

THE CHURCH @ THE PINES WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

ORDER OF SERVICE 5th January

LEADER: Brian Gennery

Welcome and notices

Quiet time

Call to worship

Hymns: - AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD

Hymn: BRIGHTEST AND BEST

Prayers of adoration, thanksgiving and repentance

Hymn: - We three Kings

Reading – Matthew 2 vv 1 – 12

Talk

Hymn: - COME AND JOIN THE CELEBRATION In the bleak mid-winter

Prayers of intercession, street prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: - In the bleak mid-winter

Blessing

Grace

Coffee etc

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

<https://youtube.com/live/y1S3w85116w?feature=share>



PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

Prayer is a cry in the dark,
a child's longing for home,
and a hollowed soul's
seeking of fulfilment.
Prayer is a two-fingered
salute to the hopeless
cynicism of endless false
promises and a bunting-
waving celebration of love
in action. Prayer is a
sacred space, found in the
midst of the unholy of
battlegrounds and in the
desolation of loss. Prayer is
a memory of long lost
conversations with wise
elders and an exuberance
of youthful anticipation.
Prayer is a shared longing,
a whispered dream and
an open conversation.
Prayer is a revolutionary
act It is hope in despair
And a grace-filled
weaving of love's intent.
May God bless us with the
desire to pray, that we
might better act, for the
sake of all. Amen.

As a new year starts, we
pray for peace around the
world, new beginnings and
signs of hope. We pray for
our church; that we may
continue to be a place of
welcome to all.

We pray especially at this
time for Fred, for Beth's
Mum and for Jeannie.
Embrace them with your
love, hope and care Lord.

This week we pray for all
those living in
Attenbrouche Court and
Barry Square.

NOTICES

Happy New Year!

We look forward to another year of
worshipping together and growing our
community. Many thanks to everyone who
took part or assisted with services over the
Christmas period. Also thank you to
Elizabeth for the beautiful advent wreath.

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

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.



READING

Matthew 2: 1-12

The Magi visit the Messiah

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written:

6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

