

# Church @ The Pines

THE CHURCH @ THE PINES NEWSLETTER



## ORDER OF SERVICE

**Leader: Rev'd Gareth Morley and Sunday School**

**Welcome and notices, followed by Quiet time**

**Call to worship**

**Lighting the advent candle**

**Opening Prayers**

**Nativity begins**

**Song – Let me tell you about a baby**

**Nativity continues**

**Little Donkey**

**Nativity continues**

**Song – No room at the inn**

**Nativity continues**

**Song – See him lying in a bed of straw**

**Nativity continues**

**Song – There were shepherds**

**Nativity continues**

**Hymn – We three Kings**

**Nativity concludes**

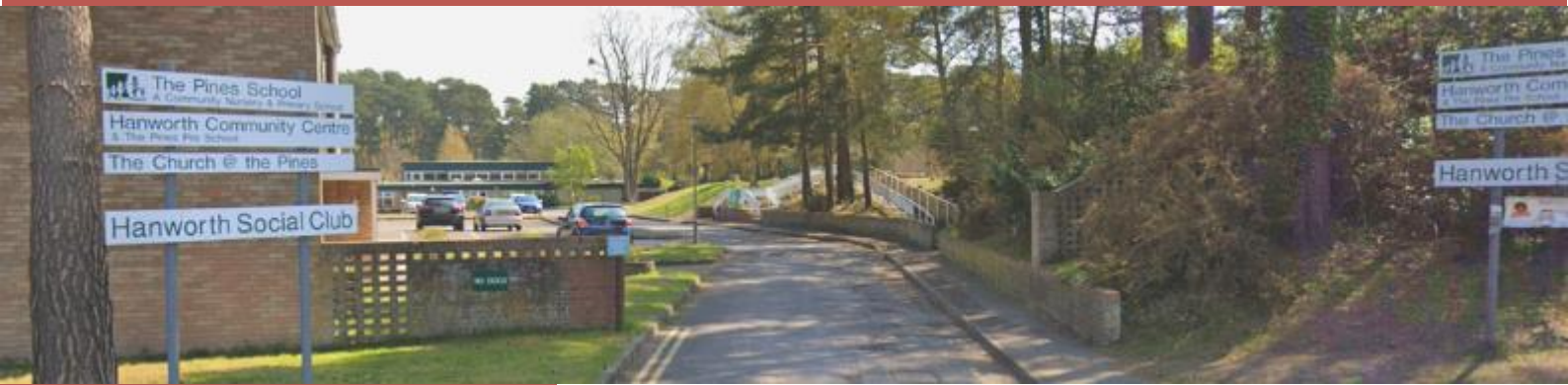
**Hymn – Joy to the World**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing**

**Grace**

**Coffee**



## PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

Loving God, I see the news and I am afraid. Violence is spiralling out of control. I don't know what to think or feel. The temptation to fall into hatred, or despair feels very close at hand. Help me to remember that nothing in all creation can separate me from your love that I know in Jesus. May your perfect love for me cast out my fear and free me to discern what is mine to do amidst the chaos of this suffering world.

This week we pray for all those living in Staplehurst.

## NOTICES

### **Church Finances**

We do not take a collection during the service but a Response Box is on the Information Table, should you wish to make a donation to the work of our Church.

Alternatively, you could sign a Standing Order form committing to regular monthly giving, which allows our Treasurer (Ben) to monitor the church finances more closely. Please do speak with Ben if you wish to make arrangements for this.

### **Christmas services**

10<sup>th</sup> December – Nativity Service

17<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Service

24<sup>th</sup> December – 11am Christmas Eve service

25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day – 9.30am service

31<sup>st</sup> December – 10am Circuit Service at Woosehill (no service at Church @ the Pines)

### **Call for Advent candle to remain unlit for peace**

To remember all those who have died in the Israel/Palestine conflict, Methodist churches across the country are being called upon to leave their second Advent candle unlit this year.

The call not to light the candle, which represents peace, on the second Sunday in Advent (10 December) and on subsequent Sundays, follows the news that celebrations to mark Christmas in the Holy Land will be subdued this year.

Continued....

## Call for Advent candle to remain unlit for peace

The Revd David Hardman, Methodist Liaison Officer, Jerusalem, is currently fulfilling his role from the UK and remains in touch with those living in the Middle East. David explained, "Our Christian colleagues in Bethlehem tell us that this Advent and Christmas the lights that normally adorn the birth place of Jesus will remain unlit in memory of those who have been killed in the current conflict. We are inviting Methodist churches in Britain to leave the second candle of Advent unlit to serve as a reminder that we stand in solidarity with all who are suffering in the Holy Land."

The President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Gill Newton, commented, "The events of over 2000 years ago and of now, remind us that sadly, nothing much has changed. We are still caught up in conflict and challenge, fear and uncertainty. This Advent, to stand with Palestinian Christians, we invite Methodist Churches to leave the Advent candle on the Second Sunday unlit and for it to remain unlit throughout advent."

"God is still present even in the most difficult places, and in the midst of violent conflict so many people are wishing for and seeking peace!"

Churches who participate are invited to take a photo of their Advent Ring on Christmas Day with the second candle unlit to be shared with local church communities in the Holy Land.

## Thank you

Extending a big thank you to Elizbeth for our beautiful advent wreath. Also thank you to Rowan who designed a spectacular postcard to advertise our Christmas services. You can still collect one from the back of Church to pop through a friend/neighbour's door to invite them to join us this Christmas.

# NOTICES FROM ST MICHAEL'S

## School Admissions

To make the system fair and transparent, those wishing to apply to St Michael's or Ranelagh church schools on church attendance criteria will be asked to sign a register at the back of church each time they attend (even if they have a sibling at the school). To make sure that all new signees understand the admissions criteria we ask that you email the parish office to make an appointment.

**Please note: Please go to the relevant school website for the latest admissions policy.**

[Ranelagh](#)

[St Michaels](#)

YOU ARE INVITED TO

# CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY



**9**  
SATURDAY


DECEMBER  
6PM—9PM  
PARISH  
CENTRE

*"ALL IN THE  
CHURCH ARE  
WELCOME"*

SOFT DRINKS | MINCE PIES | MUSIC | ENTERTAINMENT

*Do please bring nibbles to share and  
a bottle if you'd like something alcoholic*

## Hidden Figures

Tuesday 12th December 

7.45 pm for 8 pm



This is an incredible untold true story of three African-American Women who in the 1960s battled racism and gender discrimination to be accepted at NASA . They went on to play a key part in NASA's mission and eventually received national recognition for their work.

It's a moving film demonstrating great courage and a determination to overcome inequality and injustice at a time of great social unrest, set to the background of America's space race.

Stars Taraji P. Henson - Octavia Spencer - Janelle Monáe - Kevin Costner



**All Welcome**  
**Refreshments at the start**  
**No booking required**