



Woosehill Church Magazine

July - August 2016



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

Find us on our website
woosehillchurch.co.uk



Dear Church Family and all other readers,

At morning prayer on the last day of the school term Richard prayed for all who were at a time of transition in their lives and this is particularly pertinent at the time of this issue: a few are moving on from our Tadpoles group; others on to primary or secondary school; young people are awaiting exam results to know how the next stage of their lives will unfold; at the other end of life's path older folks may be making decisions about the need for more care at home or in other settings.

And of course there is one big transition for Paddy and for our church and parish as he sets off for his new ministry in Australia in September. It is reassuring to know that plans are well in hand to cover all the services here, up to and including Christmas and that the advert for Paddy's replacement will be going out in September:

God will provide.

And for Paddy what can we do but wish him well, pray for him, and know that those whom he serves in Australia are indeed blessed.

With love,

Val

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
Sunday 18 September 2016
 Articles as usual preferably by e-mail to:
 valerie.weedon@btinternet.com

IN THIS ISSUE

Editor and contents	2
Simple Pleasures Rev'd Judi Hattaway	3
SING! Rev'd Catherine Bowstead	4
Welcome to Julie Mintern	5
In Praise of Beauty Eileen Fletcher	6-7
Worship Consultation Foodbank	8
Methodist Conference Resolution 2016	9
'A little prayer thra Yorkshire' Val Weedon	10
WOW programme 2016	11
Encourage newsletter MMN knitting update	12
What is PMC all about? The next stage	13-15
Paddy's Leaving Do	16
Elaine Quench	17
Church and Parish	18
Contacts and regular meetings	19
Pattern of services at Woosehill Church	20



Simple Pleasures

As some of our thoughts turn to summer breaks and relaxing in the sun or shade, or making journeys to places familiar or strange, we may wonder what to take to read.

Some of us will have Kindles or other electronic devices on which to read books. Others of us may still relish the feel of a real, rather than a virtual, book in our hands, as we smell the paper, and feel the rough edges of the cover.

For my birthday some dear friends gave me a delightful little book. *Simple Pleasures—Little Things That Make Life Worth Living*, edited by Ivo Dawney and published by the National Trust. It is the most perfect book for bedtime reading or mini-reads here and there. In it are groups of essays on place, home and hearth, creature comforts, the great outdoors, the pleasures of the table, talking and ruminating. The whole collection ends with a meditation by Sir Anthony Seldon, former Master of Wellington College.

It seemed to me as I read the essays evening by evening that the insights and truths contained in this small volume were germane to us all.

During a time of rest and relaxation, possibly away from all that is very familiar and comforting, there may be some advantage in having the chance to ponder anew on the things that bless us – the everyday things that bless us. As we gain distance either physically or metaphorically from the routine of our lives we may be in a position to take stock of all that has been and all that will be, and gird ourselves for what may yet come.

But it may be, and this book suggests that it is, the small elements that make up our life that need to be appreciated again. As Jesus said in Matthew 6. verse 25. 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?'

Yes, life is more than these things, but a re-appreciation of the everyday blessings we have received – of finding God in the ordinary and the small, may make us feel more at peace with ourselves and the world around us. For it is those very small things, that we find ourselves taking for granted, that people in many parts of the world would give so much to have.

Rev Judi Hattaway - Assistant Priest. St Paul's, St Nicholas, and Woosehill.

**Dear Friends,**

Church is one of the few places where people regularly sing together, so many people don't get the opportunity to sing. I gather that there is often singing at football matches as football clubs sing their own songs and chants, and the National Anthem might be sung at formal events, but other than that people don't get many opportunities to sing.

I've been interested to notice the rise in the popularity of Community Choirs over the last few years. This is probably due, in no small part, to the influence of Gareth Malone and the choirs that he has set up, most notably the Military Wives Choir. As well as being great fun, singing in a choir is reputed to be good for the health, as it helps posture and breathing and the act of singing is good physical exercise. But it is also good for mental wellbeing, as singing in a group is a very good social activity and can give a sense of achievement and success.

It is interesting to notice how group singing is used to extraordinary effect with people suffering from Alzheimer's disease, and The Alzheimer's Café which we host at Rose Street, often includes singing (and dancing) in its programme which proves very popular.

I recently spent a very enjoyable day at a choral singing workshop with the Wokingham Choral Society. The highlights for me were the exhilarating experience of singing Hubert Parry's anthem *I was glad*, contrasted with the exquisite beauty of *Cantique de Jean Racine* by Fauré.

Of course singing is something that Christians do when we worship together in church, and Methodists like to think that we're particularly good at it. Hymn singing was something that was particularly encouraged by John and Charles Wesley even though it was seen as a somewhat subversive activity at the time. The glorious hymns of Charles Wesley and other great hymn writers can help us to "sing our theology" and affirm what we believe. Other hymns help us in our prayers of adoration, confession or prayers for others, and can help us to express our thoughts to God. As someone said, "He who sings prays twice".

But I think there is a sense in which music can reach the parts of our souls that nothing else can, and that's why beautiful music can take us beyond ourselves. I believe that our hearts and souls are lifted towards God when we sing together. This might be in the form of a rousing hymn, or a simple chant, or the sublime singing of a cathedral choir. Our singing brings a sense of unity or solidarity to our worship, but it also helps us to express our feelings and emotions to God. So why not enjoy a spot of singing this summer.

With every blessing,

Catherine

(Rev'd Catherine Bowstead, our Methodist minister)



Julie Mintern

We welcome Julie as a newly ordained curate to our parish. Here she is with Bishop Andrew on the day of her ordination at the beginning of July.



From the Diocese of Oxford website:

‘Julie says she is blessed with a wonderful family. She is wife to Keith, mum to many and Granny to more. Her faith has been lived out in education. She is a former teacher, headteacher and Diocesan Education Adviser. She loves church music – from Presbyterian youth in Northwood to Anglican evensong in Cambridge to St Peter’s Didcot. She is also a Francophile, thanks to her dear departed parents.’



In Praise of Beauty

During the Second World War, my aunt met a handsome Norwegian naval officer. When the war was over, they married and she left Liverpool to move to Norway.

Liverpool now is a vibrant exciting city - full of life and growth. When I was growing up, however, it was a place of smoke-blackened buildings and bomb sites.

There was a good deal of poverty back then and few people could afford to go on holiday. A ferry across the Mersey (before it was famous) was as far as I'd ever been when my Aunt and Uncle invited me to stay with them in Norway for 6 weeks.

My first sight of Norway was from the deck of the a ship. As we sailed all day through the fjords from Stavanger to Bergen my 13-yr-old heart was captivated - and I began a love affair with Norway that was to be life-long.

I climbed my first mountain, camped on my first island, learned to swim in the fjord and raced around the lanes with my cousins on our bicycles. Heady stuff for a young girl from Liverpool who'd never even seen a mountain - but who would go on to walk in mountains, camp in mountains - paint mountains - and love mountains - for the rest of her life.

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee;
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

"Lofty mountain grandeur" - evocative words to me! For as long as I can remember I've loved drawing and painting. Originally I wanted to go to art college – but I went into photography instead. Nature has been my favourite subject for a lifetime, whether I'm using a camera or a paintbrush. I have no doubt that this is due, in no small part, to the impact of Norway upon me as a child from a deprived urban environment.



I call the Lake District "Little Norway" and we spent a lot of time walking, camping and youth hostelling in the mountains there when our sons were growing up. We still go every year. It's a favourite place for photography and painting. I'm enthralled by the mountains there - but I'm also fascinated by nature in all its minute detail. Walking in the foothills, seeking out tiny wild flowers in order to showcase their intricate beauty using macro photography. Even the lowly dandelion head is a work of art when you get close up.

But what to do with all those photos and paintings? Some of them I turn into greetings cards for friends and relatives. My latest project is to collect them together on my equinox blog. On each web page are the words:

"Nature is God's self-portrait. It reveals in physical form what He is like spiritually. God creates beauty so that we can know what he is like."

I only hope that my work can in some small way reflect that beauty.

Eileen Fletcher

www.equinox.org.uk





Worship Consultation

There are not many Churches that encourage worshippers to get involved in planning services or talking about the good and the 'could be better' features. That is what Worship Consultation meetings are for, and we have three a year to look back on the high points and look forward to how we could enhance our worship.

At Woosehill we enjoy a wide variety of services from formal Holy Communion to the relaxed Café Church format, plus early morning and evening services. Add to these regular services all the 'specials' through the Easter, Christmas and other seasons and you get a picture of the different ways we like to express our faith.

Whenever we ask people what is good about Woosehill, 'variety' is often high on the list. Café Church was an idea raised and developed through Worship Consultation and is now a firm favourite for many. So please give some thought about coming along and sharing your views so that we can ensure we include enough for everyone and maintain our tradition of a wide variety of services.

The next meeting is on 3rd October at the Church, starting at 8pm. If you would like to know more, or want your view presented for you please speak to me.

Steve Bottom, Worship Co-ordinator

Don't forget the Foodbank!

Urgently needed food items

- Tinned Tomatoes
- Adult Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Children's' Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Tinned Spaghetti
- Sponge Puddings
- Small packs of Teabags 40's
- Sugar

Please leave items in the container in the church vestibule and they will be delivered by Derek to the centre in Rose Street.





Methodist Conference 2016

A resolution containing the text below was passed at the recent Methodist Conference with a request that it was made available to all Methodist churches. It is in fact relevant to a wider audience too; the statement follows:

The United Kingdom, as a result of the referendum on 23 June 2016, has voted to leave the European Union. In this time of very significant change and uncertainty there is a need for leadership which seeks the common good and encourages people to work together, to respect one another and to uphold the dignity of all.

The Methodist Conference believes that the British Isles are enriched by diversity and celebrates the contribution made by those who have come from other parts of the world.

The Christian tradition calls for respect, tolerance, love of neighbour and hospitality to the stranger. All bear the responsibility of speaking and acting for healing, reconciliation, and mutual respect.

The Methodist Conference abhors and deeply regrets those actions and words which incite hatred and lead to the victimisation of groups within society and notes with concern that such actions and words have been normalised in recent public discourse. Believing that racism is a denial of the gospel and that to stay silent when others are abused is to collude with those who seek to promote hatred and division, the Methodist Conference calls:

- on the Methodist people to challenge racism and discrimination
- for a political debate which neither demonises any nor leaves the vulnerable (the foreigner, the immigrant and refugee) in danger of victimisation.
- on political leaders to work together for the good of the whole community putting the needs of the nation before party politics.
- on all those in positions of power and authority to hear the voices of those who have been marginalised and alienated and to respond to them in ways which offer real hope for the future.

The Reverend Gareth J Powell
Secretary of the Methodist Conference



A little Prayer thra Yorkshire

With the passing of my Mum, Margaret, in November 2014, I took on the task of collecting together her father's poems which chronicle vividly life in the 1940s: family life, local events, the history of life in wartime Huddersfield and his strong Christian faith. I have just received a small print run to give to family and those who have a connection with the area.

Not a man of great academic learning, or indeed of a strong constitution, as he died when I was just 10 months old, my grandfather found an outlet in writing poetry.

Here is one of them for those who live on the right side of the Pennines!

Val

O Lord I thank Thee for mi grub
 A spot to live and mi daily tub
 A bed to lie mi dahn at neet
 A bit a fire to warm mi feet.

I'd lark a book or two to read
 I want these varry mich indeed
 A bit a wark to keep mi fit
 And lots a common sense and wit.

Of fun I lark to ha' mi share
 I nivver do seem shot a care
 There's lots a things but let 'em rest
 I know Tha'll just do what's for t'best.

An' Lord I'd lark to do mi share
 To help mi brother's looard to bear
 Thra greed an' envy set me free
 An' let mi live reight cloise to Thee.

Harry Jessop



WOW*

August Games evening - details to be arranged.



September Early Autumn walk

Contact suefalquero@yahoo.co.uk



October Cake Tasting at 4 Tiffany Close. Contact Lynne Paine

0118 9774257, lynnepaine@yahoo.co.uk or

jennyamassey@hotmail.com



November Christmas gift wrapping at Woosehill Church

Contact gillian_payne@msn.com 0118 9619100



December Beer and Carols at the Leathern Bottel

TBA Louise and Mike Cole?



* Women of Woosehill meet monthly, for a variety of activities and in a different location each time.

Please contact Gillian Payne for more details.



Faith in the
Community

Encourage Newsletter

Faith in the Community (FitC) collects community development and social action good news from Wokingham Borough Churches and Christian Agencies. These stories will be shared through the network both on their website and through a monthly newsletter "Encourage" in order to develop the engagement within and between those organisations and others in the area.

Get in contact through Twitter, Facebook or on the website:

faithinthecommunitywokingham.co.uk/encourage if you have a good news story to share across Wokingham Borough, especially if it fits with the planned newsletter themes.

July 2016 – Poverty and Community

August 2016 – Refugees and Interfaith

September 2016 – Young People

October 2016 – Homelessness

November 2016 – Mental Health

December 2016 – Christmas

MMN Knitting update

I recently saw Pearl Chapman from the Ladies Missionary Fellowship who thanked us for our continued donations of knitting. The Fellowship pack items locally for the use of Medical Missionary News in Africa. Pearl emphasised that transportation costs are very high, so it is important MMN only receive items they request.

They do need the following:-

- **Size 2** baby layettes of a hat or bonnet, cardigan and booties.
(Not white)
- A made up blanket of at least a **metre square**
- Some ladies might find it easier to knit at least 5 strips of 35st x 1 metre long.

Thank you and Happy Knitting!

Melanie





Partnership for Missional Church (PMC)

What is PMC all about - a recap

PMC originated in America and was born out of concerns that local churches were declining, had ageing congregations, were drifting (with no clear purpose or direction) and seemingly cut off from and irrelevant to the local community. These churches had tried to “bring in new church members, to grow the church” and in the short-term were often successful, (but sometimes at a cost of creating discord with the existing members), however in the long term falling back to the same problems and often in a worse situation. Similar to “yo-yo dieting”, of losing weight & then putting it all back on again and more – to maintain the weight loss requires fundamental lifestyle changes. The purpose of PMC is to bring about a fundamental change in culture/DNA of the church, not only to be more outward looking, but also to deepen and enrich the faith and spiritual experiences of the members of the church. As such PMC never ends; it becomes part of the normal functioning of the church.

In one sentence; The aim of PMC is to develop being missional, by looking outwards to the local community, through partnerships, links we already have with the local community, to grow the church in numbers, faith and spirituality.

We’ve just finished year 1 of PMC – the “Discovery Phase”, through the timeline event, listening interviews, data research, the discernment event, dwelling in the word, and looking for God’s presence, we’ve researched, discovered, identified and discerned, where we are now including:

- The community/area in which the church is located.
- Our partners in the community/area.
- The history of the church, good times, bad times, hopeful times.
- The current positives & negatives of the church.
- The current hopes & fears of the congregation.
- God’s presence/work in the church/congregation.
-

The Woollahill Church Council and PMC Steering group met with St Paul’s and St Nick’s at an away day at St Paul’s School, on Saturday 16th July, to agree what is called an ‘Missional Adaptive Challenge’ for our churches. Missional - in that it looks out. Adaptive - in that it must be something which changes our church communities rather than something we should/could already do. Challenge - in that it’s not the easy option!

We had an excellent day of lively discussion, disagreement and agreement which has led to an excellent and truly challenging mission.



Present from Woosehill were;

Rev. Patrick King, John Hoskins, Lynn Smith, Lyn Brown, Lynne Paine, Jeanette Beecher, Chris Piper, Amy Truluck, Bob Clark and Gavin Tyrrell

The Missional Adaptive Challenge will fill Year 2 of PMC and must be;

***Focused on People**

Names a particular set of people you feel called to meet

Uses an active verb to describe the kinds of difference you discern called to make

***Have a 'Fuzzy' Goal**

Gives direction to proceed

Open enough that it can be revised

***Reflects a hope to see the kingdom of God come near**

***Energizing**

That we feel the Holy Spirit calling us to be part of this.

During the day we identified groups that we felt the Holy Spirit was calling us to meet and work with to develop our challenge.

The groups of potential mission partners identified were:

1. External Church Users

Energykidz, uniform groups, their leaders, parents/carers and children

2. The Elderly

Suffolk Lodge, Kennet Court and the elderly residents of Woosehill

3. Schools

Hawthorns, Chestnuts, Yellow brick, Windmill, Staff, parents/carers and children

4. Residents

New residents, other cultures, neighbours and rental property occupiers

5. Passers by (Adult Groups)

Parents, dog walkers, those dropping off for clubs etc

6. Non School Children's groups

Voluntary groups, Tadpoles, Scouts and Guides etc



7. External Adult Groups

Acorn Centre, WI, Mosque, Keep fit groups, School PTA, Neighbourhood watch

8. Business Communities

Provide a chaplaincy team to local businesses

The task required us to consider where God might be calling us as a church - and the people God might be calling us to work with. We named many and varied groups, and gradually were required to narrow this down to something which we felt was the most challenging. It was not a case of which was the most important, or the one with most potential - but a deliberate attempt to try and gauge the most challenging - where God might be asking us to push our boundaries - and something to which there wasn't an obvious or easy 'fix'.

The fact we chose what we did does NOT mean God isn't calling us to engage with the other issues. In fact, there are glaringly obvious issues that do need our attention when it comes to our relationship with the schools, our relationship with the groups that use the church, and the way we engage the parents and guardians who do all the dropping off! We ended up with a longer list of 'technical' fixes to which we must turn our attention soon.

So having said that,

The Missional Adaptive Challenge for Woosehill Church is;

“To walk alongside retired and semi-retired people of Woosehill who may be vulnerable, isolated, lonely or infirm. To provide friendship, fellowship and a deepened spiritual life.”

The next actions are for:

1. Church Council to appoint a Missional Innovation Team Facilitator
2. Church Council to identify members suitable for the Missional Innovation Team
3. Steering team to begin to define the Missional Adaptive Challenge.

Keep an eye out too for the 'Tell me about' link on our Parish website:

www.stpauls-wokingham.org.uk



Paddy's Leaving "Do"
At Woosehill Church on 4th September from 2pm



Please come and give Paddy a good farewell afternoon. All welcome.



We will start at 2pm with **GAMES** on Hawthorns School field (access at the Church). Feel free to bring some nibbles and refreshment.

The games will be followed by **AFTERNOON TEA** either in the Church or by the side of the Church.

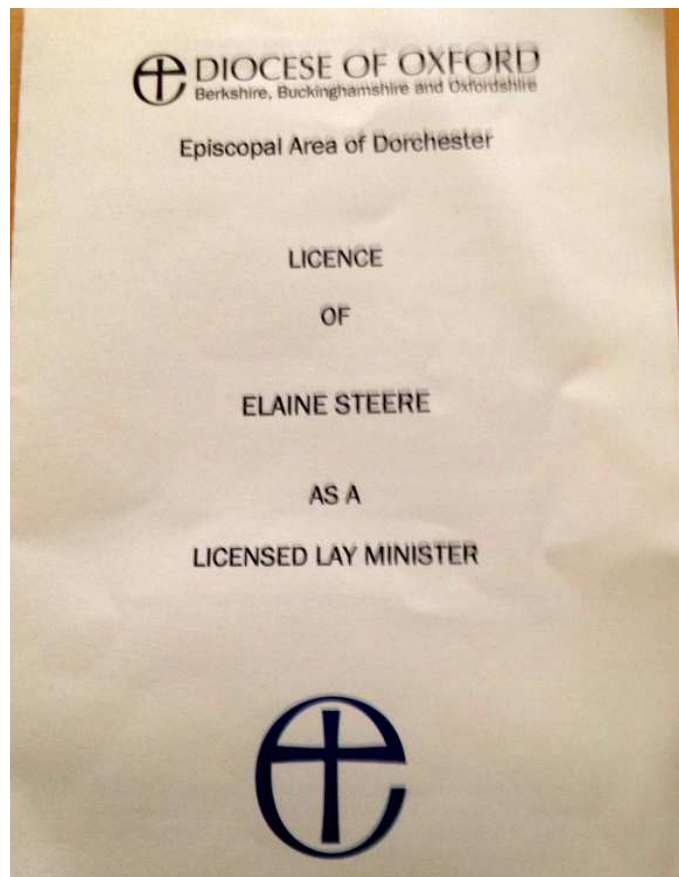
The day will be rounded off with a Parish Communion led by Paddy and with Paddy's choice of hymns.

Please let Lyn, Lynn or Lynne know if you will be there for the Afternoon Tea and if you can help with refreshments. We will need sandwiches, scones and cakes.

Thank you!



Congratulations Elaine!



News from Quench at Holme Grange Craft Village School's Out For Summer!

Depending on whether you are a pupil, a teacher, or a parent, those words will either fill you with glee or despair, so please allow us to celebrate or commiserate with you!

Many of you will have family members or friends who are about to enter a new stage in their education - be that starting school, moving up to secondary school, or preparing for university - and we have some great books to help them prepare for that move.



**Church and Parish
Emm Fellowship Group**

We are a small group with members from all three churches in the parish. We have been meeting monthly for several years on a mutually agreed day, usually Wednesday, in members' homes, for fellowship, including bible study, studying other books and prayer. We would welcome new members, so if anyone is interested in joining us, or in finding out more, then please speak to me.

Thank you,
Susannah Riley

0118 9792341.
Susannahr61@gmail.com



YOW youth group

With Paddy's imminent departure, this valuable group is in urgent need of a new leader

Sundays monthly: - a place to discuss views, and catch up with friends
6.30 - 8pm, dates and themes as advertised in church and newsletter.



2016 Sermon Series at St Paul's church

"Horrible Heresies : why what we believe really matters"

as part of Choral Evensong at 6.15 pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

The series continues:

September 18th

The Rev'd Dr Robert Mackley

October 16th

The Rev'd Kate Harrison

November 20th

The Rev'd Graeme Fancourt



Church contacts

Rev'd Patrick King: patrick.s.king@gmail.com 0118 9773397
(until end of August)

Rev'd Catherine Bowstead
5 Chetwode Close, Wokingham RG40 2LL 0118 978 1756
minister@wokinghammethodist.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 Becca Lamey)
office@stpauls-wokingham.org.uk

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

Regular meetings - those asterisked reconvene after the summer
Tuesday

Fellowship group:** Exploring Faith at 8pm in the church.
Contact : Rev'd Richard Lamey

Wednesday

Tadpoles group:** Coffee and play for pre-school children and their carers
9.00-11.00am in term time.
Contact: Val Weedon: 9791156 or valerie.weedon@btinternet.com

Lunchtime fellowship:** meet in the church at 12 noon. Bring your own lunch
and enjoy fellowship and discussion of the Gospel reading for the following Sunday.

Thursday

Together in prayer,** monthly on third Thursday, a small group meet for
prayer in the church 8-9pm. Contact Lyn Brown 9782816

Saturday

Church work party: first Saturday in month 10.30am
Contact John Hoskins: 9792597



Pattern of Services at Woosehill Church

Keep an eye out in the newsletter for more up to date information too.

1st Sunday:

8.45am Holy Communion

10am Morning Worship

2nd Sunday:

10am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday

8.45am Holy Communion

10am Morning Worship

4th Sunday

10am Holy Communion

6.15pm Evening Reflective Worship

(5th Sunday)

10am Café Church

5.30 pm Suffolk Lodge service

We are a relaxed and friendly church; we welcome everybody into our church. We have an informal and friendly style of worship which aims to be inclusive to all. Many of our services have a children's activity and we have a popular Sunday club most weeks in term time.

Woosehill Church is an Anglican – Methodist partnership; witnesses together of God's love here on Woosehill and beyond.