

Woosehill Church Magazine

Sharing God's love with the community

September - October 2021



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,

It is a time of cautious hope as more of us return to worship in our churches; in Woosehill Church our social groups are restarting, reaching out in hospitality to the wider community. We have a new Saturday morning group inviting those who want a bit of company and a chat to drop in for a cuppa. Read about these groups in the pages ahead.

Yet it is also a time of sadness as our parish has been hit hard by the loss of members of their churches or their close family members. At Woosehill we mourn the loss of our dear friend Nicky and miss her presence with us on Sunday mornings.

We send our love and prayers in particular too to St Nick's and pray that their faith will sustain them now and in the months ahead.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

With every blessing,

Val

Next deadline: 28 November 2021 for Advent and Christmas events. Articles and notices as usual preferably by e-mail to: valerie.weedon@btinternet.com

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God's Offer of Salvation



The season of Harvest Celebrations are around us. Sunday services with the beautiful displays of fresh vegetables, fruits, and other gifts and on the following day, having the joy of fellowship over supper and entertainment and auction are very common features of this season. If not in our church now, in our early days, most of us have never missed an occasion like this. We have always felt that, besides this being an occasion to give thanks to God for all that he provides us, it gives us a sense of continuity. We can remember, like Christmas and Easter, how we celebrated the last Harvest Festival and the ones before.

It is very true that it is an occasion for us to thank God for the world he has given us and all that it gives to us for our sustenance. We do give thanks to God always, but this is a special occasion in that we celebrate God's loving care. At the same time, it reminds us of our stewardship for our world. It is also a time to remember and respond to those who do not get to enjoy the fruits of the harvest.

Going behind all these celebrations and concerns, there is something that points us to the core of our belief: God's offer of salvation to us.

Taking from the life of farmers, it is very obvious that while one enjoys a good harvest in a particular season, there may be the other who has lost all the capital. Stories abound of farmers from around the world who could not cultivate at all, because of drought or war. Even those who had a good harvest this season might have had a failed one in the past. But each time when the new season for cultivation draws near, no matter whether they had a good or bad harvest in the last season, the wish and the desire of the farmer is the same: ***this time it will be good.***

The hope that *what lies ahead of us is going to be good*, is the basis of God's offer of salvation to us. There are several occasions when we have rejoiced in



a good harvest in our personal lives. A year full of health and happiness and everything going fine in the family and among friends. We can also recount several occasions when things went wrong and felt ourselves beyond redemption. But we have come through several full cycles with ups and downs.

God's offer of salvation is cyclical too: ***if it is not good this time, it will be good next time.*** Each new occasion brings with it, hope for the future. This is what we get to see each time we have a celebration in our church. Time after time, year after year, season after season, God's offer of salvation comes in a full circle with renewed hope.



Warm greetings to you all,
Soba Sinnathamby-

A Prayer for Harvest

Creator God and loving Father,
We thank you for all you have given, and all that is safely gathered in -
Here today and all around the world;
For harvested grain and ripe, juicy fruit,
For tins and packets and all good nutritious food.

Creator God and loving Father,
We thank you for everyone you have made and all who are safely gathered
in homes and churches - here today and all around the world;
For old and young, boys and girls, for those we love and those we don't
know.

Creator God and loving Father, we thank you for giving to us so abundantly
that we can help to safely gather in those who aren't yet enjoying a rich
Harvest - by generously sharing ours, as you always intended, with those
who are hungry or have been forced to flee their homes.

Amen

(a prayer from Embrace the Middle East)

Could you play a musical instrument in church?

On Sunday 8th August, it was formally announced that Mike and Janet will sadly be relocating away from Wokingham. We will miss them but wish them well for the future.

As Mike is not planning to play at Wooshill beyond September, I am looking to build a new music group but need musicians. My plan is to play once per month. The concept is a **“No guilt band”** which means you do not have to commit to play every month or perfectly.

We are looking for musicians who can ideally sight read simple music notation or guitar chord symbols in a reasonable key at a reasonable tempo. The need to read music is driven by the notice that we are given of the hymns to play the following Sunday.

Each Sunday, there will also be instrumental music played before and after the service, which can be planned further in advance. Anyone who can play a musical instrument is welcome to contribute.

We do not expect musicians to:

Play without mistakes or to a professional standard.

Prior experience of playing in a group, band or orchestra is not required.

We will be a work in progress and hopefully it will be fun and rewarding!

I would provide:

- Sheet music for your instrument for the 4 hymns/worship songs, 4 days in advance.
- An mp3 piano accompaniment track for each hymn, with the sheet music, for your practise.

You may, of course, already be confident enough to play on your own as a soloist, as Mike has done in the past.

Music practise would start 1 hour before the service starts.

If you are interested, please contact me:

Derek Hutchinson





Goodbye to Mike and Janet



In September we say a sad goodbye to Mike and Janet Cole, thanking Mike for his many years contributing so wonderfully to the musical life of our church. We wish them both well in their future lives together.

In Mike's words:

It has been a real privilege to serve at Woosehill Church since 1994/5 and to see my children grow up within the community. And your prayers and support for me through divorce and illness have been humbling. I will never forget the good times and what we achieved – sometimes in very difficult circumstances.

Mike



BEER & CAROLS

Old school carol singing, mulled wine and ale drinking
led by the music group of Woosehill Church

Monday 14th December

8pm til late

Ye Olde Leathern Bottel

www.woosehillchurch.co.uk

The Website

Most readers will be familiar with the idea behind a website; some may consider that it's rather outdated and has been eclipsed by the current appetite for social media. In reality the website is still an important part of how the church communicates with its members and with the outside world. The old adage that you only get one chance to make a first impression, applies especially to the church's website, because it represents the first contact many people will have with us and therefore it needs to reflect the church's key characteristics and provide a clear and accurate view of what kind of church we are.

This means that at least the church website has to be well laid out, interesting to read and information has to be easy to find. It is also important that it is kept up to date. A web site that is out of date is often judged to represent a lethargic church with little direction. Since we changed provider a few months ago, we have tried to refresh the web site by re-organising the menu structure into something more accessible and getting rid of out of date information. We have of course to recognise that whilst the church's past is an important part of who we are, but it must not inhibit us looking forward. Hence the important thing to recognise is how we are changing, hopefully for the better.

As the church's three working groups start to impact how we act as a church, it is important that the website aligns with the direction they are setting. This is particularly true for the group looking at our relationship with the wider community, as the web site is often the first contact with the church for many of the wider community. Thus the message delivered is very important.

The web team does the basic work of setting up a viable structure and performing the basic mechanics of updating the website; they cannot and should not be the arbiters of what is relevant and what is not. The content of the web site primarily has to be the responsibility of individual groups, who use it as a mechanism for putting out their message. This means groups need to take the responsibility for identifying where their information is out of date and providing the necessary update material and instructions to the web team.

Of course the church provides many sources of information, some like the church magazine and notice sheet cover fixed time spans (two months and a week respectively). Facebook provides a running commentary on events in the church and Twitter provides discussion threads. Only the website covers a wide timespan, a wide



range of topics and often provides an index to the other sources.

We have made a lot of changes to the site over recent weeks and generally I think it is better, but there is still a lot of room for improvement in structure and in the way it presents the church and its capabilities. We are always interested in hearing of suggestions for further improvement, but the message is clear, the web site is often the first point of contact with the outside world. Indeed, a friend who is in the clergy once told me that it was often the first thing he checked when evaluating a potential new parish. Please do all you can to help ensure that our site is always current, by supplying updates for your group, to the web team, as soon as they are available.

Ed Smith

Faith, Hope & Love



These three sunflower plants were left over from the goody bags, so I planted them at the entrance to Woosehill Church carpark – Faith Hope and Love. Soon after planting Faith was cut in half and although still alive it is unable to grow or flower- maybe with some nurturing it would grow a side shoot and flower. Love has also had problems, and is now bent and battered, but continuing to grow and slowly recovering, if supported it may have recovered quicker. Which leaves Hope, not damaged, but like Faith & Love growing in a shady location, lacking water and nourishment.

At this point it is tempting to compare these 3 plants with our faith, hope and love at Woosehill Church– but I won't, I'll leave that up to you to think about. Whatever your conclusions are I'm sure you've thought of things which could make faith, hope and love better at Woosehill Church. So, how are you going to help faith, hope and love to grow and flourish at Woosehill Church?

Steve

Afternoon Tea at Woosehill Church

Saturday 21st August 2021



A lovely social event was organised by Amanda and it was so good to see the church sanctuary buzzing with conversation as people enjoyed being together after the isolation of recent months for many.

Thanks to all who baked and set up the space and also to Amanda's husband Iain for his unstinting service with the teapot!





Service of Reflection August 8th



Our first evening service since the start of the pandemic was a very special opportunity to sit quietly in prayer, listen to Taizé music, as well as visiting the prayer and poem stations set out in the church to light a candle.

It was good to have people from the three churches in our parish and we hope to do similar services in the future.

We had a special message from Cara afterwards in appreciation:

Thank you all for arranging such a beautiful and prayerful space this evening. The tone felt just right with the balance of acknowledging all that has been and God's peace with us throughout. It was really thoughtfully laid out and Taizé was perfect.

A Poem

***How can I tell of such love to me? You made me in your image
and hold me in the
palm of your hand, your cords of love, strong and fragile as silk
bind me and hold me.***

***Rich cords, to family and friends.
music and laughter echoing in memories,
light dancing on the water, hills rejoicing.***

***Cords that found me hiding behind carefully built walls and let me out,
love that heard my heartbreak and despair and rescued me,
love that overcame my fears and doubts and released me.***

***The questions and burdens I carry you take,
to leave my hands free - to hold yours and others,
free to follow your cords as they move and swirl in the breeze,
free to be caught up in the dance of your love,
finding myself in surrendering to you.***

***How can I tell of such love? How can I give to such love?
I am, here am I.***

Lyn read these beautiful words at the close of our reflective evening service.

Lyn writes: The Rev. Catherine Hooper was amongst the first cohort of women to be ordained into the Church of England in 1994. Tragically her ministry was cut short in 1999 when she was killed, aged 40, in a road accident along with two other Ministers after a rambling expedition in Northumberland.

These lovely words are an enduring legacy to her.



**Remembering Nicky - a gentle soul, much treasured by the
Woosehill Church family**

Nicola Jane Uthwatt
'Nicky'

4th July 1955 - 25th August 2021



Woosehill Community Church
Tuesday 21st September 2021
11.00 am



Tadpoles

Our Tadpoles group for under fives and their carers restarted sessions inside the church on 15 September. A group of eager families swarmed into the church as we opened up and it was good to see some familiar faces as well as lots of new babies.

We limit the group to 20 families and are full with a short waiting list.

A new addition to our resources is this wonderful prayer mat made by our banner group. It was a bit chaotic on the first morning but will hopefully settle down soon!



Sue Youle read this recently in her morning meditation of Celtic reflections. She thought it very apt for our ministry to our Tadpoles group:

'We can pray blessings on non-Christian folk too. It is like pouring glitter over a home-made Christmas card – wherever the glue stick has prepared the card the glitter will stick, the rest only rolls off; and even a little of the glitter can be enough to spell out a clear message.'



quench®

satisfy the thirst for truth...

At Holme Grange Craft Village

We are really excited by the products on offer this year from our friends at the Meaningful Chocolate Company. All of their packaging is recyclable, and the chocolate is Fairtrade and palm oil free, plus a donation from all sales goes to charity. This year, not only can you purchase (from us obviously!) an advent calendar which tells the REAL story of Christmas, complete with a 24 page Christmas activity booklet and yummy chocolate all for just £4.50, but you can also celebrate with a chocolate Christingle!

Yes ladies and gentlemen, you **did** read that correctly...We give you the world's first Fairtrade Meaningful Chocolate Orange boxed in the style of a Christingle. It's great as a gift or for services - with no fire hazard and no risk of sticks being poked into eyes!!

This year also sees the arrival of the Joy to the world Sharing Box for £30. Perfect for crib services, messy church, toddler groups...in fact, **all** Christmassy gatherings regardless of age!

Each box contains 30 gold-foiled milk chocolate angels (Fairtrade of course) and 30 Christmas story-activity posters.

Why not order a box for your local care home? Or your child's class at school?

There's a new Christmas Blessings bar in town too! Joining the milk and dark chocolate ones of last year is the orange milk one. £3 per bar, and just right for slipping in with a Christmas card.



Grief

CARE & FEEDING of YOUR GRIEVING PERSON

@refugeingrief

LEAVE THEM CARE PACKAGES



BE SPECIFIC ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP



ASK QUESTIONS



REMEMBER BIG DATES

SET A CALENDAR REMINDER FOR BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, HOLIDAYS AND SEND A TEXT OR NOTE.



PARALLEL PLAY

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER. YOUR PRESENCE MATTERS.



ACKNOWLEDGE THE LITTLE DATES

AN ORDINARY SATURDAY CAN SUCK TOO.



SAY THEIR NAME

SHARE A MEMORY, SAY THEIR PERSON'S NAME.



LET THEM BE SAD

SADNESS IS HEALTHY.



BE AWKWARD

IT'S OK IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY OR DO. YOUR FRIEND NEEDS YOU! DON'T LET FEELING AWKWARD STOP YOU.



YOU DON'T NEED TO BE PERFECT, JUST PRESENT. 



A Prayer

Disturb us Lord, when
We are too pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wilder seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.

We ask you to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push back the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

This we ask in the name of our Captain,
Who is Jesus Christ.

Sir Francis Drake 1577

Read by Colin as part of our intercessions on 19 September

I'm right here....

As you may know, shortly after my elder grandson was born, we discovered that he had permanent moderate hearing loss, and would need to wear hearing aids. My daughter Kate has done an incredible job of supporting him through his early years of coping with this (you should see her clearing a blocked hearing aid tube whilst we are at a theme park by whipping out her earring and using the post to clear the blockage!), with the result that his speech has developed completely normally and he is one of the most academically capable in his class at school. Joshua has, maybe because of his struggles with hearing, had a passion for books ever since he was tiny; he was desperate to learn to read and accomplished it amazingly quickly, and now he gets totally absorbed in a wide variety of stories whenever he gets an opportunity.



I admire my grandson (who is now nearly 8) so much for the way he deals with the problems he faces, especially since in the past couple of years I have started wearing hearing aids myself, so I have begun to understand what it is like. One of the main difficulties is picking out the sounds you need to hear within a noisy environment, and the sheer onslaught hitting your senses of amplified noise that you are unable to control. Josh has benefitted from his teacher at school using a loop system, but playgrounds, lunch halls and sports lessons are all a barrage which he copes with beautifully, but which often leave him exhausted by the end of the day. In his football training sessions (he is now a proud member of the Chineham Tigers Under 8 team) he has to try and pick out his coach's voice from background noise and the shouts of his teammates, and in swimming lessons he cannot wear his hearing aids at all, so relies on watching the gestures of the teacher and following the example of the other kids in his class. You might think that a kid with these challenges might be a bit withdrawn and timid as a result, but not a bit of it. Josh is enthusiastic, affectionate, outgoing, popular....I could also add opinionated, bossy and quite often cheeky, but hey, everyone is allowed a few negative qualities!

One of the reasons Josh has made such good progress, has not been held back by his hearing difficulties, and (I am sure) will achieve great things in the future, is that his family have been right there for him every step of the way. His brother Luke is two years younger, and I noticed the other day when I was watching them play together that Luke instinctively says his brother's name, and makes sure he is facing towards



him, when he wants to get his attention. When they get into the bath together at the end of the day and Josh's hearing aids come out, Luke adjusts his voice just loud enough so that Josh can hear him, but he's not shouting. He has done this ever since he was very little, and the touching thing is that Luke's is the voice that Joshua always seems to pick out best, whatever the environment. Kate has worked hard right from the start at enabling him in every way she can, whilst hiding her own heartaches at the challenges he faces. Joshua knows that he is never alone and that we are right here for him; he has taken that as his base, and he has soared.

In Jesus' ministry, as well as healing people (and he loved doing that!) he also empowered them. He asked them what they needed, letting them choose for themselves. He heard their voices, he told them what they were already doing beautifully, and he let them see what their future could be. Although he tried to reach out to everyone, Jesus was often rejected or criticised by the super-confident and self-absorbed, but he connected in a very real way with those who were aware of their own vulnerabilities. Now I believe that everybody, however confident they look and act, has something fragile about them which holds them back, but some of us are more honest about it than others. Jesus saw beneath the bravado; he knew what physical weaknesses or mental health issues threatened to limit each person, but he also saw the potential of what they could be if loved, supported, and enabled.

We are all familiar with the wonderful words of St Teresa of Avila:

'Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.'

I would add that he has no smiles but ours, no hugs but ours, no voice to say "Everything is alright, and I am here for you" than ours. Ours is the support with which he enables this world.

Elaine



Thursday Morning Groups are Starting Up Again

We are running 4 groups now

Sing Something Simple

A musical meander down Memory Lane



1st Thursday Sing

2nd Thursday Knit

3rd Thursday Paint

4th Thursday Sew

Woolsehill Watercolour Group



Chat while painting!

Come and have a go!

WoolWAM

Wool With A Mission



Knit & Natter

Sewing and Thread Craft Group



This new sewing/thread craft and natter group.

Just bring along your latest project and

have a chat and a cuppa while you sew.



SUNDAY CLUB



Sunday club will run once a month, on the 3rd Sunday term time only. All children over 3 years are welcome, and children will be supported by two experienced (DBS checked) Sunday club leaders. Parents are welcome to stay until their child/ children are confident to attend on their own.

We will use bible-based lessons which we will relate to experiences the children will have already had in their home and school environments. The lessons will also follow the church calendar.

The sessions will be fun and thought provoking. We will use activities appropriate to the age of the children which may include craft, drama, and discussion.

New Saturday Group - Sip and Share

The first coffee morning, advertised on the post card to all on Woosehill, was held on Saturday 11th September. We welcomed two completely new people and two who used to come to church but who now find that difficult. We had homemade cakes, flapjack and chocolate biscuits to go with tea or coffee which were appreciated; especially the 'Free From' Bakewell slices as one guest had developed food allergies following her Covid Vaccination. She was pleased that we were catering for all tastes.

The morning coincided with the 'Ride and Stride' around Berkshire churches and two families from Winnersh came in and joined us and were interested in our church history.

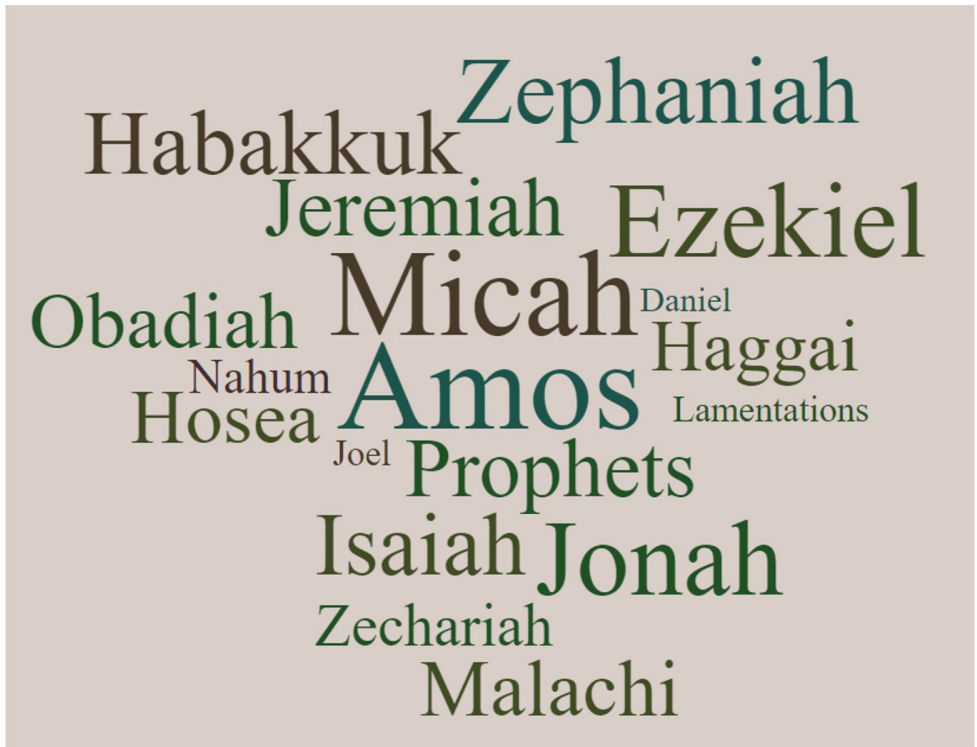
We will hold the next one on the **2nd Saturday in October**. Thank you to Jo Cullinane, Sue Peck and Lyn Brown for helping and Soba for attending.

Lynn Smith



Woosehill & St Paul's Parish Bible Study Old Testament Prophets

Tuesday evenings 7.15pm till 8.30pm



Starting 7th September over zoom:

ID 861 4762 3913, Password 702050

For more information please contact woosehillchurchnews@gmail.com

**To Make You Smile**

And lo, the angel of the Lord appeared unto Beatrice the organist and delivered unto her a new hymn from the Lord God and bade her play it on Sunday. But Beatrice sighed and explained that the congregation would rise up as one and smite her with pew cushions if she were to assault their ears with an unfamiliar sound. And the angel went sorrowing away.

EasyFundraising reminder



EasyFundraising is a way for the Church to gain extra income from your online shopping at no cost to you, and is simple to use. It's safe to use as you still buy from the retailers' own web site with all the usual security and delivery information available. By going to the retailers' web site via EasyFundraising they will record your visit and make a small donation to the Church if you purchase something.

EasyFundraising works on any common computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone. It will look a little different depending on your device and software, but the principles remain the same.

To get started either download and open the **EasyFundraising** App, or use any of the common web browsers and go to

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/woosehillchurch>

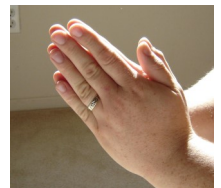


Closing prayers

Dear God, we pray that your Holy Spirit will guide and teach us as we seek to build upon the gifts we already have, as individuals and as a church. Enable us to become a better and more active and prayerful version of us. Give us eyes to see what you are doing, in our individual lives, in our church and in our neighbourhood. Transform Woosehill Church, we pray, to become an engaging, effective, inspiring and flourishing body in tune with your dreams and desires for our local community. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

Jesus, I confess that I am so much quicker to list my needs than count my blessings.

My mind is more preoccupied by what's difficult than by what's good. Open my eyes today to notice what is good, true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable around me. (Phil.4:8)





Woosehill Church Services and meetings

As more of us return to church, 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

We also at present at the moment on Zoom:

Parish Bible study on Tuesday evenings 7.15 - 8.30pm

Together in Prayer on the third Thursday of the month from 8-9pm
Contact Lyn Brown for details

House group on Monday evenings contact Geoff Peck on 0118 9786711

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