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford and it was flown to the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle. It was Millie's second anniversary on the opening day.

I met some inspirational people who were so grateful to have been given a second chance at life and have seized every opportunity to celebrate. There were medals to be won for those who wanted to be competitive but for others these were games to enjoy and have fun and meet old friends or make new ones. I met a German lady of 70+ who had only taken up running after her heart transplant because before it she struggled to walk. Many would like the opportunity to meet or write to the families of their donor but appreciate the many reasons why this is often not possible.

#### So what did I do?

I was attached to the Danish team for the parade through Newcastle city centre to the Opening Ceremony. I was so relieved when their flag bearer turned up at the last minute - he'd got lost as he wasn't staying with the rest of the team in university accommodation but at a hotel. It was not easy holding that big flagpole upright!!

I did some marshalling for the 5K run and Gift of Life walk/run. Some people just do not like being asked very politely to move even when in the path of a vehicle!

I was at a brand new purpose built basketball arena (opened January) checking the teams in for training one day then the next day courtside for the matches making sure spectators didn't get too close. They played 3 on 3 on half a court. I had to make sure I didn't get hit by the ball when directing people away from the court - it's a big heavy ball!! My knowledge of basketball is much improved! Unfortunately in the final the USA beat GB & NI in the last 4 seconds - what a thrilling match and could have gone either way. My last shifts were with Gillian (she'd been 'meeting and greeting' at the airport) at Gateshead International Athletic Stadium. We were in the 'call room' and had to escort the athletes to their track or field events as well as calming nerves. On one return from escorting I decided to stop and watch one of the 200 metre races trackside (normally we didn't have time) and did the unspeakable - stepped backwards onto the newly raked long jump!! They still wanted me doing the same job the next day so I was forgiven. I must mention the packed lunches which were provided by Greggs - their first shop was a bakery in Newcastle - as they were outstanding and included delicious pasta salad (I tried all 3 varieties), scrumptious gluten free brownies and crisp apples. No soggy sandwiches in sight!!

Once again our NHS was the envy of everyone I met not only because it is free but also because of the world wide reputation of those who work in it as the UK leads in some of the research and pioneering medical procedures. We need to remember that there are countries where organs are sold, transplants have to be paid for and no registers of donors.

Finally, it was emotional at times when I remembered that everyone participating had had a successful transplant but as one athlete said to me you just never know if you'll be here next year or month or week. There are also those transplants that haven't been successful for a variety of reasons and it's impossible to forecast how long one will last. Yes I would do it all again despite being exhausted by the end but I will always have so many happy memories to treasure and I'm doing my little bit to promote organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

Next year's Winter Games are in Ottawa, Canada and in 2021 the Summer Games will be in Houston, Texas, USA.

Margaret Gerrard





# 8 characteristics of believers who don't give up in the battle

# From the notice sheet at Gibraltar Methodist church, sent in by Doreen



Living for Christ is hard – sometimes so hard that we're tempted to wonder if it's worth the sacrifice. It is, of course, but difficulties sometimes cloud that truth. Based on my years of studying spiritual warfare, here are characteristics of believers who don't give up in the battle:

- They're solidly connected to a local church. That is, they don't just attend a church; they participate in it. They're involved in a small group, and they serve in some capacity. They're living for something other than themselves.
- They have a devotional life, even if it's not perfect. They might be struggling with consistency, but they're working at it. They make time to read the Bible and pray.
- They have somebody to walk with them. They don't fight the battle alone, because they have a Christian brother or sister who stands with them. They share their burdens and their struggles which always lightens the load a bit.

- They choose to believe what the Bible says. Even when they may not "feel" like it's true, they make the choice to trust Bible truths like "I will not leave you or forsake you" (Heb. 13:5) and "greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4).
- They rehearse God's care in the past. It's easy to forget yesterday's blessings when today's hard, but those who don't give up fight hard to avoid that error. They continually remind themselves, "God has never let me down in the past. He won't now, either."
- They trust that when they are weak, God is their strength (2 Cor. 12:10). They may not like the battle, but they learn from the apostle Paul's prior experience. Weakness doesn't bother them, for they know God's power is most evident when they are weakest.
- They understand the witness of faithfulness in the battle. They
  recognize that somebody's always watching them and that their
  witness is most potent when life is hard, and their faith is stretched.
  Their faithfulness in the valley catches the attention of the watching
  world.
- They cry out to God. There's no pretence in their praying. They sugarcoat none of their words, and they follow no formula in their prayers.
   They know God's big enough to handle their questions and their pain.
   He is, you know. . ..

Let us know how we might pray for you if you're tempted to give up.



#### Why I love Greenbelt Festival

There is a moment, late one afternoon, when we are in the Canopy, a smallish tent with open sides in the blessed shade of mature, majestic trees over this meltingly hot Bank Holiday.

Two young, bearded men are singing on the small stage; they ask us to move forward 'so it looks like we're really popular for our YouTube video'.

We do as we are told, clapping in rhythm as instructed. A young autistic man alternates between looking confused and leaping enthusiastically in the air whilst a man with physical disability gets off his mobility scooter and standing next to it, claps with clenched fists.

Like us they are a part of this Festival where arts, faith and justice come together. As I sometimes struggle with my rucksack on my back and my chair slung on my shoulder and go back to a comfortable bed at a local pub I wonder at and admire the large section of the campsite reserved for disabled festival goers. It's the same every year, sometimes with the challenge of high winds and torrential rain, this year with temperatures of over 30 degrees and no shade on the campsite.

Another story I read:

#### **Communion 2019**

'I'm not good in the middle of big crowds so I sat at the back by the marquees, on the edge of the crowd. There were several people who positioned themselves on the edge. A few feet to my right there was a young woman and a couple of feet to the left there stood a steward. When it came to taking communion there was no bread and wine available. But the steward had a few oatcakes and the young woman had a drink of hot chocolate. I brought nothing to the 'table' except myself. We shared communion with these gifts and it was a very special moment. Thank you.'

Returning from another weekend, after a year off, we echo a comment from a Greenbelt Angel (those who contribute monthly to support the Festival): 'I'm already counting down to next year and look forward to the next adventure in reflection, contemplation, spiritual growth and, most of all, fellowship'

There is good music, fun and laughter too!

#### Lectio Divina

After Doreen's service on I September when she contrasted Dwelling in the Word which we practise within our Partnership for Missional Church (PMC) initiative, with the individual practice of Lectio Divina, a number of people asked for further background information:

Lectio Divina is a very old Christian practice, originating in the time of the Church Fathers & widely practiced by monastic orders. It has recently seen a resurgence in popularity. Dwelling in the Word is a form of group Lectio Divina, although it is also well worth doing on an individual basis.

Lectio Divina means Holy or Divine Reading. However it is not Bible Study but more a way of prayer, of allowing God to speak to us through His Word, the Bible. It is therefore advisable to use a passage that is reasonably familiar. Where at least we know the context & something about the background. The daily readings in the Church of England or Methodist Church, the Roman Catholic gospel for the daily mass or one from some of the Bible reading schemes that promote Lectio Divina, are all suitable.

There are a number of web sites offering guidance, of varying degrees of helpfulness.

The Methodist Church is very short and very basic: www.methodist.org.uk/ our-faith/prayer/creative-prayer/lectio-divina/

There is rather more information in the Roman Catholic sites: www.romancatholicman.com/practicing-lectio-divina/

or www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-prayer/the-what-how-why-of-prayer/ praying-with-scripture/

The Church of England has the longest & fullest guidance: www.anglicancommunion.org/media/253799/I-What-is-Lectio-Divina.pdf

#### Woosehill Church Magazine





The guidelines are all slightly different but they have some things in common:

Preparation: stilling our minds, coming into the presence of God, preparing to listen to God, perhaps through prayer, a hymn, the lighting of a candle or whatever is personally most comfortable.

Reading the passage, probably 2 or 3 times (possibly in different translations)

Looking out for a phrase or a word or a verse that 'speaks' to us & rereading just that bit.

Praying from & meditating on the word or phrase, noting if we need to confess a past action or inaction & whether we are being called to a future action, whether we are being challenged or comforted.

Ideally we would have a notebook or journal (or a very good memory) so that we can return to what God was saying to us at intervals during the day & also note whether we receive the same or similar messages in the future.

#### Doreen

## Pastoral Letter to Wokingham Methodist Church September 2019 (Edited)

Dear Friends,

The beginning of September marks a big change for me personally as I take on the responsibilities of Superintendent for our Circuit. This is in addition to the work I have



already including, for this next year at least, my responsibilities at Woosehill and Church @ The Pines. I will be very appreciative of your continuing prayers as I take on this new role and I look forward to a busy and stimulating time as we serve God together and seek to encourage people to become part of his kingdom.

Catherine
Rev'd Catherine Bowstead

# Season of Creation

Creation is God's intricate work of art, and human beings are privileged to be placed within it. In this Season of Creation, we celebrate God the Creator, we thank God for the extraordinary riches of his grace. But we also come in sorrow for the way we have defaced creation and misused it for our own ends. In this Season, let's find again a true vision of what being made in the image of God and caring for creation can mean, and commit ourselves to action". Most Rev. and Rt. Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

Each year, tens of thousands of Christians around the world celebrate the Season of Creation. It runs from September 1st, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, to October 4th, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. The Season of Creation was instigated by the Orthodox church in 1989 and taken up by many other faith traditions and ecumenical bodies including the World Council of Churches. Since 2009, the Anglican Consultative Council has called on provinces to include the Season of Creation in their yearly pattern of worship. This year, nine church leaders from different faith traditions have, for the first time, written a joint letter urging Christians to mark the season. They write, "This season offers a precious opportunity to pause in the midst of our day-to-day lives and contemplate the fabric of life into which we are woven. As the environmental crisis deepens, we Christians are urgently called to witness to our faith by taking bold action to preserve the gift we share."





# ~ A Franciscan Blessing ~

# May God Bless You with Discomfort, Anger, Tears, and Foolishness

May God bless you with a restless *discomfort* about easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy *anger* at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of *tears* to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough *foolishness* to believe that you really can make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

Posted on Facebook August 2019 - anon.





# **HARVEST**



# **APPEAL**

Yeldall Manor, Christian drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre, would appreciate your alternative harvest gifts of:



#### MEN'S SOCKS & **BOXER SHORTS**

New, please! All sizes welcome

T-shirts / polo shirts



#### **TOILETRIES**

Mid-range shower gels, deodorants, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving gel & disposable razors



#### **BOWLS &** CUTLERY

New or used mugs, plain white cereal bowls and stainless steel teaspoons



#### **BED SHEETS**

New fitted single white bed sheets or pillowcases.

Sturdy coat hangers

Please – no perishable foods, but for those who prefer to give a more conventional harvest gift, we can still use squash, instant coffee, vegetable oil, olive oil, tinned tuna and tinned tomatoes.



#### Dear friends.

For many years, we have received generous support at Harvest time. Currently, we feel that there are many others in greater need, especially when it comes to fresh, tinned or dried goods. We actually suggest that you consider giving your donations to a foodbank or similar outreach.

But if you do want to bless us with some gifts, we welcome alternative harvest appeal items – new men's clothing items and toiletries, bed sheets plus mugs, white cereal bowls and teaspoons. (Where do all the teaspoons go?! I think that biros go to the same place as well!) In terms of conventional harvest donations, squash, instant coffee, cooking oil, tinned tuna and tomatoes are the only items that we are actively seeking to receive.)

Sue Hedger Administration and Supporter Relations Manager, Yeldall Manor



#### Be still

# 'The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.' (Exodus 14:14)

When we're faced with a problem, we usually want to solve it. Exodus tells us that the Israelites were faced with a massive problem: standing on the edge of the Red Sea, there was nowhere to escape from the fast-approaching Egyptian soldiers – they were stuck. And when they called out in desperation they were told, 'you need only to be still'. Wait, what?

This verse, and the rest of the Israelites' story, is a reminder for us not to be overwhelmed with whatever we're facing in life. God promises that he is fighting with us. Tearfund could be overwhelmed with the scale of global poverty, but we are not alone in our fight. You could get overwhelmed with the expectations and pressures mounting in your life, but God says, I am fighting with you, be still.

#### Father,

As we lay down the situations that scare us, the problems that overwhelm us and the expectations that pressure us, we thank you that we can be still. We praise you for your almighty power that can split seas in half, and thank you that you are fighting with us.

Emily Owen, Tearfund - From Tearfund Lent devotionals

# St Frideswide Pilgrimage

Sunday 19th October: Christ Church Cathedral

Join others from the parish walking to Oxford along the Thames in time for tea at 3pm and a Pilgrims' Service at 4pm.



# The Parish of St Paul Wokingham Sermon series 2019 At St Paul's on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 6.15pm



October the 20<sup>th</sup>: the Rev'd Tina Molyneux

Tina is now the Diocesan Advisor on Discipleship. She is passionate about helping every single person to respond to God's call on their lives, and has developed Personal Discipleship Plans (PDPs) as a way of helping people discern what God is calling them to. She lives near Maidenhead and was a senior HR manager and a Management Consultant before ordination.





Due to the busy Summer holiday period, we are desperately short of the following items:

Milk - Longlife

Sugar

Cold Meat-tinned

**Biscuits** 

Custard - packet

All Purpose Cleaner

Washing Powder — SMALL packs

Deodorant-ladies and mens

Razors

Shaving Foam

At the present time we have an abundance of the following: Soup, Baked Beans and Pasta

Thank you for your support, it is greatly appreciated.

# WOW Calendar for 2019

October 18: Skittles evening with Lynn Smith



November: Learn to crochet with Eileen



December: We hope this will be our usual carol singing with the Music Group open for all at the Leathern Bottel







# **FIRST STEPS**



for pre-school children and their parents, grandparents or carers to introduce the children to church in a relaxed, fun and friendly way.

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of Each Month during Term Time

10<sup>th</sup> October; 14<sup>th</sup> November; 12<sup>th</sup> December. Children's Chapel St Paul's Church, Wokingham

Please come along with your pre-school children for songs, stories, craft activities and refreshments

For more information call: Rev'd Richard Lamey 0118 327 9116 or Liz Gallagher 0118 989 1176



#### **REGULAR MEETINGS**

#### Sunday

Church services - see Services Diary and weekly newsletter

## Mondays at 8pm: House Group

For more information talk to Geoff Peck: 9786711 geoffpeck@hotmail.com

#### **Tuesday**

Bible study group: Exploring Faith from 8-9.30pm in the church.

## Wednesday

Tadpoles group: Coffee and play for pre-school children and their carers

9.00-11.00am in term time.

Contact: Val Weedon: 9791156/ 07919062770

or valerie.weedon@btinternet.com

#### **Thursday**

Together in prayer: monthly on third Thursday from 8-9pm

Contact Lyn Brown: 9782816

#### **Saturday**

Church work party: first Saturday in month 10.30am

Contact John Hoskins: 9792597

# **Church contacts**

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

Rev'd Richard Lamey, The Rectory, Holt Lane 0118 3279116 richard.lamey@spauls.org.uk

St Paul's Parish Office, Reading Road, Wokingham RG41 1EH 0118 979 2122 (Parish administrator Louise Cole) office@stpauls-wokingham.org.uk

Rev'd Catherine Bowstead

5 Chetwode Close, Wokingham RG40 2LL 0118 9781756 minister@wokinghammethodist.org.uk

For room hire bookings contact Tony Sayer on 0118 9786560 or email tony.sayer@ntlworld.com



#### Pattern of Services at Woosehill

Keep an eye out in the newsletter for more up to date information too. You can receive this weekly by email:

contact Alison Lewis at woosehill.church@googlemail.com

#### 1st Sunday:

8.45am Holy Communion

10am Morning Worship

#### 2nd Sunday:

10am Holy Communion with Sunday Club for our young people

# 3rd Sunday

8.45am Holy Communion

10am Morning Worship

## 4th Sunday

10am Holy Communion
4pm Messy Church - for all ages
6.15pm Evening Reflective Worship

## (5th Sunday)

10am Café Church 5.30pm Service at Suffolk Lodge Care Home