

Church @ The Pines

THE CHURCH @ THE PINES NEWSLETTER



ORDER OF SERVICE

Leader: Rev'd Soba Sinnathamby

Welcome and Notices, followed by Time of Quiet

Lighting of the advent candles

Lesson 1 John 1: 1-5

Carol Once in Royal David's City

Prayer

Lesson 2 Matthew 1: 18-25

Carol O little town of Bethlehem

Lesson 3 Luke 1: 26-34

Carol Away in a manger (Junior Church -1st Verse)

Lesson 4 Luke 2: 1-7

Carol In the bleak mid-winter (Solo - Alison Evans)

Lesson 5 Luke 2: 12-15

Carol Angels from the realms of glory (Choir)

Poem Journey of the Magi

Address

Carol Joy to the World

Lesson 6 Philippians 2: 5-12

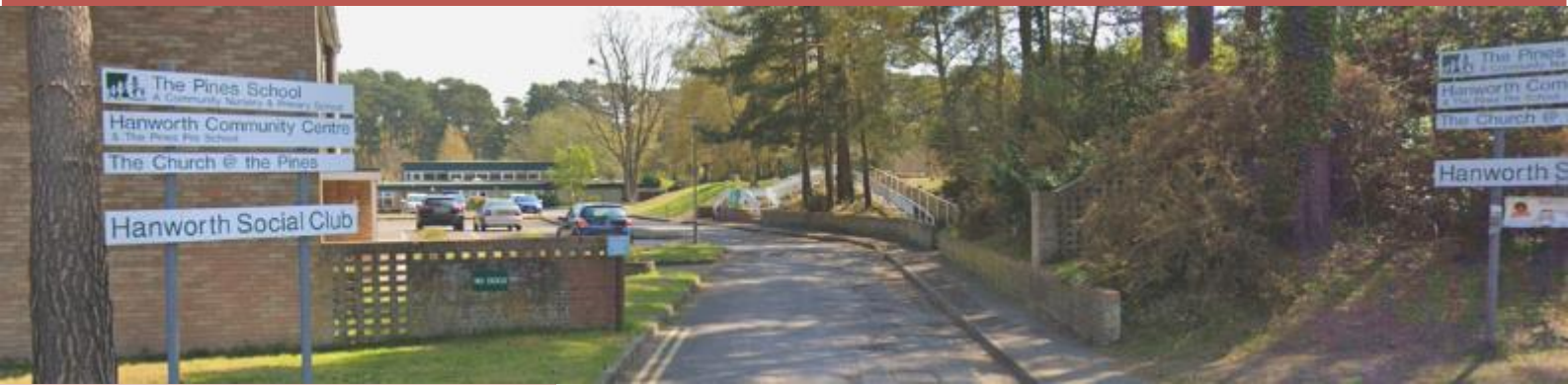
Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Carol Hark the herald angels sing

Grace

Coffee



PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

Dear God, for the desert places in which we walk, the streets we roam, the paths we cross: Guide our feet. Take us to places where you would go, give us words that you would use, that in this Advent season of promise and preparation we might point the way of Jesus who takes away the sin of the world. Amen.

We pray for those that find Christmas a difficult time, Lord, surround them, bring them your peace.

This week we pray for all those living in Tawfield. May they know God's presence and peace in their daily lives.

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

17th December – Carol Service

24th December – 11am Christmas Eve service

25th December - Christmas Day – 9.30am service

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

7th January – Usual 11am 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

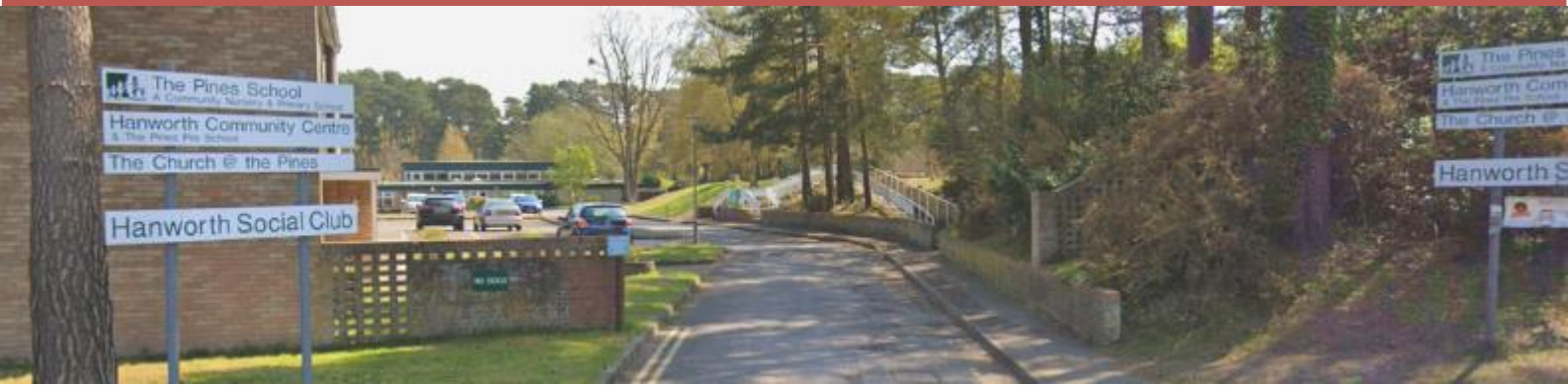
School Admissions

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](#)



READINGS

John 1: 1=5

The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Matthew 1: 18=25

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. **19** Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. **20** But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." **22** All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: **23** "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). **24** When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. **25** But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Luke 1: 26-34

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27** to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." **29** Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30** But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. **31** You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.?"

READINGS CONTINUED...

³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

Luke 2: 1=7

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. **2** (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3** And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **5** He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, **7** and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Luke 2: 12-15

12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

Philippians 2: 5-12

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Do Everything Without Grumbling

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,