The background of the slide is a photograph showing the silhouette of a church with a prominent, tall, pointed spire. The church is set against a vibrant sunset sky with shades of orange, pink, and purple. A large, leafy tree is visible in the foreground on the right side, also in silhouette. The overall mood is serene and peaceful.

Parish Profile for
St Paul's Wokingham
with Woosehill Church
and St Nicholas' Emmbrook



Are you ready for us?



We are ready for you...
To be our new Rector



Maunder Thursday Vigil



Santa Lucia



Wokingham Town Hall



Pentecost - Woosehill



Bowling in the Parish Rooms



Altar - Woosehill



Palm Procession



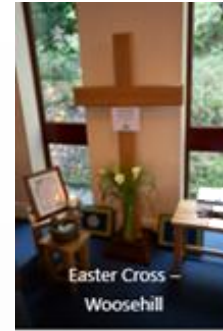
St Nick's



Dawn Service



Singing in the Marketplace



Easter Cross - Woosehill



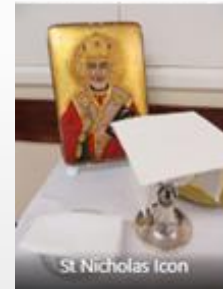
Garden of Repose



Cara



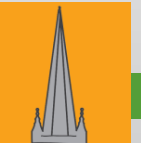
Advent



St Nicholas Icon



Social



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Foreword from the Archdeacon

Thank you for taking time to consider this important and strategic role. It offers a great opportunity for someone of demonstrated ability to further develop their missional leadership and broaden their influence.

The benefice has an exemplary track record in community engagement. The church community is strong and growing, building on innovative work across Wokingham during the pandemic. The trajectory is upwards, and we are looking for a missional priest and capable leader who will support and direct the continuing growth of recent years.

We are also looking to identify candidates with either the prior experience, or the aspiration, to take on the role of Area Dean.

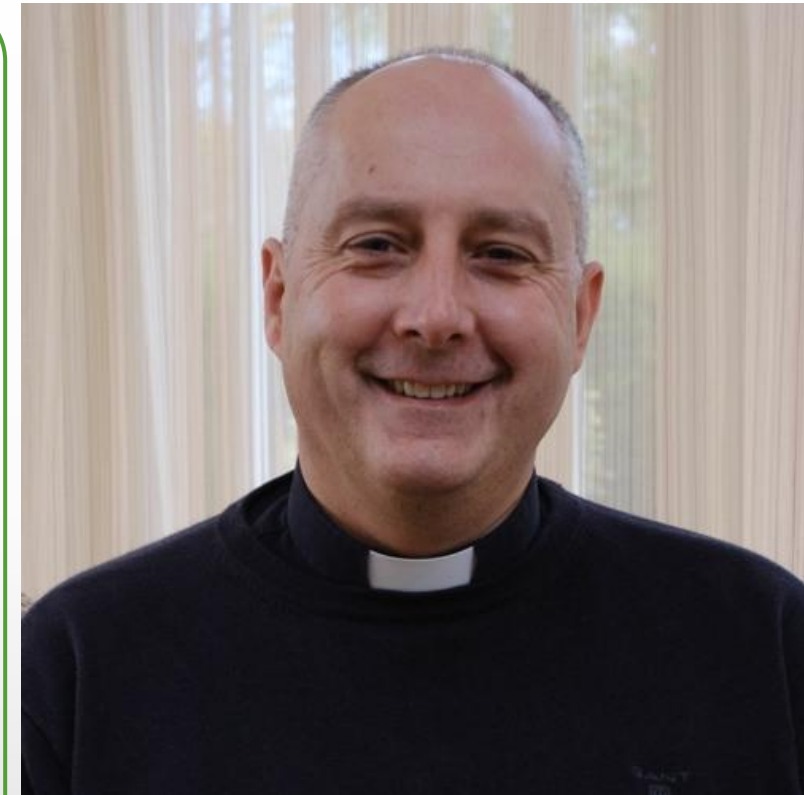
The deanery benefits from healthy and committed relationships across a wide range of traditions and viewpoints. We are looking for an incumbent who is theologically able and skilled in communication, whilst also generous to others and able to gather people around a common cause.

The deanery is coming to the end of a significant time of recruitment. This creates a moment of opportunity to develop a refreshed common vision, particularly in respect of work with children and young people.

St Paul's is an influential church across the archdeaconry as a whole and we trust that, under the leadership of its next Rector, it will continue to inspire the best in others.

Ven Stephen Pullin, Archdeacon of Berkshire

Contemplative | compassionate | courageous



Reading Episcopal Area

Appendix 1 - Sonning Deanery



Introduction

Welcome to our Parish Profile.

We are excited that you are considering being our new Rector and Area Dean. This profile will describe our vision, our parish, the kind of person we are seeking, and some opportunities we'd like to share together for our future.

St Paul's Parish is composed of three churches: St Paul's Church, which has a distinctive liberal Catholic tradition, Woosehill Church, a Local Ecumenical Partnership between the Anglican and Methodist Church, and St Nicholas Community Church.

Each church values its own churchmanship and musical tradition, which is significant in defining its identity. That identity provides a firm base and confidence which allows us to embrace new ideas, and to reach out to our local community.

The three congregations have a long tradition of welcoming anyone and everyone, irrespective of colour, disability, age, sexuality or background, to share our worship. We are looking forward to celebrating our first blessing of a same-sex couple next year.

We believe that the time is right to review our missional work. Do you have the energy and enthusiasm to bring your creative ideas and vision to work on a plan together for the future of the churches in our Parish?



“Shaped by God in the Eucharist, we are called to make the richness of his love known to everyone in the community.”
St Paul's

“Sharing God's love with the Community”
Woosehill

“Exploring through relationships and worship how God's love is creating and sustaining communities in Emmbrook”
St Nicholas'



Foreword from the Wardens



We are an inclusive church following a strong liberal Catholic tradition of liturgy and worship and spirituality. We are passionate about announcing God’s love for all, regardless of personal background, circumstance or character. We strive to be welcoming and friendly, both to those who love the Lord and to those who are at the beginning of their search. We value beauty and holiness in worship, as witnessed, for example, by the strength of our musical tradition and choir.



The strong Eucharistic base of our worship gives a firm foundation for personal spirituality and outreach to the local community. We strongly believe that everyone who has been baptised should be invited to share in the full participation of the Eucharist. **Peter Wells and David Ruddock – St Paul's Church**



It provides me with an anchor point. Especially when my faith is waning.

COLIN



We are a single congregation Anglican/Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership firmly established in the Woosehill community.

We actively reach out into the local community, running a very successful carer and under 5s group (called Tadpoles); plus social activities open to everyone every Thursday and monthly on a Saturday.

We are an alternating ministry and our current Methodist minister is due to be replaced in September 2025 with an Anglican minister. A plan has been developed for a smooth transition from predominantly Methodist to Anglican leadership while maintaining Methodist involvement after the changeover. **John Hoskins and Steven Lewis – Woosehill Church**



Appendix 2 – The Formation of Woosehill Church



St Nicholas values “community” highly, in its name, as a worshipping community in its own right, as part of the community of Emmbrook and as belonging to the parish community. Starting from the centrality of the Eucharist, its members commit themselves to involvement in local and wider parish life.

This begins with building the church space together, then worshipping and going out into the community.



We believe that our less formal approach to worship leads to a feeling of welcome and friendliness at our services and allows us better to support, nurture, teach, guide and inspire each other- and to have fun together and with God! **Liz Gallagher and Fiona Albinson – St Nicholas Community Church**



I feel very much “sent out” each week from St Nic’s to serve.

MEMBER OF ST NICHOLAS’



Pilgrims on a Journey

How our Parish has learnt and developed

Relationships. In the early 2010s, to promote the building of better relationships the church adopted a policy for supporting charities for a minimum of three years. These relationships have developed into partnerships.

Partnerships. Parishioners now volunteer regularly for Soulscape and Home-Start, likewise Home-Start and Soulscape have promoted and assisted in church events.

Partnership in Missional Church (PMC). Participating in PMC, from 2016, developed this relationship-based approach to mission further. Increasing awareness of the possibilities for missional work and the importance of listening.



Action. Plans had been drawn up to deliver a major community event in 2020, incorporating relationship-building, co-planning and delivery, but just as we were awarded the funding grant Covid struck. The time and resources were successfully used instead to arrange a visit from ordinands from Westcott House in 2023 to help with various community events for Holy Week.

Church calendar. Thinking mission around the Church calendar has led to events such as Maundy Thursday shoe cleaning, Good Friday Messy Easter, Christingles in local schools, Remembrance churchyard trails, Christmas craft bags at the Winter Carnival, Singing carols at care homes and in the Market Place, to name a few!

Outreach. Existing projects include Tadpoles for carers and under 5s, Thursday Social Groups, monthly Sip & Share, weekly Coffee and Chat. St Paul's choir is very much part of our mission, drawing children and their families into church.

Caring. The Pandemic taught us that noticing people and recognising their needs and who they are, is Christ-like and vital. We forged stronger links with GP surgeries, care homes and schools, through goody bags, snack boxes for staff, recorded messages, pastoral care and volunteering. Making sure people feel appreciated, cared for and loved has enabled us to continue these relationships.



Parish Feedback

Where we are now, and where we want to be

At feedback sessions held in all three churches everyone submitted their thoughts and discussed the state of the church now and our aspirations for the future.

Welcome, friendliness and inclusiveness are significant positive features of the churches we love, but other feedback also identified a number of key areas, common across all three churches, that we need to address. These include the need for more effective **outreach** and **evangelism** of younger age groups, with a particular desire to engage more with **children and youth work**. A very strong message emerged that renewed focus on **sharing Christ's message** of love and compassion with our local communities is needed. This in turn indicated a clear need to revive the enthusiasm built by our three year Partnership in Missional Church (PMC) experience.

Appendix 3 – Feedback Details

During the sessions everyone was asked for three words that described the church to them. A number of patterns emerged, as represented in the word cloud below which offers a snapshot of where the Parish finds itself at the moment, whilst the other feedback given in the detailed analysis reflects the feelings for the future.



Our Vision

"We think mission is everything we do. So we think mission in everything we do."

- Our vision is one of a church where there are **no barriers**, everyone is made **safe** and **welcome**, every voice is heard and **respected**, and everyone brings the best that they can offer in response to **God's loving invitation**.
- Spending time with **God** in **worship**, **prayer** and **sacraments** equips us to engage fully with our neighbours and with how **God** is already at work in the world.
- **Listening** to each other, we reach out to our neighbours to share the **good news** of **Jesus Christ**.
- We **serve** and nurture our local community, offer **welcome** and **inclusion** to everyone, understand their **needs**, feel their pain and share their **joys**.
- Guided by **God**, we are bold in our **evangelism** and unafraid to make difficult decisions to further **His mission**.
- **We make a difference**.



“

After despairing for many years over the attitude of several churches to gay men I have at last found peace. I have never felt so welcome and part of a congregation as I do at St. Paul's. It has become a special place to me where I can worship and make new friends. The inclusivity of St. Paul's is to be admired and valued and long may it continue.

IAN

“

Over the last few years I have met many people in the local community who have suffered life traumas and have told me of the care and support they have received from both clergy and members of the congregation in the St. Paul's.

JO



Our Journey Continues

...with YOU!

The time is now right to reflect on our missional work and reinvigorate our congregations.

With your help and ideas as our new Rector, we can adapt and develop plans for the good of our churches and community, allowing us all to move forward together

Key areas

- Work with **children and young people**
- **Mission and outreach**
- Building **relationships** in our local community
- Growing our **spirituality**

Can you offer to

- galvanise and help us to expand the existing youth and children's work?
- revive our drive for mission and outreach through enthusiasm for relationship-building?
- bring your ideas and creativity to work with us on our plans for the future?
- develop a platform of prayer and teaching in our Parish to grow our spirituality?
- value our different styles of worship and strengthen the links between the churches?
- bring your sense of humour to brighten our journey 😊?

We can give you

- the love, and willingness to try new things, of a welcoming church community
- strong but varied Church traditions with a well-developed choral tradition.
- strong sense of caring, supporting and praying for our clergy
- good links with other churches in the Deanery and the town (CTW)
- a comfortable and well-resourced rectory



Our services offer choice and a warm welcome to everyone

All three churches hold a regular Sunday Service, with **St Paul's** offering a traditional Sung Eucharist including priests in vestments, choir, organ, servers, bells and smells. Hymns are usually from the Revised English Hymnal. On most Sundays the choir will also sing an Anthem. The Service is live streamed via YouTube. Apart from the regular 9:30 service, St Paul's also provides an 8:00 BCP Mass on two Sundays in the month, and Choral Evensong with sermon once a month at 6:15pm. The church remains open every day for private prayer.

Appendix 4 – St Paul's Choir

Woosehill provides a mix of Anglican and Methodist worship, all instantly recognised as 'The Woosehill Service'. Sunday services are held at 10:00am. Each month there are usually two communion services, one Anglican and the other Methodist, and 2 other Methodist led services. When there is a fifth Sunday in the month there is normally a Café Church. Currently music is provided either with recordings or the services of a guest pianist, but the congregation are hoping for a new music group to be formed to accompany the singing

St Nick's Sunday service, held in the Emmbrook Village Hall at 11:00am, is usually a sung Mass with a less formal Catholic style than at St Paul's. The music for the hymns is either played on an electronic organ, piano or recorded. We are exploring holding an alternative service, such as Café Church or Taizé. On special occasions, such as Mothering Sunday, the congregation from St Nick's join St Paul's. Every Wednesday morning there is worship and prayer in a home in Emmbrook; on the second Wednesday of the month this is a Mass.

Appendix 5 - Services in the Parish



St Paul's is proud to be a contributing member of Inclusive Church

St Paul's take the environment and sustainability seriously. We are currently holders of the Eco Church bronze award and are close to achieving silver.



“

The choral tradition is one of the principal “charisms” of [St Paul’s] church and a central tool of mission, in that it attracts children, families and the un-churched across all age-groups into its life and ministry.

REV'D CANON BRUCE RUDDOCK



“

God has been so incredibly alive and vibrant within my life, something which I never thought I would experience and has immensely impacted my life for the better. I put this down to the enthusiasm, joy and imagination of the services I have been to at St Paul's, which is a more modern, creative take on faith, while still providing the familiar, reassuring service flow that I am used to.

MARIA



“

Worship is taken seriously and carried out to the highest standard.



“

[It is] important to me that St Paul's is part of the Inclusive church movement.

PENNY



Children and Young People



She considers God and Jesus are part of her life & refers to them in her daily life. She says [that the new Rector must be] someone who likes children.

J-CLUB MEMBER (AGED 5)



Soulscape is one of the designated charities in the Parish, and as well as providing financial help, parishioners volunteer in local schools with them.



St Paul's Church has run a Messy Church style event on Good Friday for the last few years, which has been well received by parishioners and other locals.



The Choir and the serving team welcome children and young people enthusiastically and are an important element of our outreach and mission.



Tadpoles provides coffee and play for under 5s and their carers every Wednesday in term time, offering a gentle Christian approach.

Of the 12 schools in the Parish, we have an ongoing relationship with 8. The two church schools have parishioners among their governors. The clergy regularly lead assemblies in many of the schools, and some hold services and concerts in the churches.



Sunday schools (called J-Club at St Paul's Church) cater for younger children during Sunday services in term time. At St Nicholas it is run less often. Woosehill no longer run their Sunday School, but resources are available for children to use during the service



Other activities that have been successful in the past and we would like to revisit:

- 5678 was started during Covid as a weekly online group for children in years 5, 6, 7 and 8. A second in-person meeting was briefly added.
- Messy Church has been run very successfully.
- Open the Book has been run in some schools to introduce the children to Bible stories.
- Footsteps, the youth group for young people in the Parish

Children's Advocates represent children's and young people's needs at Council meetings. We are conscious that we need to understand the aspirations and desires of our children and young people better and work with them to provide better provision and involvement opportunities.

You will be working with us to look at ways to coordinate this work across the Parish to put children, young people and families more firmly at the centre of our mission and ministry.



Activities

The Parish is very active with many groups catering for outreach, prayer, bible study, socialising, children and young people. These include J-Club and Tadpoles for young children, Mother's Union, The Meditation Group. Our pastoral group supports the clergy with the regular visits and home communions to a number of individuals, the regulars, those temporarily house-bound, and care homes. The Parish is also well resourced with a number of different teams such as the bellringers, the serving team, sidespeople (always welcoming!), and Social Committee. Woosehill run a very successful prayer chain.

More details about all these : [Appendix 7 – Groups and Teams](#)

Some of the charities supported:

- **Soulscape** – a local charity involved in a number of initiatives in local schools including 'The Lounge' in The Holt and The Emmbrook secondary schools.
- **USPG** – supporting global mission
- **Home-Start** – a country-wide charity providing a local community network of trained volunteers supporting families in the area
- **Children's Society** – supported through our annual Christingle Services.
- **Link Visiting** – changing lives through friendship. Combating loneliness.
- **Yeldall Manor** – drug and alcohol recovery centre.
- **Christian Blind Mission (CBM)** – Global Disability Inclusion.
- As well as financial help, members of the Parish also give practical support within Soulscape and Home-Start.

“

Tadpoles is not just about the kids, you take care of the mums if they are having a bad day.



Soulscape



A Parish team works with Soulscape to run The Lounge at The Holt School to provide a weekly lunchtime session for year 7. The churches also support a Soulscape team at The Lounge in The Emmbrook School.

The Parish helps with the initiative to take groups of youngsters to visit local churches and to hear about what they do.



This is an initiative to ease the transition from primary to secondary schools. Parishioners help in The Holt and The Emmbrook Schools.

“

Soulscape is blessed to have the support of St Paul's, Woosehill and St Nicholas' Churches
MICHELLE – OPERATIONS MANAGER



Local Community

Involvement in the local community

Following our participation in Partnership for Missional Church (PMC) the Parish began looking at local communities around us and assessing their needs and our response. This led to a significant increase in involvement that proved beneficial when we were able to support them during Covid.

Local Schools

There are good links with 8 out of the 12 schools in the Parish with regular assemblies in many, and services in church for some. The two church schools, St Paul's CofE Junior School and St Cecilia CofE Primary School, have Parish members as governors, and both enjoy a close relationship with the Church. As Rector you will be expected to also become a governor of these schools. Many of the other schools have assemblies taken on a regular basis. Two of the Secondary Schools have close links with the churches and Soulscape runs various activities in them supported by the Parish.

[School Details](#)

Care Homes

The clergy and leadership teams of the Parish regularly hold services in 4 Care or Nursing homes within the Parish. Some of the homes also screen the live-streamed service on Sundays for their residents. We also have Parishioners visiting these and other homes locally.

[Care Home Details](#)

Wokingham Foodbank

Despite the apparent prosperity in Wokingham there is, unfortunately, a pressing need for the Foodbank to provide food for a large number of people in the local area. As a Parish we collect food regularly and have an annual donation service to support the Foodbank; Parishioners also volunteer there.

“ St Paul's CE Junior school has very close ties to the church. The Rector has been a Governor and was an important contributor to the recent successful Ofsted inspection.
PENELOPE WALLACE – CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

“ The relationship [between Emmbrook Junior School and] St Paul's has been incredibly valuable to our school.
J USHER – HEADTEACHER

“ At The Holt, we highly value our links with St Paul's Church, and it is important to us to keep this high profile relationship.
KATIE PEARCE AND ANNE KENNEDY – CO-HEADS

“ The Foodbank is blessed to have some amazing volunteers from St. Paul's but we would like to build an even stronger relationship with the church.
ANNETTE MEDHURST – FOODBANK MANAGER



Wider Community

Our Twin Parish in Växjö, Sweden

The Diocese has developed a relationship with Växjö in Sweden and the Cathedral of St Sigfrid (whose icon is displayed in St Paul's chancel). St Paul's Parish has established its own twinning with Mariakyrkan (St Mary's Church) in the Växjö diocese. We keep in regular contact with them and there have been exchange visits. During Covid we also exchanged videos and prayers to provide mutual support.

Churches Together in Wokingham

St Paul's Parish is an active member of Churches Together in Wokingham (CTW) which maintains a visible Christian presence in the life of the Wokingham community. CTW also acts as a very effective communication hub for all of the Christian groups in the area. CTW organised the hustings for the recent general election.

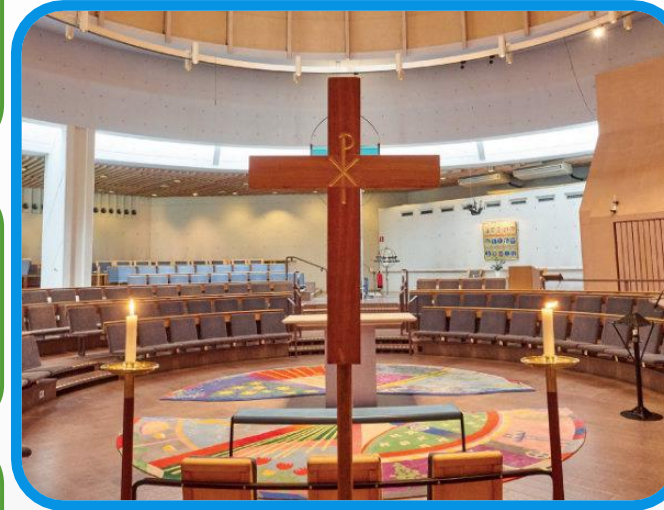
Sonning Deanery

St Paul's Parish plays a very active part in the Deanery, currently providing both the Lay-Chair and the Treasurer. Sonning Deanery is currently going through a time of transition, with half of incumbents across the 13 benefices having been appointed in the last two years.

Appendix 1 - Sonning Deanery

Local Councils

St Paul's works closely with the town and borough councils. Civic services are shared between St Paul's Church and All Saints. Members of St Paul's clergy have, in some years, been Mayor's chaplains. The previous incumbent was on the 'Vision Steering Group' which gave a unique opportunity to shape the future of our borough. Currently a member of our clergy is on the 'Resident Quality Group'.



“ St Paul's is an important member of our Churches Together in Wokingham network and it has been great to see relationships between our two Anglican churches in the town flourish over the last few years. We hope and pray that this will continue as we work together to serve the people of Wokingham.

KATIE PEARCE AND ANNE KENNEDY – CO-HEADS

“ The strong, positive relationships across the town's churches have enabled some really significant cooperative efforts in ministry and mission to our town

REV'D NICK HUDSON – WOKINGHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

“ The St Paul's area is very diverse in many ways, and we work to ensure that everyone feels included and part of the community. We would welcome a new rector who supports our values of inclusivity social cohesion and responsibility.

IMOGEN SHEPHERD-DUBEY – COUNCILLOR



The Team

Your Clergy Team

Clergy Details

Rev'd Cara Smart –
Assistant Curate



Rev'd Judi Hattaway –
Associate Priest

Rev'd Jane Kraft –
Associate Area Dean



Rev'd Soba Sinnathamby –
Methodist Minister at
Woosehill



Bertie the Churchmouse – Newsletter reporter extraordinaire. Seldom seen, but apparently always there.

Parochial Church Council

PCC Details

The PCC for St Paul's meets 7 times a year. The Church Council for St Nicholas, a committee reporting to the PCC, meets 4 times a year.

Woosehill Church Council

WCC Details

As Woosehill is an LEP the management structure is slightly different, but essentially the day-to-day running is in the hands of the Woosehill Church Council (WCC) which meets 5 times a year

Office Staff

Office Details

We employ a part time Parish Administrator, Louise Cole, who shares an office in the Parish Rooms with the Parish Rooms Administrator, Vanessa Hemmi.



Buildings



St Paul's Church was consecrated in 1864. It has a capacity of around 300 seated on pews. It has good acoustics. There are a number of ongoing projects to maintain and improve the facilities as outlined in the full description.

About St Paul's

St Paul's Parish Rooms, adjacent to the Churchyard, shares its car park with the church. In addition to the Parish office, 3 meeting rooms and a good kitchen are available for hire and for use by the church.

About Parish Rooms



Woosehill Church Building is notionally a Methodist building but is subject to a formal Sharing Agreement. As well as the main hall there is a kitchen, and a meeting room downstairs. Upstairs there are a further 3 meeting rooms.

About Woosehill

Emmbrook Village Hall is hired by St Nicholas' Church on a regular weekly basis for Sunday services. It has a main hall, a smaller meeting room, and a kitchen.

About Emmbrook



The Rectory is a large modern detached four-bedroomed house built in 2001.

About Rectory

In addition, a Diocese-owned house in Woosehill is currently rented by the Methodist Church for the Woosehill minister. The Curate's house occupied by Rev'd Cara Smart and her family is owned by the Parish.



Living in Wokingham



Lying in the east of the Royal County of Berkshire and at the heart of the Thames Valley, Wokingham is only 30 miles from London. It offers a pleasant blend of countryside and town, historic features and up to date facilities, business and market town trading. The economic prosperity of the district, together with a pleasant environment and excellent transport links, make it an attractive place to live and work. The town has excellent shopping and leisure facilities, and its many pubs, cafés and restaurants are always very busy. House prices tend to be much higher than the national average. Many of its 50K town population work in London (population of the borough is closer to 180K) . The unemployment rate of 2.4% is well below the national average, and the average wage, £35K is above the national average.

Appendix 11 – Wokingham



Finances

St Paul's and St Nicholas'

The overall state of the parish finances is buoyant. At the end of 2023 total funds stood at £525,000 including freehold property and restricted funds.

The day-to-day administration of the parish is met by the general (or unrestricted) fund which in 2023 recorded income of £170,000.

St Paul's and St Nicholas' have subscribed to the national Parish Giving Scheme and to date some 80% of regular givers now use this method of donation.

An appeal in the spring resulted in some generous donations and increased giving. However the expected surplus may be impacted by the need to remove a large cedar tree.

In 2023 over £10,000 was donated for international disaster relief as well as support for our key mission partners.

[Financial Details for St Paul's](#)

Woosehill

The finances are in a good state. At the end of 2023 the total funds stood at £107,747.

Unrestricted funds received an income of £67,645 during the year. The budget for this year is predicting a loss of £7,000, due to the installation of the new boiler earlier this year offset by additional income from JAG holiday club.

£3,500 was paid to supported charities.

[Financial Details for Woosehill](#)



Resurrection – by Paul Wallis – a member of St Paul's



Next Steps

Further information

To arrange an informal discussion, obtain answers to any specific questions, set up a visit to the church, or to make an application, please contact The Archdeacon of Berkshire, The Ven Stephen Pullin (archdeacon.berkshire@oxford.anglican.org)

St Paul's Church

Address:
Reading Road
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG41 1EH

These PDFs provide additional information:

[St Paul's Website](#)

[Parish of St Paul Wokingham Role Description](#)

[Parish of St Paul Wokingham Person Specification](#)

Deadline

The deadline for applications is Monday 25th November 2024

Shortlisting

Shortlisting will be completed on Thursday 28th November 2024

Interviews

We will be holding interviews on Wednesday 11th December 2024

