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**For immediate release: 20 October 2014**

## **2014 - 2018 WW1 Centenary Commemorations at St Paul's: For whom the bell tolls**

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**This is a message to the People of Wokingham from Fr Richard Lamey, Rector of the Parish of St Paul, Wokingham:**

In all of the planning to mark the centenary of the start of the **First World War** on August the 4th, both in the parish and in the town, there was a concern as to how to maintain that sense of **remembrance and thanksgiving for the next four years**, right the way through until the centenary of the Armistice in November 2018. **The Parish of St Paul's is committed to two significant ways of remembering in the months and years that lie ahead.**

**The first** aims to make a firm connection between the 62 men who are named on the War Memorial in St Paul's and the fact that they sat in our pews, went to our schools, walked our streets and lived in our houses. We know the home addresses of 50 of the 62 men. We have printed out all of the information we have about them and during October 2014 we are going to deliver that information to the people who live in that address today. In a few cases we have only a road name, in which case we will deliver the information to someone in the road. The hope is that this will interest people and make them feel a strong sense of connection with the town and with the person who died. The hope is that it will inform their thoughts and their remembering. There is something very fitting about those who died being remembered not only in the country they died for but also in the home they left.

**The second** will run throughout the next four years. **At 11am we will ring the church bell a hundred years to the day, the day after each of the 62 were killed.** Their names will also be added to the prayer list for the week and they and their



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family will be prayed for in Church. When people hear **the bell being rung at 11am 62 times** over the next 48 months they will, we hope, pause and remember and pray for those who still serve our country and those who did not come home.

There are clear clumps of fatalities (e.g. late October 1914, early July 1916, Spring 1918) which reflect the progress and crises of the War. As we realise that the bell is ringing again it will make us echo the shock felt in the town a hundred years earlier. On some days the bell will ring for one man, and then be still, and then start again to mark a second casualty. The bell will toll the age of the man who died. Those who hear the bell will hear it start, and count, and be reminded again how young most of the 62 were, how much of life should have lain ahead.

**Fr Richard Lamey, Rector**  
Parish of St Paul, Wokingham

<ENDS>

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## **Notes for Editors**

### **Attached files:**

- Chronological list of the death of the men on the WW1 Memorial at St Paul's.xls
- Booklet: Remembering the men of the Parish of St Paul's.pdf
- St Paul's logos and uses
- Photo: Fr Richard Lamey.jpg

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## **The Parish of St Paul, Wokingham**



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