

THE CHURCH @ THE PINES WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

ORDER OF SERVICE 22nd December

LEADER: Rev'd Soba Sinnathamby

Welcome and Notices

Quiet Time

Lesson 1 John 1: 1-5

Carol Once in Royal David's City

Prayer, followed by The Lord's Prayer

Lesson 2 Matthew 1: 18-25

Carol Away in a manger

Monologue: Joseph speaks

Lesson 3 Luke 1: 26-34

Monologue: Mary Speaks

Carol Joy to the world - Choir

Lesson 4 Luke 2: 1-7

Carol Come thou long expected Jesus

Monologue: The Innkeeper speaks

Carol O little town of Bethlehem

Lesson 5 Luke 2: 12-15

Carol Angels from the realms

Address

Lesson 6 Philippians 2: 5-12

Blessing

Carol Hark the herald angels sing

Grace

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

<https://youtube.com/live/TGzVPX6Em1Q?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 Tawfield.

NOTICES

Dates for your diary – Christmas services

- 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:

- 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

Tuesday, 24th December

3:00pm - Crib Service

7:00pm - 'Light up a Life' *(Details below)*

11:30pm - Midnight Service

Wednesday, 25th December

8am - Christmas Day Service

10:00am - Christmas Day Service



Easthampstead
Parish Church



LIGHT UP A LIFE: 7pm Christmas Eve. We know that this can be a particularly difficult time of year as we are reminded of loved ones who are no longer with us. Remembering that person at our Light up a Life service can help you through a challenging time of year.

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

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 favoured! The Lord is with you.' 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

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30 But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 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 for ever; 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 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.'

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.

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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,



ORDER OF SERVICE 25th December

LEADER: Brian Gennery – Service is at 9.30am

Welcome and a blessed Christmas to all

Opening prayer

Lighting the advent candles

Hymn: O Come all Ye Faithful

Prayers of adoration, thanksgiving and repentance

Reading: Luke 2 vv 1 – 20

What is all the fuss about?

Hymn: Away in a manger

Talk

Prayers of intercession

Hymn: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Blessing

Grace

READING

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[a] 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.

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8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, 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 Saviour 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.

