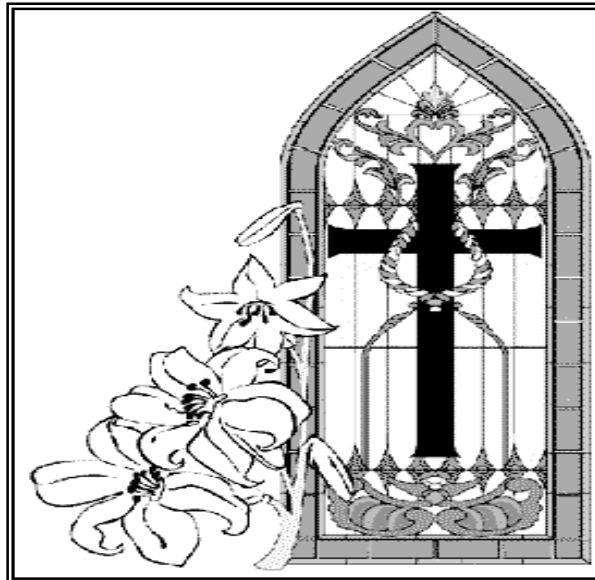




Woosehill Church Magazine

March - April 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,

It is a time of change again for our Woosehill Church family. Sad as we are to lose Paddy, it is also a time to be grateful for all he has given to our church and community and to celebrate with him this great opportunity to extend his ministry - and he's not going just yet. (But we will miss you so much Paddy!)

There will be other changes too in the leadership of the church as our redoubtable senior steward Louise steps down from the role she has fulfilled so admirably in recent, often challenging times. As times change - and they do - there are opportunities for others to step into roles which are vacated. The church AGM is coming up and this year takes place straight after the morning service on Sunday 17 April, so why not stay and join in this important meeting and find out more about the organisation of our church and all who work to help it to function. And, dare I say, you might even feel moved to offer your skills in one of the many roles and tasks up for grabs .

Please don't let that stop you from coming, new faces are always SO welcome!

And finally, as we go to press, we have heard of Doreen being taken to hospital - our love and prayers Doreen to you and the family, from all of us,

God Bless,

Val

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
Sunday 15 May 2016
 Articles as usual preferably by
 e-mail to:
 valerie.weedon@btinternet.com
 Or to me in church

IN THIS ISSUE

Editor and contents	2
Message from our minister Rev'd Patrick King	3-4
I am the vicar Kevin Lewis	5-6
My volunteer trip Rees Tyrell	7
Children in Church Doreen Murgatroyd	8-9
Reflection for Lent Rosi Morgan-Barry	10
The Referendum - a Faith Perspective Gill Waters	11-13
A Psalm for our age	14
Operation Christmas Child	15
Parish and Wider	16
Wokingham Foodbank update	17
Notices	18
Regular meetings	19
Services Diary	20



(Printed below is the letter from Paddy, sent following his announcement in church on the same date. Most of you will already have seen it, but here is a further opportunity to digest the news. Please do circulate it to anyone who might wish to receive it.)



Sunday 21st February 2016

Dear Friends,

For many reasons it feels far too soon to be saying this - but it is a day that was always going to come, sooner or later.

I have been offered a job, a job that it has proved impossible to turn down. It is a role that has found me, one for which I was not specifically looking and certainly didn't expect, but a hugely exciting opportunity for ministry to which God is now calling me.

In September this year I will be taking up the post of Vocations Advocate, in Perth Diocese, Western Australia. This is still subject to the usual formalities, and the granting of a visa, but it is expected my final Sunday here will be the 4th September.

The role will see me living in the context of a theological college, and working throughout the diocese to encourage and nurture vocations to both lay and ordained leadership roles in the church. I will be working closely with the Anglican school and university chaplains, organising retreats and quiet days, producing publications and engaging with new media, preaching and leading workshops in parishes, assisting in the theological education of those called to ministry, and engaging in the life and worship of the theological college.



Amongst other things!

Mixed with the obvious feelings of excitement about the future is a huge amount of sadness for the ministry I will be leaving behind. For all the exciting endeavours, wonderful relationships, and things left undone - it will not be easy to say goodbye. This announcement comes early, in a sense, but with the hope that we can all work together these next six months to ensure smooth transition of ministry for Woosehill and in the wider parish and circuit, to continue building on the exciting process of Partnership for Missional Church, and, ultimately that we have the chance to say goodbye

I am aware that this will come as a shock to some, or many of you. This is partly why I was so keen to announce the news as soon as it was allowed. My prayer is that we are all able to continue building on what has been a dynamic and exciting few years - and that the next six months and beyond will continue to see growth and development as we work together for the kingdom of him who never changes - Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Yours sincerely,

Paddy

The Rev'd Patrick S. King
23 Sheridan Way
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG41 3AP
UNITED KINGDOM
patrick.s.king@gmail.com
+44 118 977 3397



i am the vicar, i am

I am the vicar, I am.

I am the pastor, the carer, the listener the one with the time to drop everything and

I also understand global politics and immigration and

I am the one who knows about Afghanistan and cares about 'our boys' and

I care about speed-humps, graffiti, litter and the positioning of zebra crossings near schools.

I am passionate about school assemblies, council meetings, mums and toddlers and also I am good at one-to-one and small groups and

I listen and empathise and at the same time

I am the one who plans and strategizes and

I am the one who understands budgets and decides if we can buy any staples or replace the heating system.

I am the vicar, I am.

I am the quiet reflective prayer and

I am the speaker, the enthuser, the motivator, the learned teacher and

I can engage a room of 10, 50, 300 people with no problem because

I am the one who relates particularly well to children, older people, the middle-aged the jobless, the employed, the doctors, teenagers and

I am the one who is always one step ahead and

I am the one who is endearingly disorganised.

I am the vicar, I am.

I care passionately about church politics

I care passionately about domestic abuse

I care passionately about the plight of Anglo Catholics, women priests, gay clergy evangelicals and

I listen to the pope, the archbishop and Rob Bell.

I am up-to-date with theological developments.

I understand the history of the reformation, the armed forces, the war, the government, the deanery the Jewish background of Jesus and

I care about the excluded and I manage my admin and

I know how to access children's services.

I am the vicar, I am.



I am the one in whom trust is placed
I am the one in whom grumbles are placed
I am the one who is always talking to everyone else
I am the one who models

worship
marriage
family
gardening
conversation
baking
prayer
listening
talking
planning.

I often get it wrong.

I am the one who has to keep my doubts under wraps and

I am also the one who is vulnerable and dependable,, stable, trustworthy.

I am the one who chairs meetings

I am the one who manages group discussions

I am the manager of an organisation that employs only me

I am the volunteer co-ordinator, the opinion co-ordinator, the trespasser on the territory of people who have been around a lot longer than me and will be there after me.

I understand the heating system, the financial system, the rota system.

I love committees.

I drink tea with older people and coffee with younger people

I listen to stories of bus routes and hospital visits and

I believe in transforming our community through the power of Jesus.

I am the one who is very tired.

I am the one who hates wearing dresses but still smiles and would love to be muddy all the time.

I am the one who only works one day a week.

I am the one who loves this job.

I am the one who is making it up as I go along.

I am the one who would not swap this for anything.

I am the vicar, I am.

© 2009 Kevin Lewis - slightly edited

Yes clergy team we recognise you and value you! Ed.



My Volunteer Trip to Bali – Rees Tyrell

Created February 9, 2016

My name is Rees and, on the 15th of August until the 9th of September this year, I will be undertaking a volunteering placement in Bali with the volunteering organisation SLV. I am currently studying psychology at Birmingham City University and so this will give me important hands on experience that is hard to come by in psychology.

The focus of the placement is psychiatry and much of my time in Bali will be spent working in a psychiatric hospital. The rest of my time will be divided between teaching English and working with children who have developmental disabilities. In the first week of the placement we will be staying in the staff wing of a Balinese hospital before spending the other three in a homestay with a Balinese family.

I have set up a gofundme page is to assist me with the expenses associated with volunteering abroad. The volunteering company charges £1400 to be put on a team and to have accommodation during the week. This payment does not include flights (£700), accommodation at weekends, food aside from the two meals provided a day travel insurance, vaccinations, or any other expenses. This being the case, I'd be very grateful if anybody were willing to sponsor me and help me fulfil my goal.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, I hope you will consider sponsoring me.

Rees

For more information about sponsoring Rees do talk to Mum and Dad, Debs and Gavin - best of luck Rees!



Children in church

A little while ago we visited our daughter, Libby, and her family in Germany. On the Sunday morning we got up reasonably early so as to be ready in plenty of time for church. Libby came into the room and said “How badly do you want to go to church?”

Well, the service is in German, my German is marginally better than my Spanish; I can usually follow the Bible readings at least well enough to know what is being read and I can get the gist of the hymns but the sermon loses me after about 2 minutes! Pete’s German is non-existent. So obviously we weren’t gaspingly keen to go.

Neither it appeared was Libby. She works, teaching an autistic child in a local school, so every morning she gets up and dresses and she and Nick get their two children dressed, breakfasted and organised for school, before she leaves for work, leaving Nick to deliver the children to two different schools in opposite directions, before he goes into his work. In the afternoon, Libby picks them up from their two separate after school child care and takes them home. By the end of the week they are all tired so Saturday is generally a flop day, apart that is from the shopping & housework which haven’t managed to get done during the week! So on Sunday morning, faced with another morning of having to hassle the children up and dressed and knowing she had another 5 mornings of hassle to come, Libby opted out. Yes she would have liked to go to church but the effort just wasn’t worth it, especially if once she’s there half her mind is on keeping the children quiet and amused rather than on worshipping God.

When we got back to Wokingham I discussed Libby’s dilemma with some of our church Tadpoles mums. It chimed with them. Sunday is not a ‘day of rest’ if it is stressful just getting to church, especially if you are then trying to manage your children during a service that is not designed to keep them engaged. As one mum very succinctly put it. “Church just becomes one more thing we fail to do”. These are Christian mothers who feel they ought to come to church. I started to think back to when my children were young and I took them to church. It was difficult and I can remember on occasions arriving at church thoroughly stressed and out of temper and wondering why I’d made the effort. But things were very different for me. Yes I did work from as soon as my youngest was in nursery school but I only worked part time so some days I could rest after taking them to school. The overall pressure was less, too; so much more seems to be expected of mothers today. Church too was different. We moved house when Timothy was 5 and Libby 2. Our first Sunday we went to the nearest church, a URC, and were warmly greeted. When it was clear we were committed Christians and likely to attend



regularly, the church members said, 'Oh good, we need more Sunday School teachers.' We had an autistic 5 year old with us; teaching in Sunday school wasn't high on our agenda

The following Sunday we went to the local Anglican Church and were again welcomed warmly. This time the information that we were regular church goers provoked the response. 'If you're going to come regularly we will rota an extra person on crèche duty every week to look after your son'.

And that is the reason why all three of our children were confirmed into the Church of England! But things are different at church now. We struggle to find Sunday School teachers, there are never enough people on the coffee rota and we have to DBS anyone prepared to be on a crèche rota for to comply with child protection laws.

We do our best, we set aside an area with toys and books to one side of the church but the parents are still responsible for their own children. As one of the Tadpole mums said. 'We can play with them more easily at home and maybe catch up on some house work as well.

What does church offer that would make the hassle worth while?

Doreen

This is a challenging and thought provoking article from Doreen and I would love to have some responses for the next magazine. **Ed.**



**We send our love and best wishes to
Doreen for a speedy recovery**





Reflection for the week 13 March

Lent 5

We are back to Toad's adventures this week – and what a character study Kenneth Grahame has drawn for us. Badger, Mole and Ratty are determined that Toad shall be saved from himself and from the temptations of buying, and recklessly driving ever bigger and more powerful cars, squandering his money, having run-ins with the police and generally making a fool of himself.

"We'll convert him! He'll be the most converted Toad that ever was before we've done with him!" cried Ratty.

But of course it was not as easy as that, however full of missionary zeal any of the disciples might be. Toad had to have a true sense of the need to change his ways. Toad, like many a sinner, gave in to temptation on the wide and slippery road that leads – in his case – to an appearance before the magistrates and a sentence of twenty years in prison.

It was so easy.

There was the motor car in the middle of the yard, unattended.

"There can be no harm", Toad said to himself, "in just looking at it".

And from looking, to wondering how easily it might start, to just trying it – and then finding himself out on the open road:

"Toad once more, Toad at his best and highest, Toad the terror, the traffic-queller, the Lord of the lone trail, before whom all must give way or be smitten into nothingness ..."

So easy to give in to temptation.

But then came the judgement – for Toad, and following the gospel reading in Matthew Ch.25 – for the goats who failed so dismally to live up to the rules of kindly and generous living. So easy to shut their eyes to the needs of others and live only for themselves.

Leslie Francis' meditation for this story makes sorry reading, and Jesus pulls no punches in telling it like it is when it comes to judgement. But the final prayer asks:

"... Forgive our failings and show us the mercy we do not deserve."

Rosi MorganBarry

Taken from the Wokingham Methodist Church website - hope that's ok with you Rosi ?!

Val



EU Hokey Cokey The Referendum – A Faith Perspective



'In' or 'out' or 'shake it all about'? Is it me, or are all the political pundits issuing forth on the debate surrounding continuing membership of the EU or Brexit focussing on the worst case scenario to win the argument? Do you, like me, sometimes feel that the 'yes' camp are relying on coercion and fear to get your vote, while the 'no' camp narrow their focus to xenophobic dialectic? Whatever the decision – in or out – there will be some shaking about of the European Union as it is today, post referendum.

Please, let me reassure you. This article is not an appeal to vote one way or the other, but in keeping with the website established by the Church of England in association with the Church of Scotland – www.reimaginingeurope.co.uk - an appeal to turn out on 23rd June and vote in one of the most important referenda of our (and our children's) lifetimes!

Rather than basing the decision about how we should vote in *hokey cokey* terms on the various scenarios presented by the opposing sides as a 'truth', as a Christian I will be arriving at my decision by researching and addressing the following weightier questions:

WWJD – What would Jesus do?

What impact will a yes or no vote have on (in no particular order):

- Peace in Europe – the original context for the establishment of the Common Market
- The on-going terrorist threat
- Migrant issues relating to war and poverty outside of the EU
- Economic growth and development – short term – in the UK
Economic growth and development – longer term – within Europe and the wider global economy
- Levels of literacy, health care and wellbeing within and outside of Europe
- Our planet, including environmental issues and sources of energy
- Future generations in the UK and beyond from economic, health & wellbeing and educational perspectives
- Compassion
- Love



And then again, having considered the above – WWJD?

Given the current situation within Europe, particularly relating to the plight of migrants fleeing from wars in the Middle East and other strife-torn regions, surely as a Christian the question of 'in', 'out' or 'shake it all about' cannot just be about the view and circumstances of any individual UK Citizen, but God's overall creation. We are stewards, not owners, of His world, temporary managers and resource users, passing it on to future generations hopefully in better shape than when we first received it.

Inevitably, our own values will provide the context for reflection and assessment – our backgrounds, upbringing and culture provide the landscape against which we paint our life's story. Looking to the Bible for guidance and inspiration here, we discover that God turns our values upside-down – wealth, peace, forgiveness, freedom and persecution have different meanings when considered from a spiritual, rather than material, perspective – yet praying around these, rather than a simple 'what's in it for me?', is, I believe, what is required in the lead up to voting day.

Given that voting is not compulsory, and that the average turnout for non-general elections is relatively low and skewed in favour of a slightly older demographic, this vital decision which will affect future generations and our wider global family, will likely be taken by people who will only be affected by it for the next 10-30 years. Yet this decision will impact the baby born today, or tomorrow – not just in the UK, but in refugee camps in Turkey and further afield.

We are called to 'Love on another. As I have loved you, so must you love one another.' (John 14.34). It's not a suggestion – it's a command. And as St Paul said 'My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.' (1.John 3.18). Clearly we are called to turn out and vote.

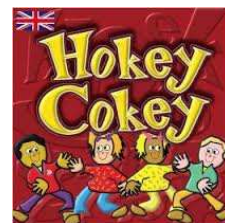
Finally, this debate is all about Union – is Union good or bad?

'If we love one another, God lives in union with us and his love is made perfect in us.' (1.John 4.11).

Now that's something well worth voting for – count me 'in'



Gill Waters





Christian Aid Week 15-21 May 2016

This year's united service for Christian Aid will be hosted by All Saints on Sunday, May 15 at 6pm. Please share this with your church communities. Jess Hall, our Christian Aid representative for the Oxford area, has agreed to speak and we may also have another speaker provided by Christian Aid as well.

At Woosehill, we are still looking for a Christian Aid rep. to be the link with the other Wokingham churches for Christian Aid Week in particular.

Do talk to Sue Church if you might be able to help.

A Lenten Reflection

When I was alone and thought nobody cared
When my friends seemed unable to help me
Lord, it was just like you must have felt
But so much worse for you
You knew you were going to have to die
Oh, how alone you must have felt
When they were all asleep
And you were in agony, in despair
But they were only human
They didn't understand
Until you put them straight !
What you did know though
Right down in the depths of your being
Was that your Father was watching over you
And I know that too
THANK YOU

Written by Lyn Brown during last year's Lent course



----- And from this year's Lent course:

As part of this year's well-attended Lent course studying the Psalms, we looked at Psalm 13 and talked about psalms of lament and how they move from grief and distance from God to a sense of comfort - and then each group wrote their own starting with lament for the world. Here is one of them; use it as a prayer for today.

"Psalm 151"

1. Where are you Lord, when a child's body is pulled from the sea?

Where are you Lord, when a child is dying of malnutrition?

2. Where are you Lord, when a child is dying of shrapnel wounds?

Where are you Lord, when a child is dying of preventable disease?

3. Consider and answer me, O Lord my God, lest I fall into despair.

4. Lest my detractors say "Why is such suffering allowed?", lest my faith is shaken.

5. But as the sun still rises over the razor wire and the birds sing, you Lord are always present

6. I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has sent people to comfort and help.



Thank You!

Thank you for sending a shoebox gift with Operation Christmas Child. Once more children in need, all over the globe, experienced the joy of a simple shoebox gift and the hope that comes with knowing they are loved and not forgotten.

This year shoeboxes from the UK were sent to Albania, Belarus, Bosnia, Central Asia, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Macedonia, the Middle East, Romania, Serbia, Swaziland, Ukraine and Zambia.

Together you packed an amazing 900,008 shoeboxes, meaning hundreds of thousands of children received a gift to remember. 18,575 of these shoeboxes were sent to refugee children passing through camps in Macedonia. Our local partners recounted this story from an immigration camp where displaced children received some Christmas joy in the form of a simple shoebox gift. "The area is crowded with many tired but evidently excited children, curiously trying to find out what is going on. There is a big Christmas tree in the middle, with lots of boxes under it... The distribution starts. Screams of excitement and indescribable joy avalanche as boxes are opened from those exhausted small hands which now have turned into excited opening machines! In this big crowd my attention was attracted by one girl with a dirty but still beautiful face. She was sitting on the bench so calmly, slowly unpacking the box and enjoying every moment... maybe the only moment of happiness since she left her home."

Thank you for partnering with Operation Christmas Child 2015 to share God's love in a tangible way with children across the world over the Christmas season.



**Parish and Wider****Come As You aRe
(CAYR)**

Church for people with additional needs.

Where? St Paul's Parish Rooms, Reading Road, Wokingham

When? First Tuesday in the month

Next one: April 5th 2016

What time? 7pm – 8.30pm

Who can I get in touch with to say I am coming?

Rev Judi Hattaway.

Phone: 0118 976 1197 or email

Judihattaway@mac.com

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



The list of requirements changes regularly and will certainly do so during the life of this magazine so please check for updates on wokingham.foodbank.org.uk

This is the list of requirements as of 9th March 2016

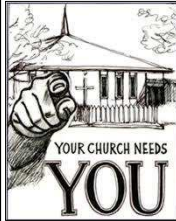
foodbank SHOPPING LIST

Please help local people in crisis by buying one or more items from the list below and leaving them at one of our Collection Points.

Our current needs are:

1. long life (UHT) milk
2. coffee
3. tinned carrots
4. deodorant
5. toothbrushes
6. disposable razors
7. 500g sugar
8. shampoo
9. hair conditioner
10. dog food

Thank you!



VOLUNTEERS

Our Church is very dependent on the wonderful volunteers who do so much - from ad hoc working parties who maintain the fabric of the church and surrounding area, to those involved on one or more of the rotas which ensure that the Church, (and services), run smoothly. However, a couple of the rotas could do with a few extra names on them! Could this be you? In particular, *we are urgently seeking volunteers to count the collection occasionally* – if you could help with this, or are interested in finding out more about the volunteer roles in the Church, please have a word with a steward.

CONFIRMATION

We have the Bishop coming on Tuesday 17th May 2016 for a confirmation - here in Woosehill Church!

It would be lovely to have a gaggle of Woosehill folk as part of that. If you've not been confirmed and would like to be - please let Paddy know.

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. Do come along to the Children's Chapel in St Paul's church with your children for **songs, stories, craft activities** and **refreshments** on the 2nd Thursday of each month ----you'll be made very welcome!

14th April

12th May

9th June

14th July

For more information call Rev. Richard Lamey 0118 327 9116
or Liz Gallagher 0118 989 1176.





REGULAR MEETINGS

Sunday

Church services - see Services Diary and weekly newsletter

Youth Group YOW: A place to discuss views, play and catch up with friends
6.30 - 8pm, dates and themes as advertised here and in church.

Contact: patrick.s.king@gmail.com

Tuesday

Fellowship group: Exploring Faith at 8pm in the church.

Contact Rev'd Patrick King patrick.s.king@gmail.com

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

Lunchtime fellowship: meet in the church at 12 noon.

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 King: patrick.s.king@gmail.com 0118 9773397

Rev'd Richard Lamey, The Rectory, Holt Lane 0118 3279116

richard.lamey@stpauls.org.uk

Louise Cole, Senior Steward, 0118 9772239

louise.cole@sky.com

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 contact Tony Sayer on 0118 9786560 or email
tony.sayer@ntlworld.com



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.