

Woldingham Churches



There appears to have been continuous worship in Woldingham since at least 1270 and possibly earlier. There are two Churches - St. Paul's dominating the centre of the village and a much smaller Church, St. Agatha's, surrounded by the Churchyard in a quiet rural situation in Church Road near Church Wood and North Downs Golf Club. There is also a Chapel at the Woldingham School.

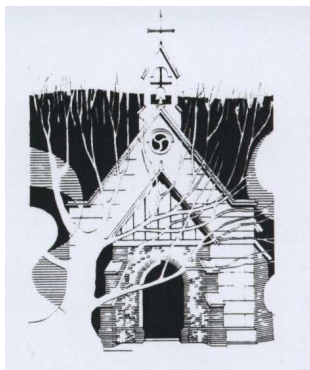
Church of England Services in Woldingham

St. Paul's, designed by Sir Herbert Baker in 1933, was gifted by the Hon. Alexander Shaw and furnished by parishioners. It is listed by English Heritage, Grade II. It is the larger and main Church and seats approximately 200 worshippers. Woldingham is within the Caterham Team Ministry and the Priest in Charge is the Reverend Charles Bradshaw who lives at the Rectory, Station Road, adjacent to the Church.



Holy Communion according to the 1662 rite is held at St Agatha's at 9:00am each Sunday except in January and February when it moves to St Paul's. The main Sunday Service is Sung Eucharist at St Paul's at 10.00am. On the first Sunday in each month the service is focused particularly on families. Choral Evensong is at 6.00pm on the first Sunday of the month and Said Evensong is on the third Sunday. All services are listed in the Woldingham Magazine and in the Church porch.

Baptisms take place throughout the year. Baptism is the beginning of church membership for the child or adult and attendance at worship is essential. Marriages can be arranged for all couples who live in Woldingham or who have a link with the church here. The remarriage of divorcees does take place after discussion with the Vicar. Although at the moment there is no Sunday School for younger children, parents are welcome to use the church room or to keep their children with them throughout the service. The 123 Club for mothers and toddlers meets on Tuesdays in the Church room from 9:00am to noon. The church has links with Woodlea School and Woldingham School. The Roman Catholic Mass is celebrated in St Paul's about once a month.



St. Agatha's is a Victorian rebuilding of a medieval Church.

It stands within the Churchyard, which is maintained for the benefits of all residents and former residents of Woldingham, whatever their religious beliefs.

The church is open every day from 10.00am until dusk for prayer and reflection.

Contacts:

- The Rev. Charles Bradshaw: 652192 (for weddings, baptisms, funerals)
- David Ridout is organist and choirmaster. The choir is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music. (Choir Practice is at St. Paul's on Friday evenings, 7.30pm to 9.00pm)
- For visits to St Paul's contact the Church Warden, Christopher Roberts, on 653125.

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Catholic Services in Woldingham

Most months, a Catholic Mass is said at **St. Paul's Church** in Woldingham at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday. After this mass there are refreshments in the church room.

Some History

Woldingham comes under the Parish of Oxted & Warlingham, which is part of the Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. There are Catholic churches in both Oxted and Warlingham served by the parish priest, Father John Olliver, who lives in Oxted.

All Saints Church
12 Chichele Road
Oxted RH8 0AG

St Ambrose Church
2 Warren Park
Warlingham CR6 9LD

Usual times of weekend masses:

Saturday 5.30 p.m.

Sunday 11.00 a.m.

Sunday 9.00 a.m.

Web site: www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org

Tel: 01883-627762

The Catholic Convent School of the Sacred Heart moved from Roehampton to Woldingham in 1946. Initially the school provided a venue for Woldingham residents to attend mass but soon this ceased to be possible as the school grew in numbers.

The school (Woldingham Girls School) is now multi-denominational however it retains a catholic chapel for use by the pupils and staff.



During the 1950s and early 60s Woldingham was served by a travelling mission, with a priest visiting the village each month to say mass in the house of a parishioner. Increasing car ownership brought this to an end in the early 60s and Catholics living in Woldingham were then encouraged to attend mass at the newly built church of St Ambrose in Warlingham. With an increasing congregation, the parish of St Ambrose decided to build a new church in Woldingham, at the top of Slines Oak Road. This church, St Edward's, was built on the site of the Woldingham Village duck pond. As a result within months of opening in 1964, large cracks appeared in both sidewalls! This did not prevent two masses being said there each week until the late 80's when the diocese decided to close St Edward's. The church was sold and subsequently became a professional dance studio. More recently the church building was demolished and replaced by residential housing. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the church was used to build a parish hall in Warlingham. The hall is dedicated to St Edward and continues to be well used for parish and other activities. When the parish priest of Warlingham retired in 2006, there being no replacement available, it was decided to combine the two parishes into the single Parish of Oxted and Warlingham and this is the way it remains today.