

THE CHURCH @ THE PINES WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

ORDER OF SERVICE 15th December

LEADERS: Brian Gennery and Sunday School

Welcome and notices, followed by Quiet time

Call to worship

Lighting the advent candle

Opening Prayers

Nativity, with the following songs:

Song – Let me tell you about a baby

Song - Little Donkey

Song – No room at the inn

Song – See him lying in a bed of straw

Song – There were shepherds

Hymn – We three Kings

Nativity concludes

Hymn – Joy to the World

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Grace

Coffee

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

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



PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

Holy Jesus, by being born one of us, and lying humbly in a manger, you show how much God loves the world. Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts. Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise. Loving Jesus, you were born in a stable but worshipped by the angels. Be with all who are lonely, and with all who feel distant from celebrations. Be for us a living hope that lightens their hearts. The kings, Lord, brought myrrh, frankincense, and gold. Lord, we have nothing of our own to bring; we bring you what you have given: our lives for your life. Jesus, you know us and love us, you share our lives and hear our prayer. Amen.

We pray especially at this time for Fred as he begins treatment again, for Beth's Mum and her continued care, for Darcey as she recovers from surgery and for Jeannie as ill health stops her from joining us in Church. Embrace them with your love, hope and care Lord.

This week we pray for all those living in Staplehurst.

NOTICES

Dates for your diary – Christmas services

- 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

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.

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.



NOTICES FROM ST MICHAEL'S

Christmas Eve Services – Tuesday 24th December

- 3pm Crib Service
- 7pm – 'Light up a Life'
- 11.30pm Midnight Service

What is Thrive@StMichaels?

Every Wednesday 3-3:45pm in St Michael's Parish Centre (during the school term) we welcome any member of the Easthampstead community to donate, collect, share and reuse items so that all may thrive. **Come and have a browse and refreshments.**



Easthampstead
Parish Church

We will have tables for children's coats & shoes, St Michael's uniforms, toys, books and long-life food items. Please make sure all donations are in good condition and clean.



Thank you to those who have already donated.

Want to find out more? Think you can help? Speak to Helen, Sally or Revd Gareth.

Special events taking place in December.

December 18th - Our final Thrive of 2024 will include LIVE MUSIC, MINCE PIES AND CHOCOLATE CAKES. There may even be some sweets! **We welcome the whole community to join us.**

School Admissions

Those wishing to apply to Ranelagh church school on church attendance criteria will be required to have up to two stamps each month in their child's passport, when 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 go to the school website for their latest admissions policy.



READINGS

We will hear the story of the nativity in our service on Sunday, through songs and words.

The Christmas story is found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, with Matthew focusing on Joseph's role and the Magi, and Luke detailing Mary's experience and the shepherds.

Luke 2: 1-20

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.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 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 favour 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."

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

