

Woosehill Church Magazine

Sharing God's love with the community

September - October 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,

As I write this, the nation is in sombre mood following the death of her Majesty the Queen after a lifetime of devoted service, supported by her unwavering Christian faith.

Most of us have no recollection of any other monarch and for me, like many I think, my earliest memory is of going to 'the big house' down the road where we were invited to watch the Coronation on a very small black and white television. It was a modest gathering and I don't think we were offered food!

And so we enter a new era as King Charles III accedes to the throne and we pray that he bears his heavy burden with fortitude, like his mother upheld by a strong Christian faith.

There is not surprisingly a rather subdued feeling to this issue of our magazine but I am sure you will join me in saying;
"God Save the King"

*With every blessing,
Val*

**Next deadline: November 20th.
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,

The faith that sustained the Queen

After the death of the Queen, we hear a multitude of commentaries about her life and reign. Historians, biographers, politicians and ordinary citizens share their memories and the impressions they have of her, with deep affection. In all that we get to understand and appreciate more of her personality and qualities.

In his televised address to the nation, King Charles III paid tribute to his mother saying, “Her dedication and devotion as a sovereign never wavered, through times of change and progress, through times of joy and celebration and through times of sadness and loss. In her life of service, we saw that abiding love of tradition, together with that fearless embrace of progress which makes us great as nations. The affection, admiration and respect she inspired became the hallmark of her reign”. We all agreed wholeheartedly, recalling, this is the Queen we know. At times we ponder, what gave her the grace, strength and resolve with which she totally committed herself to serve us over these seven decades.

Time and again the Queen has explicitly stated that it is her Christian faith that sustained her throughout her life. On Christmas Day 2000, in her message to the nation, she talked about how Christianity “provides a framework in which I tried to lead my life”. Even as recently as this summer, she sent a message to the Lambeth Conference, writing, “Throughout my life the message and teachings of Christ have been my guide”. These very same points continued to feature in her many Christmas Day messages over the years.

As monarch, she was a constant presence at national religious events like Remembrance Sunday at the cenotaph. Pictures of her leaving church on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day were regular features in the media. But away from media glare, she regularly worshipped at All Saints church in Windsor Great Park or the chapel in Windsor Castle. Besides worship, she received spiritual advice from the clergy of St George’s Chapel and the successive Deans of Windsor.

As much as her faith sustaining her, her total commitment and response to her faith made her the queen we loved and adored. When she was only 21, five years before she became Queen, young princess Elizabeth made a pledge to serve God and the people for her whole life, whether it be long or short, asking God “to make good of



my vow”.

Her biographer, Ben Pimlott, likened this pledge to that of a nun-like promise. In that, becoming the monarch is not a job or a position to hold, but a vocation to serve with the help of God. Her anointing as Queen, shortly before the coronation, in keeping with biblical tradition, was akin to a priestly ordination. This is effectively, the Queen giving her life to God and receiving God’s blessings upon her life and reign.

The Queen leaves us with so many memories and legacies that will be embedded in the history of this country. For us who have seen and heard and read about her, among the many lasting memories we will cherish, the most humbling of all would be the source of her strength and commitment: her Christian faith.

With prayers,

Soba

A Prayer for our Queen

Majestic God, whose throne is in heaven, whose footstool is the earth:

we thank you for your servant Elizabeth, your faithful servant, our beloved Queen.

As we mourn her passing we give thanks for her witness of devoted service, unfailing wisdom,

compassionate generosity and faithful dedication,

and we pray that we may embrace her values and build your kingdom today and always. Amen.

Job advertisement!

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!

.....

“So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good.
At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up,
or quit.

Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance,
let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to
us in the community of faith.”

(Galatians 6:9-10, The Message)

Concert for Ukrainian Refugees



Sunday 9th October, 7pm
Wokingham Methodist Church,
Rose Street, RG40 1XS



*An evening of fun music with
BWCB Second Wind Band and
featuring Ladies choir
Cantata Conviva*

Tickets £12.50

*Available from members of
the band and choir or via
email:*

secondwindbwcb@outlook.com

*All proceeds to Wokingham
Borough Council's "Chance to
Thrive" campaign, supporting
young Ukrainian refugees in
our local community*



All in the family

The death of Queen Elizabeth II has hit the nation very hard, throwing us back into an intensely emotional state very like that of the first Lockdown. As well as feeling the need to share symbols, vigils and tributes, people seem to be very positive in their welcome to the new King; even those who have previously criticised and even made fun of him now seem to be full of support and praise. A country which was miserably bracing itself for a hard, economically challenging winter with an unknown Prime Minister in charge has now (temporarily at least) become a place of unity, which can only be a good thing. We are celebrating the life and accomplishments of an extraordinary monarch, whilst at the same time looking forward to the potential achievements of her son, who for so long has assisted and learned from her, and I think this shows what drives the enduring love which the British people have for the Royal Family: we value them because they *are* a family.



Recently-released home movies I have seen of the Queen's life before she came to the throne have painted a vivid picture of a cherished young girl who adored her father and had a close relationship with her mother and sister which seemed to involve a lot of laughter. She met the love of her life at a very young age, and as their family grew, they seem to have grasped whatever opportunities they could (in between all their duties and responsibilities) to spend quality time together and share their interests and hobbies. There have obviously been times of tension and sadness—what family doesn't have those? However, Her Majesty seemed to have a forgiving and generous nature which helped to heal rifts and move forward to embrace new relationships; in this, as in so many other aspects of life, she offered a good example to everyone struggling with the same issues.

Whether our experiences of them are happy or not, families are important to all of us, since as babies we all have a right to receive care and support from the people who are responsible for us. Sometimes this doesn't come from the birth parents, but from others who become family by choice. We have some lovely friends who, after many years of agonising failures trying to have a baby and being adamant they would never consider adoption, changed their minds and became parents of siblings of seven and three whose lives had been traumatic before they were taken into care. The first six months or so involved horrendous nights, screaming tantrums from the older child and tearful clinging by the younger one, and our poor friends looking like sleep-deprived zombies. Now, nearly two years on, I don't think I have ever seen a happier family. Love has worked a miracle.

St Paul, writing to a church he had founded in Rome, told the believers that “all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God” (Romans 8:14, NRSV). He urges us to call God “Abba”, which is effectively “Daddy”! Of course, the fact that we all have the same father means that whether the church likes it or not (and there are DEFINITELY times when it is “not”!), those who believe in Jesus Christ all belong to one family. I ran across this when I was researching Paul’s letter to Philemon for a recent sermon; when Paul pleaded/demanded that his friend Philemon should welcome back his escaped slave Onesimus without recrimination or punishment, he made the point that since they were both Christians, he should do this because Onesimus was now Philemon’s “dear brother”.

Those of us who had a family life which was less than fulfilling often find that an added bonus to all the benefits of coming into a relationship with Jesus is that we immediately find ourselves part of a family, with all the love and support that brings. It also means we sometimes have to put up with sibling rivalry or annoying know-it-all uncles and aunts, but that is just part of the rich experience of truly belonging in a tight-knit group! It has certainly made all the difference to me, and I really don’t like to think of how my life would have panned out if I hadn’t joined the youth fellowship of my local church as a withdrawn fourteen-year-old.

I shall be praying for the Royal Family, and King Charles in particular, as they process their grief in a whirlwind of public appearances and the demands of taking up new roles. One of the things that will sustain them through this challenging time is that they are able to support each other. I think we should all take this opportunity to look again at the church family with whom, through our faith, we are so closely connected, and reach out afresh with love wherever it is needed.

Elaine





Tithing Group

Part 2 in the series exploring the charities who benefit from our recently allocated tithing gifts:



The Children's Society

In the last issue we explored the work of Action for Children which has its origins in the Methodist Church. As an Anglican -Methodist ecumenical partnership we also support The Children's Society which has its origins in the Church of England.

This is why our Christmas services give equally to these two charities.

The Children's Society are a national charity working to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect. They support them through their most serious life challenges and campaign tirelessly for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most.

The story began in 1881. Edward Rudolf, a young Sunday school teacher and civil servant in South London, saw the effects of poverty on children and decided to do something about it.

When two young boys failed to turn up for his Sunday school, he went to look for them and was shocked to find them begging for food on the streets. Their father had died, leaving their mother struggling to bring up seven children under the age of 11.

Rudolf soon realised this was not a unique story and there were countless young people living in poverty. At that point, he decided to dedicate his life to improving the lives of children who had it toughest.

This was the beginning of The Church of England Children's Society.

Epitaph - By Merrit Malloy

When I die
Give what's left of me away
To children
And old men that wait to die.

And if you need to cry,
Cry for your brother
Walking the street beside you.
And when you need me,
Put your arms
Around anyone
And give them
What you need to give to me.

I want to leave you something,
Something better
Than words
Or sounds.

Look for me
In the people I've known
Or loved,
And if you cannot give me away,
At least let me live on in your eyes
And not your mind.

You can love me most
By letting
Hands touch hands,
By letting bodies touch bodies,
And by letting go
Of children
That need to be free.

Love doesn't die,
People do.
So, when all that's left of me
Is love,
Give me away.



News from Tadpoles

Tadpoles has started the new term with lots of babies - we are full!

Cara came to our first Circle Time and we were pleased to have Kelly joining the team to help us out in the kitchen.

Excitingly we had our first Tadpoles Baptism on 18th September when Kelly's daughter Sarah was baptised by Cara during the morning service. Not strictly a Tadpoles baptism as Sarah left us in July to go on to school, but we are proud to have some ownership in this special occasion and wish her every joy in her future life that it may be blessed by a growing faith.

More news as the term progresses - and do keep an eye on our noticeboard near the kitchen.

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



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.



THURSDAY MORNING ART GROUP

The Art Group will recommence in September (22nd) under a new name: **Colour & Chat.**

We no longer have a regular experienced water colour teacher so have decided to widen our remit. The water colour paints will still be available for those who want to use them but we will also be providing general colouring (felt tips and pencils) & collage. The idea being that participants do their own thing (or nothing!) while sharing tea/coffee & chat. Doodlers & thumb twiddlers also welcome! From time to time we may do some special sessions e.g. card making, scrap booking, water colour etc





Sunday Sermon Series at St Pauls as part of 6.15pm Evensong

September 18: Leonard Onugha: Psalm 1



Leonard says that knowing Christ and learning to walk with him has been an adventure – being arrested for holding a prayer meeting in one country and serving as a teaching pastor with a church in South East Asia are just some of the journeys his faith has taken him on! Much of his earlier work within ministry was done whilst he held a role with a large energy company. He has a deep and continuing desire to see the full flourishing of individuals and communities.

He is married to Joanna, they have three children, and lead a church that meets at three sites.

October 16: Jonathan Dean: Psalm 96



Jonathan is a Methodist presbyter, currently serving as Director of Learning for Ministry for the Methodist Church, supporting its work in education and ministerial formation. Previously, he's worked in local church ministry, in higher and theological education, and as a chaplain to both a maximum security prison and a university (not at the same time). He is a historian, a lover of dogs, a drinker of coffee, a consumer of politics and political journalism and a constantly hopeful and frequently disappointed supporter of Norwich City FC.

November 20: Hannah Ling: Psalm 46



Hannah is the Diocesan Social Justice Adviser, working on the recent Diocesan report on social justice and poverty, advising on LLF (Living in Love and Faith) and helping to focus the local response to the crisis in Ukraine.

St Paul's Church Choir are brilliantly led by Louise Turner, the Director of Music. Rehearsals are on a Wednesday evening and the Choir is non-auditioning. They are emerging from the pandemic in excellent heart and excellent voice. The Choir is a real gift and a real blessing, helping us meet God in worship time and time again.

The Sabre Tooth Threat

The penultimate pages of the New Scientist (2nd July 2022) are for reader's scientific questions, one question in the 2nd July edition was "Why do little children run everywhere instead of walking? Is it a legacy of sabre tooth predators?" The answers were interesting and amongst them were:

"The running of children has nothing to do with predators. It is the joy of life that each one of us would have were it not for self-consciousness, apprehension, worry, shame, and of course the fatigue we all get as we get older".

"Children run everywhere because they are still learning and refining their gross motor skills. Subconsciously, they are strengthening their bones and improving their co-ordination."

This process of developing and not being shackled by normal adult conventions is echoed by business writer Tom Peters, who is thought by some to be enlightened and by others a crank. He talks about how children, when learning to ride a bicycle have to face the peril of injury both physical and in the form of failing in front of their peers. The point being that at a very young age, we accept that these are part of the learning package, but when we grow up and become "business people" (adults) failing in front of our peers and loss of face become unacceptable and learning and therefore change don't take place.

The French mathematician, Henri Poincare, is another interesting example. He won a substantial prize from the King of Sweden in a competition exploring the stability of the universe. Prior to publication he had meticulously checked his work ahead of publication and so was somewhat shocked when one of the proof readers asked him a question about his paper that he couldn't answer. He checked his work again and found a glaring error. Rather than bury his mistake, he tried to stop publication and in the process spent rather more than his prize money in preventing distribution of the paper. He reworked his paper, eliminating the error and discovered the counter intuitive principles of chaos theory. New learning comes out of making mistakes, although it is rumoured the butterflies have still not forgiven him for giving away their secret.



You are probably way ahead of me and have identified that all this is leading to Mathew 18.1-3, about the role of children.

In the sketch “A simple question” (John Bell and Graham Maule, Jesus and Peter, Wild Goose Publications, 1999), gives us some insights into how difficult the disciples may have found the concept of becoming like children. Bell and Maule distil this down to four characteristics: enthusiasm, trust, generosity and curiosity. This kind of insight is one of benefits that engaging with the Iona community brings, which is why I think Soba’s wish to get them to come to Woosehill is such a good idea.

In the meantime, how can the children in your life bring you new insights into God’s world?

Ed Smith



Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there. — Matthew 19:13-14

“Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him. “Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read, “ ‘From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise?’”

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 August event, planned by Sue Falquero was a walk and picnic at Dinton Pastures. Sue writes:

Eight ladies from WOW met at Dinton Pastures carpark and decided to walk as far as the new Dragonfly café by the sailing club to buy refreshments there, instead of having to carry our picnic things with us. So off we set after paying the extortionate car park rates and bought our food and drink at the café, which was not that cheap either! We sat upstairs which gave us a wonderful view over the lake and the weather was very pleasant that day as the heat had calmed down and it was quite cloudy. We were able to sit in a group and chat and enjoy each others' company. After a while we decided to continue with our walk along the path around the main lake, when we came across a large machine cleaning the water of all the algae floating on the surface. We stopped to watch this operation as it scooped up the water plant and deposited it into mounds on the banks of the lake at various points.

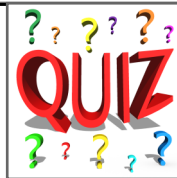
Many families were out walking and enjoying the wild life on the pond and all the wonder of nature that the Lord Has given us. Every time I go there I always think how lucky we are to have this glorious park on our doorstep.





Future meetings of WOW

Our September meeting is postponed to **October 5th** due to holiday commitments and is a Pub Quiz at The Dog and Duck, Emmbrook, organised by Louis Cole. Starting at **8pm**, do let Louise know if you would like to go by emailing her at: louise.cole@sky.com



This means we have two meetings in October - but very different events! On **Saturday 22nd October 10:30 to 12:30**, Ruth is organising a Crafts Morning at the church.

Ruth says:

I ask that those coming bring a craft item they have made or are working on to show and talk about with others. (It can be something you have been given also.) I hope that some people might be willing to demonstrate their craft.

I will bring along some of the bobbin lace I have made over the years and a pillow set up for others to 'have a go'. Perhaps someone who is part of WOOLWAM can bring some knitting or crochet? I will try to bring along some other things that people can try out
I'll also provide cake and hot drinks.



Our November meeting is a return of the popular Book Evening hosted by Val at her home. You are invited to bring along a favourite book, talk about a book you have enjoyed or just come along and listen!

The date for this is **Wednesday 16th November at 7.30pm**.



The Worst Thing

"The worst thing we ever did
was put God in the sky
out of reach
pulling the divinity
from the leaf,
sifting out the holy from our bones,
insisting God isn't bursting dazzlement
through everything we've made
a hard commitment to see as ordinary,
stripping the sacred from everywhere
to put in a cloud man elsewhere,
prying closeness from your heart.

The worst thing we ever did
was take the dance and the song
out of prayer
made it sit up straight
and cross its legs
removed it of rejoicing
wiped clean its hip sway,
its questions,
its ecstatic yowl,
its tears.

The worst thing we ever did is pretend
God isn't the easiest thing
in this Universe
available to every soul
in every breath"

~ Chelan Harkin, in poetry book 'Susceptible to Light'



Dear Lord, as CBM and others join the Neglected Tropical Disease NGO (NNN) Conference we pray for an end to blinding diseases, like trachoma. We pray that all children will have access to supplies of soap, water and accessible toilet facilities so they can protect themselves from disease and live healthy lives.

Photo: Members of the "Trachoma School Club" show their fellow class mates how to wash the face properly in order to prevent trachoma at a primary school in Ethiopia.



St Paul's Meditation Group

Susannah Riley has sent this overview of the Tuesday afternoon **Meditation Group**:

We meet monthly, usually on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, in St Paul's Church.

We meet between 1.15 and 1.45pm, but tend to gather before this, with music from 1.10pm to settle ourselves before meditation. After meditation we usually have a time to answer questions/for discussion.

We welcome anyone, whether you have never tried meditation before, or have been meditating for years, whether you are Christian, or of a different faith or none.

No payment or booking needed, so do just come along, but please check the website/Bertie Newsletter/Pews News/St Nic's News sheet in case of changed date.

The group belongs to the Worldwide Community of Christian Meditation www.wccm.org which provides useful resources and information about meditation. We meditate in the tradition of John Main, a 20th Century Benedictine monk who rediscovered this ancient Christian tradition.

Please contact me if you would like further information or would like a chat before joining us.

Susannah Riley meditationgroup@spauls.org.uk





Thursday Morning groups at Woosehill Church

These groups are an important part of our mission outreach.

Leaflets are on the table at the back of the church - please feel free to give to anyone you think might be interested. We will also hopefully have some leaflets in the library and Wokingham information centre.

Are you feeling lonely or would you just like to get out a bit more? If so, then Woosehill Church's Thursday Morning Groups may be just the thing for you. Come along to as many or as few as you want.

On the **first** Thursday of each month joining in with our singing group 'Sing Something Simple' can't fail to lift the spirits.

Our knitting group Woolwam operates on the **second** Thursday of each month. So bring along your needles and wool for a cuppa and a natter.

On the **third** Thursday we change the knitting needles for sewing needles, for any type of needle craft. You can still have a cuppa and a natter!

On the **fourth** Thursday the art group recommenced in September under a new name: Colour & Chat. **See Page 13**

All of our groups are informal and friendly, starting at 10am.

THESE GROUPS ARE CERTAINLY NOT EXCLUSIVE TO CHURCH MEMBERS - please spread the word.

For more information email stewards@woosehillchurch.org or visit our website at <https://woosehillchurch.org/> and look under the "Church Groups" heading.

Do take a look at our website, there is lots of interesting and useful information on it and Ed puts a lot of hard work into it!

Woosehill 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

Parish Bible study on Tuesday evenings 7.15 - 8.30pm

Schedule for upcoming meetings –

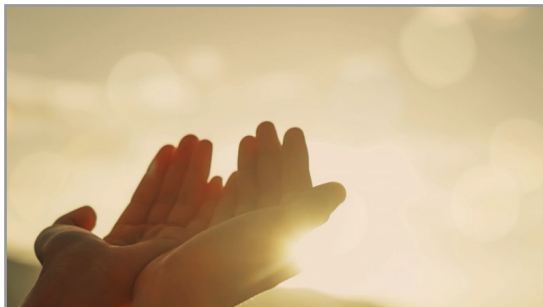
Tuesday 13th September. New series: Life of Elijah the prophet. Normal Zoom meeting, starting 7:15pm

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

A Reflection

Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and the life to come.

-Henri Nouwen





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,
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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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minister@wokinghammethodist.org.uk