

THE CHURCH @ THE PINES WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

ORDER OF SERVICE 8th December

LEADERS: Rev'd Helen Cameron, Rev'd Soba Sinnathamby and Rev'd Gareth Morley

Welcome/ Notices

Call to Worship

Hymn God is here, as we his people StF 25

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Hymn I will offer up my life StF 446

Young People – 3Generate

Memories – Looking back at the last 30 years

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Anniversary Hymn – Let's raise our voices high, to the tune of Royal Oak

Readings:

- [1] Malachi 3: 1-4
- [2] Luke 3:1 -6

Sermon - Rev Helen Cameron

Hymn Come thou long expected Jesus StF 169

Prayers of Intercession and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn Let us build a house StF 409

Benediction

The Grace

Coffee

The YouTube link to view the live stream on Sunday is:

<https://youtube.com/live/JfYwFWZp9c0?feature=share>



PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

God of all, Your dream for your people is that we may be one. In this time of deep divides and damaging insecurity forgive us for the ways in which we have failed to show solidarity, and failed to see beyond the identity-based fractures that can obscure the bonds of our common humanity. Renew our commitment to the work of unity, drawing hope from the promise of your limitless love which embraces all in true belonging. We give thanks for the courage and commitment of all those witnessing to unity in the midst of fragmentation, creating spaces for fellowship and accompaniment, to sustain us on the journey. Amen.

Dr Nicola Brady, General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

We pray especially at this time for Fred as he begins chemotherapy treatment, and Beth's Mum who is very unwell. We pray for strength and healing all.

This week we pray for all those living in Stratfield.

NOTICES

30th Anniversary Service – 8th December

We are really looking forward to celebrating 30 wonderful years of worship at Church @ the Pines this Sunday.

If you have let Brian know you are attending, please make sure to attend! We are looking forward to having a large congregation on the day, with members of our church and other churches in the circuit and beyond!

Dates for your diary – Christmas services

- 8th December – 30 years service
- 15th December – Nativity service
- 22nd December – Carol Service
- 25th December – 9.30am Christmas Day service
- 29th December – no service at Church @ the Pines – circuit service at Woosehill and streamed online, further details to follow
- 5th January 2025 – 11am service as usual at Church @ the Pines

Christmas Choir!

If you enjoy singing, please do join us so we can truly raise the roof on the 22nd !

We will have a short rehearsal starting at 10.30am on the following dates:

- 15th December
- 22nd December



Stationing – Rev'd Wes Hampton

After prayerful consideration, the invitation committee of the Berkshire Surrey Borders Circuit have invited Revd Wes Hampton to join the circuit as a presbyter. He will have Pastoral Charge of Wokingham Methodist Church, and share Pastoral Charge at the Church@ThePines and Woosehill Community Church commencing on the 1st September 2025.

Wes and his wife, Cherry, will move into the manse in Wokingham in August 2025. Please pray for Wes and the three churches for which he will be responsible as they prepare for the next stage of their collective spiritual journey.

All stationing outcomes are subject to final approval by the Methodist Conference.

Carol Singing in Town – Thursday 12th December – meet at 5pm

Bracknell Town Centre Mission team have once again invited us to join their carol singing in the town centre.

They are meeting up by the Christmas tree in the middle of the Lexicon shopping Centre, to sing carols and invite people to many of the carols services at the Bracknell Churches on Thursday 12th December.

Music sheets will be provided. Please wear Black /Dark coats and Red/Christmas scarfs and hats. Don't forget your gloves, it may be cold this year. Meet at 5pm. Singing from 5.30 – 7pm.

If you plan to join please let Sarah know so she can inform the organisers so there's enough song sheets and to give you some of our postcards and leaflets to hand out!

House Group

Linda and Reg run a house group on Wednesday evenings, starting at 7.45pm. All are welcome to join them for this mid-week time of fellowship. Please do speak to Linda or Reg if you'd like more details and for their address.



Church Finances

We do not take a collection during the service but a Response Box (for cash) and a contactless machine (for cards) 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.

NOTICES FROM ST MICHAEL'S



**NOT GOT A TICKET? JUST COME ALONG,
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR.**

**RECTOR'S
CHRISTMAS
SPARKLE PARTY**

Saturday 7th December 6-9pm

*In the Parish Centre. Bring and share Finger Food. Bring your own alcohol.
Soft drinks & mince pies provided.*

Tickets £1 per adult, children free.

Everyone welcome - Don't forget to wear sparkles!

School Admissions

Those wishing to apply to Ranelagh church school on church attendance criteria will be required to have their child's passport stamped each time they attend a regular service during Years 4 & 5 (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.



READINGS

Malachi 3: 1-4

3 "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.

2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, 4 and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

Luke 3: 1-6

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— 2 during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.
5 Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.
6 And all people will see God's salvation.'"

